



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes June 4, 2021

### Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair  
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension  
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church  
William Ford, Washington Informer  
Nicole Hall, Economic Development  
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food  
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services  
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District  
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation  
Erica McIntyre, American Heart Association  
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank  
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health  
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools  
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

### 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 the members.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2021

Members were asked to forward any edits to Sandra Eubanks. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Updates:

• **Extension Resolution (Todd Turner)**

- The extension resolution has been drafted for September 30<sup>th</sup> (three-month extension). This would allow the team to conduct the community outreach strategy and do a strong briefing to the County Council.
- This group wouldn't necessarily need to participate every month.
- The report might be completed even earlier than September. It's helpful to request a longer extension than what is currently needed to avoid doing an additional resolution. (we could extend the resolution to November or December to avoid this).
- Council passed the Bill to allow the Curbside Grocery Mobile Food Truck program. They're working on permitting to get this implemented.
- This will hopefully be on the road by sometime in July. This was a big effort and CAFB is thankful to partners for their support
- The Healthy Food Priority Areas will be a focus area for the food trucks.
  - A couple of links on the Curbside Grocery Truck program and Bill:  
(1) <https://curbsidegroceries.org/>;  
(2) <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4891646&GUID=A55F5851-3DA5-4EF2-AA91-A1064E52BDB3&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=>

• **Food Assistance Provider Call: Food Recovery (Julia Groenfeldt)**

- Yesterday's call focused on school and summer meals updates and included guest speakers from PGCPSS Food and Nutrition Services and No Kid Hungry MD. The speakers shared information on the updated USDA meal waivers that grants meal services to all students through the summer. Speakers also shared resources on how to access summer meal sites.
- Speakers also joined us from Maryland Hunger Solutions who shared updates and changes to P-EBT, SNAP and WIC access as well as resources to help folks sign up for those programs.
- If folks are interested in learning more, email [Julia@pgcfec.org](mailto:Julia@pgcfec.org)

- **Overview of recent MWCOC meetings (Lindsay Smith)**
  - Here's the link to the farmer's panel video mentioned last month for the COG update: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/4/9/food-and-agriculture-regional-member-farm-ad-hoc-advisory-committee/>
  - Regional food security calls will reconvene in July.
  
- **Recap of Task Force Work Group Recommendations (Sydney Daigle)**
  - Timeline – Now in June (on target), spent the last few months working on developing the recommendations. We anticipate working on the community engagement strategy in the next few months. The report will be developed later this summer as well as the briefing to the County Council.
  - Overview of Small Group Process
    - Small group meeting #1 – Group discussion and brainstorm.
    - IPHI developed list of recommendations.
    - Small group meetings.
    - Task force reviews the recommendations developed by the small groups.
  - Small group meetings -- Held the first three small group meetings over the last few months.
    - Individual and resident safety net
    - Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination
    - Government Agency and Systems Response
      - Developed big picture recommendations that were then presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> small group meeting to see if it was relevant for bigger food systems planning.

#### 4. Developing Guiding Principles

- Review survey – We sent out a list of 75 options and asked you to pick 10 options from that – we compiled all the data into list of votes – RESULTS:
  - iii. What would it mean for the County to be empowering?
    - Creating tools that empower other groups to act and not dictate.
    - Make sure the local champions are there for long term sustainability.
    - Empowering is an overarching theme for others, like collaboration and equitable.
    - “For the people and by the people” – is that inherently a collaborative and equitable approach?
    - Yes, it's inherently collaborative but not necessarily equitable. Not all populations are included or served.
    - If you're empowering, there are strategies that are needed to be inclusive and equitable

- Need to keep an open mind and pay attention to when we're not equitable.
  - When we develop proposals and recommendations, we need to make sure we're incorporating an equity level in that we're addressing those that are sometimes missed or not included. We need to avoid being equal and try to be equitable.
  - Centering those who have disproportionately shouldered the burdens of the pandemic and make sure their needs are met. From there, we can look at the resources we have left and what is achievable. We need to level things in areas that are currently unequal.
- iv. What does it mean for the County to be transparent?
- Illustrating process and disclosing where these ideas came from.
  - It's not always clear what the impact an effort has, so when folks use the word transparent, are we talking about transparent accountability?
  - What recommendations are we making and what are the systems in place to make sure the County is accountable?
  - Transparency needs a level of community outreach so that people know what the strategies are.
- v. What would it mean for the County to practice sustainability?
- Involving local efforts and the people that are on the ground and can sustain the work.
  - Providing a sustainable platform to do the work.
  - Long term support and collaboration to provide support and help groups achieve the broader goals.
  - For me sustainability means that the program survives and thrives over the long term.
  - Build strong relationships with stakeholders and attract investors for long-term sustainability.
  - Also, a continuance between administrations as a priority.
  - Avoid the appearance of waste.
  - Use the resources you have efficiently – make sure you're collecting the data to define what success and efficiencies are.
  - Process management – When the next issue comes up, we can have quick response time (having proactive processes in place).
  - Within efficiency, allow for some inefficiency as there will be some trial and error.

vi. Draft Guiding Principles

- Empowering/collaboration
- Equitable
- Transparency
- Sustainability
- Efficiency

Next level choices (do these falls into the guiding principle buckets above?)

