



**Oakland County Food Policy Council  
Full Council Meeting  
September 20, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Breanna Bradley (PACE), Maurice Cummings (OCHD), Robin Danto (MSUE/OCHD), Tony Drautz (OCHD), Angela Gill (Lighthouse), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Selena Goss (Gleaners), Paul Green (Taste the Local Difference), Melanie Grund (Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development), Christine Hodge (Great Start Collaborative), Carrie Hribar (OCHD), Trevor Johnson (resident/local business owner), Theresa Krell (Trinity Health), Kelsey Merz (OCHD/WIC), Sarah Niskanen (Pontiac Community Foundation), Megan Page (OCHD), Jessica Ramsey (Gleaners), Lindsay TerHaar (OCHD), Ginny Uhley (Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine), Amanda Woods (OCHD), Joann Wrobel (OCHD)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Member introductions were made.

**Workgroup Updates**

**Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB)**

Earning DUFEB at participating grocery stores is on pause through December 31 due to higher than anticipated program spending during the height of the pandemic. Shoppers may still spend earned DUFEB at grocery stores and farmers markets, and shoppers can still earn DUFEB at participating farmers markets with a limit of \$20/day. This pause impacts two grocery stores in Oakland County: Western Market and Glory Food Market.

Originally, the OCFPC workgroup was focused on expanding DUFEB in Oakland County. As a result of these external factors, members pivoted towards compiling a resource document to share with SNAP/DUFEB participants which will highlight discount goods and services available. The document will be available both in hard copy and online and will be connected to Oakland County Health Division's Nurse On Call.

When the grocery store earning pause has lifted, the workgroup will continue to look towards expanding DUFEB in Oakland County.

**Leadership Committee**

The leadership committee has been working to identify a new chairperson for the Oakland County Food Policy Council. A call for applicants occurred earlier in the year. No applications were submitted. Workgroup members will continue to focus on searching for a full council chair(s), but in the meantime, are seeking an interim chair(s) through June 2023. The committee hopes the chair will provide leadership and guidance through the 2023 priority setting

process and support the Leadership committee while continuing to search for a full council chair(s).

### **Michigan Local Food Council Network Cohorts**

Michigan Local Food Council Network began two learning cohorts this summer: one regarding policy and one regarding equitable participation. There are food council members participating in both cohorts. The goal of the policy cohort is for participants to learn how to affect policy change, understand advocacy, and improve engagement with citizens and policy makers.

The MLFCN cohort on equitable participation has met twice and are having discussions and conversations on what is needed for equitable participation, especially at the policy level. Equitable participation within the council was an action item in the cohort's original work plan. Members are hopeful they will receive more tools to achieve this goal. Grant funding may be available from MLFCN.

### **Revising Oakland County Food Policy Councils Vision and Mission Statements**

As part of the workplan, mentioned above, the DEIJ cohort reviewed the council's vision and mission statements established in 2017. The council's current mission and goal are [here](#). Members also responded to Menti polls (results attached) regarding the statements. DEIJ workgroup adopted the [Iowa State University Extension framework](#) to craft these statements.

### **Vision Statement**

The workgroup drafted two vision statements for review and feedback:

- Oakland County has a fair and sustainable and culturally friendly food system that encourages healthy eating for all.
- Oakland County has a fair and culturally friendly food system that encourages healthy eating for all.

Council membership discussed the two proposed vision statements. Cohort workgroup members shared they are also working to connect the statements to the Michigan Good Food Charter. Feedback from the Menti poll is included in the attachments (*see attachments*). Additional feedback included defining food system and sustainable, specify if we (as a council) are targeting access to healthy food or eating healthy food.

### **Mission statement**

The mission statement was inspired by the 2022 Michigan Good Food Charter. The mission statement further defines how the council will achieve the vision. Review feedback from the Menti poll (*see attachments*).

- Proposed statement: To lead and advance food policy and system change that will increase equitable access and consumption for all.

Other comments include adding a land use acknowledgement, mission statements should be concise, and define "lead and advance." Members can still provide feedback and concerns: contact Amanda ([woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com) or 248-410-1002). After the vision and mission statements are finalized, the council and workgroup will begin focusing on goals and objectives. The November meeting will be focused on 2023 priorities.

## Policy Updates

- There has been a lot of federal legislative activity over the past few months related to school meal programs. Many school meal program waivers, including the universal free school meal waiver, expired at the end of the summer. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, President Biden signed the [Keep Kids Fed Act](#), a bipartisan compromise bill aimed at supporting school meals programs for the 2022-23 school year. This Act increases school meal reimbursements for breakfast (+15 cents) and lunch (+40cents), in addition to the annual adjustment for inflation. The Act also recognizes the continued supply chain issues schools are still experiencing and will not be penalized if they cannot purchase the food items required to meet the school meal standards.
- On July 27, the U.S. House passed the [Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act](#). This is the House's version of Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). This bill has not made any movement because congress went on holiday break shortly after and now are focused on mid-term elections.
- USDA made a series of funding announcements, including:
  - [\\$1.8 Billion in new funding to leverage agriculture](#) to help feed kids and families across the nation. This money will go to food banks and school feeding programs for the purchase of American grown foods. This is part of the Biden-Harris Administration and the USDA's initiative to strengthen food security in the United States. It includes \$1 billion for food banks and \$500,000 for schools to purchase minimally processed foods such as cheese, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, raw meats, and milk.
  - \$400 Million to create at least 6 [Regional Food Business Centers](#)
- There have been a series of listening sessions leading up to the [White House Conference September 28th on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#). The White House hosted stakeholder calls over the summer. The event is going to be live streamed with about 500 people invited to attend in person and stakeholders are encouraged to participate virtually. The last time a conference like this was held was during the Nixon Administration. There are five pillars that will be announced and discussed: improving food access, integrating nutrition and health, empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices, supporting physical activity for all and enhancing nutrition and food security research. Lori Adkins is attending in person and will provide a report at the next meeting. Oakland County Food Policy Council offered to host a satellite watch party.
- During the Trump administration, the public rule was modified so that families seeking food assistance and other public assistance could potentially be penalized while seeking immigration status. Concurrently, there was a drop in Oakland County WIC clients. [The Biden Administration issued a rule change](#) that families seeking immigration status can access public assistance without it negatively affecting their immigration application status.
- The Neighborhood and Commercial Food Initiative offers incentives, grants, loans and other assistance under the Michigan Community Revitalization Program to restore properties for retail supermarkets, grocery stores, produce markets or delis in downtown or development areas. There are areas in Oakland County that are eligible for this program.

### **Other Business**

The White House Conference will be livestreamed. Amanda inquired if council members were interested in holding a satellite watch event. The county has the capability to host an in person or hybrid event. The [conference agenda is here](#). Council members decided to host a watch party for the morning plenary and panel sessions. Amanda will arrange the meeting links and distribute to interested council members.

### **Partner Updates**

No updates provided.

### **Next Meeting**

*November 15, 9-10:30 AM*