



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes March 5, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
E. Fatimah Hasan, Planner, M-NCPPC
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank
Erica McIntyre, American Heart Association
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Anthony B. Walker, Department of Family Services

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Laura Runnels, Institute for Public Health Innovation

Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm and welcomed Sydney from maternity leave and congratulated her on the birth of her son.

Laura Rummels was introduced to the task force members as a member of the consultant team. While Laura was new to the members, she has been working behind the scenes on the efforts of the task force.

Chair Turner indicated that the task force has met six (6) times and discussed a wide spectrum of topics. He further indicated that there may be a need to request an extension to allow additional time to solicit members input and participation for culminating the recommendations.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2021

The members were requested to provide any corrections to staff. The minutes were approved as drafted.

3. Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - Yesterday's call focused on meal and food delivery opportunities for folks with limited or no transportation options.
 - We received information from Meals on Wheels about their services and shared the Family Services meal delivery opportunities to help providers share with their clients. From these conversations, it seems like this is a big need and more effort could be placed on expanding those resources.
 - There was also a discussion on vaccines -- providers would like more information and resources and if they are eligible and where they can get vaccinated.
 - The next call will be on April 1st at 1 PM. Please let me know if you would like to be added or you can sign up for updates: <http://eepurl.com/dcToEf>

- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - FARMS meeting is Friday, April 9th at 11 AM.
 - Access calls continue Thursdays at 4 PM to focus on issues of schools, eligibility for nutrition benefits.
 - National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference: <https://www.antihungerpolicyconference.org/>

4. **IPHI Team: Open Discussion**

- Overview of Process:
 - It became clear that we needed more time to gather information and meet as smaller groups that would align with the priorities.
 - Participating in groups will take 1-2 hours per month -- these include task force members as well as community stakeholders.
 - These groups will draft recommendations for the report and then present that out to the larger group
- Four (4) groups include:
 - Individual & Resident Safety Net
 - Food Assistance provider Capacity & Coordination
 - Government Agency Systems Response
 - Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning
- Report Outline:
 - Executive summary, Introduction, Root Causes of Food Security, Vision Statement, Recommendations, Next Steps, and Appendices.
 - Themes/Small Groups:
 - These are for the county as an action:
 - -- What can the County do to reduce food insecurity and make sure families are their own preparedness?
 - Provider level -- How can we make sure there is coordination across the network?
 - Government Agencies level -- Communication, Coordination, and Data Sharing i.e., how can the government support a system to respond to disruptions?
 - Strategic and Long-Term Food System Planning -- The goal isn't to create a long-term plan but possibly this group would recommend that as an action.
- Small-Group Assignments:
 - Group 1: Will look at strategic and long-term food systems planning (higher-level overview)
 - Group 2: Individual Recommendations
 - Group 3: Food Assistance provider Capacity
 - Group 4: Government Agency and Systems Response
- Brainstorm: Members will pick their groups, IPHI drafts content, groups meet to review, IPHI finalizes report content.
- **Discussion for Groups 2-3**

Launching the discussion for two small groups: Individual and Provider groups. We still have some learning to do for each of these.

 - Brainstorm Leaders:
 - Rev. William M. Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church
 - Repurpose on Purpose - Repurposed church space to serve assistance needs in District 8
 - Pandemic Possibilities -

- Resumed daycare at ½ capacity
- virtual worship gatherings
- More space and more resources for food distribution
- UBN Worship Facility is now a food hub in District 8 network
- Purchased two additional forges and freezers
- Created three teams for workload: transportation, preparation, distribution
- June – December 2020 – 41,000 lbs. of food to 10K people and 2,462 families
- Mobilized other groups to help
- Community Service for students
- Support for business in the Rosecroft Shopping Center
 - Roberto Melara, Director, MD Region CAFB
- The CAFB works through other organizations to provide food to the community but also provides food to other providers and pantries.
- They're looking at numbers and statistics around food insecurity -- working on the plan for the Fiscal Year 2022 and working with the County's budget cycle.