- c. Proactive
- d. Ethical
- e. Effective
- f. Communication

- Communication could fall under the bucket of transparency.
- Efficiency and effective and proactive can all go into one bucket. Could that also go into the sustainability bucket?
- Ethical could be under equitable.

Next level choices (do these falls into the guiding principle buckets above?)

- a. Accessible
- b. Flexible
- c. Strategic
- d. Accountable

- Accessible can fall under equitable/ethical
- Flexibility = agility/adaptable (can't plan a process for everything but agility helps).

**Updated guiding principles:**

- Empowering/collaboration
- Equitable/ethical/accessibility
- Transparency/communication/accountability
- Sustainability/proactive/agility
- Efficiency/effective

Missing:

- Innovation
- Innovation (could that be paired with sustainability)
- Quality
- Could we include something about data but also something about pushing the envelope to drive innovative solutions?

- Does innovation run counter to evidence-based? Maybe not, but it can be data-driven; maybe don't lead with innovation. but it after data-driven evidence-based.

5. Community Outreach Strategy

- a. Talked about distributing a survey at food distribution sites via a flyer (QR code that folks can complete the survey). Is that feasible to do?
  - i. Surveys have been helpful for some church groups.
  - ii. CAFB model? Challenging to survey 2000 clients (even while hiring someone to take the survey). They even offer gift cards and incentives, but it's hard to get results – need to be prepared for longer period to get the feedback.
  - iii. They also work with their Client Leadership Council to recommend changes to the services they provide. That might be a source to help facilitate feedback (but that's a smaller pool). As we define what we're evaluating, we can explore different options.
  - iv. SNAP-Ed has utilized QR codes to share recipes, provide health and wellness information, and possibly surveys. This was implemented at the state level. Our coordinator would be happy to share.
    - 1. The consulting team will reach out to more partners to see if they could be the distribution point for those surveys and see if the CAFB group is able to provide feedback.

6. Work Group Update

- 4<sup>th</sup> small group - Strategic & Long-Term System Planning
  - Group used the hour to think about the different root causes that intersect with food insecurity and what groups are currently working on those efforts. Asked how the County could align with those efforts?
  - Looked at recommendations from other reports to see what recommendations should be carried over.
  - Looked at the recommendations from group 1-3 to see if there's anything missing.
- Updates from volunteer:
  - The group discussed how many conditions intersect with food insecurity including economic opportunity, housing, and healthcare.
  - Decided to identify groups that have made recommendations in these areas in the last few years – priority issues:
    - Housing instability
    - Economic opportunity
    - Land and agriculture
    - Education
    - Health care access

- Reviewed reports on food waste, urban ag, and healthy food for all. The group felt that the recommendations that this group identified were strong. Additional recommendations or next steps should include:
    - urban agriculture and land use
    - Financing and action steps for each strategy (including a point person or agency)
    - Provide support to healthy food retailers
  
  - 7. Open Discussion & Assignments for Next Meeting
    - a. Arcadia released a new report on focused work they did with food insecure residents on the Route 1 Corridor in NOVA. Have not had a chance to review but wonder if useful to the focus groups? <http://arcadiafood.org/RT1Report>
  
  - 8. Announcements from Taskforce Members
    - a. New outdoor exhibit at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum? <https://anacostia.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/Food-for-the-People-Eating-and-Activism-in-Greater-Washington-6536>
    - b. <https://anacostia.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/Food-for-the-People-Eating-and-Activism-in-Greater-Washington-6536>
    - c. Trailer in Brandywine is sited and painted. Pictures will follow soon.
    - d. If groups want to get meals from PGCPS, they need to fill out an application to get meals.
    - e. Registration link for the Food Rescue platform information session for food providers: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdOmhrDgtGNFtDnPpvkVwjN5rE4-BrFcq>
    - f. Free nutrition education and classes <http://www.giantfood.com/nutrition>
    - g. There will be a supplementary budget for FY22 for the ARPA funding. More information will be provided soon.
  
  - 9. Next Meeting – Friday, July 16, 2021
  
  - 10. Adjourn
- The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.