Full Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Shane Bies (Oakland County Health & Human Services), Breanna Bradley (PACE), Russell Estill (Lighthouse), Susan Erspamer (Hospitality House), Melissa Gervais (Gleaners), Angela Gill (Lighthouse), Trevor Johnson (community resident), Angelya Higginbotham (OCHD), Theresa Krell (Trinity Health), Bre'Anna Koenig (Macomb County Health Department), Whitney Litzner (PHAB), Jennifer Lucarelli (Oakland University), Kelsey Merz, (OCHD), Alejandra Solorzano (Benefit Data Trust), Lindsay TerHaar (OCHD), Amanda Woods (OCHD), Joann Wrobel (OCHD)

Welcome, Introductions, and Partner Updates
Member introductions were made. Council members provided updates:
- Lori: Michigan SB 500 is being discussed and would codify Healthy School Meals for All into law. Currently, it is only funded for this current school year. Amanda forwarded the support template from American Heart Associate to members immediately after the meeting.
- Theresa: Trinity Health Oakland is starting virtual Diabetes Prevention Program October 11th, learn more about eligibility here. Two patient pantries have been established at The Farm and Food Hub and Woodward Professional Building (flyer attached) with Lighthouse.

Housekeeping
- MLFCN Legislative Day: Michigan Local Food Council Network (MLFCN) will host another Legislative Education Day in Lansing from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM. No cost to attend, travel support is available. Deadline to register is Friday, September 25. This will be a time for councils to meet with one another, and with policymakers. Meetings with legislators can be focused on establishing a relationship with representatives and educating legislators (or their staff) on an issue your council is working on. Capital Services will help set up appointments.
- January 16, 2024 meeting will be held in person. Location TBD.

Workgroup Updates
- **DEIJ workgroup:** Workgroup members continue to conduct key informant interviews. Members have identified and will be interviewing over two dozen residents, community leaders, business leaders, and government officials. Members will be using the results to prioritize future action strategies for both the workgroup and council at-large.

- **Leadership Committee**: The chair position is officially open and the application can be found on the [council's website](#). Committee members wanted to emphasize the candidate does not necessarily need to have a strong background in food policy work, but can bring passion, drive, and focus on policy change and experience with the social determinants of health. Applications will be open through September, with the goal to have a new chair on board by the beginning of the calendar year.   Amanda thanked Theresa Krell and Whitney Litzner again for their time, dedication, and support guiding the council at this time.

Farm Bill Advocacy
- Federal Update: It is unlikely the Farm Bill will be finalized at the end of the month. A continuing resolution is likely and would maintain funding at 2018 levels until talks resume. Currently, Congress is working on FY24 appropriations and is facing a government shutdown by September 30th.
- August meeting update: At the July meeting, two advocacy focuses emerged: SNAP and GusNIP (because of their overlapping focuses) and TEFAP.
- SNAP/GusNIP: Members met last week and narrowed objectives to 1) eliminating the work requirement for college students and, 2) addressing enrollment barriers and focusing on technology barriers. Melissa and Theresa are currently collecting testimonials, and Amanda and Carrie are working on an information 1-pager.
- TEFAP: At the last OCFPC meeting, members created two objectives: 1) raising awareness about TEFAP and it's value and. 2) highlighting what happens if it is not adequately funded.
- After updates were provided, interested council members moved into breakout rooms to continue Farm Bill strategy discussions. The formal full council meeting concluded.

Next Meeting
November 21, 2023 from 9-10:30 AM