- Recommendations:
 - Create food pantry plan
 - Involve leadership
 - Budgeting and financial planning
 - Create a communication plan
 - Have a succession plan
 - Use of technology or software to help alleviate the need for more volunteers
 - Network connections to help coordinate the work
 - Investment in Infrastructure -- have a specific area dedicated to the pantry (bulk and cold storage)
 - Transportation for food -- many pantries use personal vehicles but not enough when need grows. Need to invest in transportation
 - Accessibility -- Are the sites close to public transit, are there delivery options, etc.
 - Launched a survey for all the clients (2000) at the pantries. What is their need? What type of food are they getting? Need to learn from the clients.

- Questions:
 - To Rev. Campbell -- Where does the food come from? Food comes through the district 8 network
 - To Rev. Campbell -- Is there a template in place to model what has been done? There has been some documentation on that via social media and developments -- Need to flesh that out with FEC.
 - Does CAFB have a model? Do it through the membership process -- they lay out what they do and operations. CAFB is also working on developing a vision of what a food pantry should be.

- **Discussion:**
- *Definition:*
- **Food security** is defined as "the means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life."
- **Resilience** is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. A resilient food system can withstand and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures that an enough supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.
- **Preparedness** is the process of becoming aware of the vulnerabilities of the food system and developing strategies that improve its capability to respond to and recover from disruptions.
- What are avenues for action or tools for change that are available to the county to implement change?
- Budget -- purchasing food, distributing the food -- each of these costs.
- Communication -- Getting the message out about what is available and when to people in need.
- Coordination -- What are the respective roles and how can they work together?
- Legislation - Policies can be put in place to ensure accountability.
- Leveraging existing programs and put elements that support the food system into that.
- Planning -- Use this as a tool to implement change.
- Data -- The County collects data. What it counts it pays attention to.
- Partnerships -- Prince George's County should continue to expand its relationship with State and Federal actors to provide support. There are lessons learned going through the crisis. Also, foundational partners have been key! Utilize our connection to the federal government.
- Evaluation & Oversight -- If you're being evaluated, you'll be more actionable.
- Staff allocations - Has the workforce at its disposal and how to deploy.
- What actions can the county take to build the resilience of individuals and families?
- **Messaging:** Information from the Emergency Management team about what you need in an emergency.
- Connecting to the school system
- Advocacy groups
- Educational Resources -- How to cook and prepare meals at home?
- Active Community Disaster -- Have something similar for food insecurity.
- Get to know your neighbor's campaign.
- Faces of Hunger campaign (like pedestrian safety campaign)
- Is it possible to create more of a one stop shop for assistance (food, rental, energy, etc.) -- help navigating that via a more simplified process?
- Comment from Aimee Olivo: Kaiser Permanente has partnered with Unite US to provide the sort of coordination Lindsay mentioned. I still need to learn more about it, but it sounds really promising. -- for individuals.
- What actions can the County take to encourage food assistance provider level preparedness and resilience?

- **Budgetary**
Provide financial planning training; facilitate a network for providers to connect them and help them share resources.
- Small grants program i.e., MAFRAC model?
- **Recap:**
 - Sending out the form so members can select small groups. Please complete!

5. Q&A

6. Announcements from task force members

- The original bill was scrapped (dealt with a concentration of liquor stores in the county). It was used as a vehicle and added in the grocery store amendments. Incorporated the opportunity for beer and wine licenses for new grocery stores starting after October of this year or if they provide improvements and expanded the area to include the healthy priority areas as well as additional areas of the county to have grocery store anchors near transit-oriented development.
- Passed the PG House Delegation today -- will probably be moved forward since the local delegation supported it. The County Council also supported the additional amendments
- National Nutrition Month with PG Parks, register for classes at: <http://pgparksdirect.com>

7. Next Meeting – Changed to April 9th, 2021

8. Adjourn

