

Full Council Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Shane Bies (Oakland County Health & Human Services), Jared Barnett (Honor Community Health), David Cipriano (Hospitality House), Leigh Coyle (OCHD), Robin Danto (OCHD), Laura Diaz (Honor Community Health), Susan Erspamer (Hospitality House), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Melissa Gervais (Gleaners), Angelya Higginbotham (OCHD), Bre'Anna Koenig (Macomb County Health Department), Rita Little (Corewell Health), Jessica Loton-Williams (Fair Food Network), Jennifer Lucarelli (Oakland University), Kristin Olmedo (United Community Family Services), Megan Page (OCHHS), Bridget Prohaszka (community resident), Alejandra Solorzano (Benefit Data Trust), Chad Techner (Metro Food Rescue), Lindsay TerHaar (OCHHS), Amanda Woods (OCHHS)

Special Guests: Jay Lyon, Swipe Out Hunger and Spencer Good, Spartan Food Security Council

Welcome and Introductions

Chad and Amanda welcomed group. Member introductions were made.

Special Guest Presentation: Hunger Free Campus Act

Jay Lyon, Swipe Out Hunger, and Spencer Good, Spartan Food Security Council, presented on Michigan [House Bill 5097](#) (Hunger Free Campus Act). See attached PowerPoint. HB 5097 would provide funding for institutions to address food insecurity among college students.

Other states have passed similar legislation with student-driven efforts. Jay and Spencer are seeking to increase support for this bill. They anticipate and are hoping the bill will pass the House in April, and move to appropriations later this spring.

They shared upcoming events and ways they have been increasing awareness around the bill:

- They have been holding events at campuses across the state to generate visibility.
- They will be participating in the Michigan Pantries Virtual Summit on April 11th.
- They have been and continue to recommend sharing students' experiences with legislators.

Questions arose about lobbying vs advocacy activities. Anne Ginn provided resources regarding advocacy and lobbying.

- [Michigan Nonprofit Association \(MNA\)](#)
 - In general, she recommends MNA as a resource for nonprofit organizations. The referenced document during the meeting is not available online. Anne is confirming it's status and will update Amanda.
- [Alliance for Justice \(AFJ\)](#)
 - [Link to training](#)
 - [Bolder Advocacy](#): Anne shared she has received pro bono legal guidance in past years but has not requested help recently and cannot speak if this is still offered.

Contact information:

- Jay: jay@swipehunger.org
- Spencer: rso.sfsc@msu.edu

New Council Member Identification

Chad reviewed the January activity with members to identify potential new organizations/ members to invite to the council. Chad presented a [shared document](#) for members to review, assign themselves to outreach, and provide updates. If support from Chad/Amanda is needed, please email Amanda. Amanda will send out a 1-pager on the council to assist with outreach.

Policy Updates

- Federal Updates:
 - Farm Bill – Still no forward movement. Sen. Stabenow, Senate Agriculture Chairwoman, was quoted earlier in March stating she would rather not pass a Farm Bill, than have a “bad” Farm Bill pass. [Listen to an interview here](#).
 - [WIC received the \\$1B funding increase](#) necessary to support all eligible families
- State of Michigan
 - Governor Whitmer’s proposed 2025 budget continues financial support for universal school meals at \$200M and allocates \$500,000 for summer EBT.
 - Summer EBT will roll out for the first time this year. Households will receive benefits based on:
 - Enrollment in SNAP, SDPIR, TANF, and Medicaid (eligible child will be auto enrolled into Summer EBT) or,
 - The household has completed a NSLP application forms for this school year (what was previously required to receive free/reduced cost meals).

Partner Updates

- Anne Ginn: She had a question about language regarding service and support animals in their warehouse. Amanda will follow-up with Anne.

- Alejandra: [Wyatt](#) provides support to help fill out FASFA – making it easier for students and parents to ask questions, free of charge.
- Katelyn Smoger: [Farm at Trinity Health Farm Share program](#) is now open for registration.
- Amanda: FSNE annual 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge starts April 1. If you would like to join a learning group, email Amanda.

Workgroup Updates

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) workgroup: Workgroup members are compiling a summary report from the key informant interviews with key action steps.
- Farm Bill: The one-pagers developed by council members has been shared with the County's legislative liaison.

Next Council Meeting

May 21, 2024, 9:00-10:30 AM, Virtual meeting