



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes September 10, 2021

Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension
Nicole Hall, Economic Development
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
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Bridget Warren, County Executive's Office
Denisha Yearby, Union Bethel AME Church

Consultants

Sydney Daigle, Institute for Public Health Innovation
Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Evelyn Kelly, 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 1:07 pm welcoming the members.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2021

The July 16, 2021 minutes were approved as presented

3. Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
 - The August 5th call was focused on utility assistance and resources to sign up for new programs - we heard from folks at the County with DSS's energy assistance program, folks from Community Legal Services, the Salvation Army and WSSC's water program
 - The September 2nd call was focused on healthcare access and information and resources on how to enroll in ACA --we heard from Prince George's County Health Connect and Regional Primary Care Coalition
 - Our upcoming call will be on October 7th - Meeting link:
<https://forms.gle/Zm53nFNGu97pBiuw6>
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
 - Update provided.
- Chair Turner Updates
 - Stand Up & Deliver is continuing for the foreseeable future
 - The FEC hosted an event on July 20th to celebrate the launch of three (3) new cold storage trailers in Prince George's County
 - Did a kick-off on July 28th for the CAFB mobile grocery truck at Iverson Mall -- still identifying the locations and schedules in the County
 - Working on a more detailed overview of the County funding plan for ARPA
 - Working with the policy team to look at the recommendations this group is putting together
 - Announced that Task Force Member Dennis Lewis, of the County Department of Social Services, will be retiring at the end of September after 44 years of service in the field.

4. Report Updates & Revised Submittal Schedule

A. Task Force Process Overview

- IPHI reviewed previous recommendations and best practices
- Group discussions and recommendation brainstorm
- IPHI generates draft top recommendations

- Group feedback/ review recommendations
- Recommendations vetted through key informant interviews
- Final draft is submitted to the county council for review.

Conducted key informant interviews with:

- Prince George's County Public Schools Judy Center
- Latin American Youth Center
- Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.
- DSS Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project & Prince George's County Youth Action Board

Small group #4:

- The recommendations have been vetted and reviewed by a small group -- food systems planning small group
- Members met twice to review recommendations format and content
- Additional follow up interviews were held with members to share feedback on strategies related to their expertise
- Members identified additional stakeholders for consultant team to interview
- Small group members included Alison Mendoza Walters, Deborah Archer, Kim Rush Lynch, Lindsay Smith, Maria Martin, Nicole Hall, Sandra Eubanks, Todd Turner, Roberto Melara

B. Draft Report Overview & Member Discussion

Revised Recommendations Structure:

- Recommendation: Text has been shortened for ease of review
- Strategy: We have attempted to reduce text to provide critical information. This section provides supplemental information to the Action Plan.
- Policy Pathways: (No changes have been made)
- Executive/Agency Action / 2021-2022 County Budget / Legislation
- Case Study: Provided for all Foundational Recommendations. All case studies are from Maryland or region.
- The action plan was also revised to remove
- FSTF Values addressed (group decided that all values were included in all recommendations)
- Changed recommended actions to recommended steps
- Removed co-benefits from other strategies (too many)
- Removed links to other county reports (only a few underlying reports that are mentioned in the introduction and included in the appendix)

Draft Recommendations: - Key Changes:

- Foundational/pillar recommendations identified. These will each have a case study.
- Funding integrated across recommendations
- Language is streamlined, strategies rewritten to be actionable and reasonable

Vetted Recommendations

- Foundational Recommendation A: Create and fund a County Food Security Office
- Foundational Recommendation B: Update, maintain, and use data sources related to Food Security to inform decisions
- Foundational Recommendation C: Increase participation in federal nutrition assistance programs

Member Discussion/Comments

- Nicole Hall: Challenge getting information out to the county -- needs to be underscored -- after programs have ended, many folks say they've never heard of the program -- make sure we're using the right channels and getting out this information in an accurate way to meet people where they are. Also make sure that we're communicating this in multiple languages -- add this to the comms strategy text, action plan, and equity considerations
- Lindsay Smith: Building off Nicole's comments, I thought Evelyn's overview of the interviews was helpful. I don't think that the county's immigrant communities are specifically mentioned in the document and wonder if there is a need to do so.
- Lindsay Smith: I think this is a strong set of recommendations. Should we consider making Recommendation 5 "Improve transportation and *delivery* options to access healthy food retail..."
- Dennis Lewis: I think the subject of Food Security is a tough subject. I think the task force members have done a great job to address the issues.
- Leslie Jefferson: Yes, I think the document is going in the right direction... I have not had a chance to fully read it ...but it looks good Next Steps.

5. Assignments for Next Meeting

- Task Force Member to provide any additional feedback on proposed recommendations via Google docs by close of business Friday, September 17th.

6. Announcements from Taskforce Members

- The Mona Center Urban Farm is having an event tomorrow:
<https://www.pgscd.org/event/mona-center-urban-farm-open-house/>

7. Next Meeting – October 1, 2021 or the following week.

Chair Turner discussed the potential opportunity to move the meeting a week later October 8th to give the consultant team sufficient time to incorporate any additional comments for the members.

8. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.