

## Full Council Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024

Attendees: Jared Barnett (Honor Community Health), Robin Danto (OCHD), Laura Diaz (Honor Community Health), Angelya Higginbotham (OCHD), Carrie Hribar (OCHHS), Melanie Grund (OC HHS), Regina Gulley (Trinity Health Oakland), Kelly Humes (OC), Theresa Krell (Trinity Health Oakland), Lauren Marks (United Way Southeastern MI), Kelsey Merz (OCHD), Katelyn Smoger (Trinity Health Oakland), Chad Techner (Metro Food Rescue), Cassie Thierfelder (United Way Southeast MI), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA), Amanda Woods (OCHHS)

### Welcome and Introductions

Chad and Amanda welcomed group. Member introductions were made.

### General Updates

Amanda announced Anne Ginn retired from Forgotten Harvest at the end of June. We wish her all the best!

### DEIJ Workgroup update:

The key informant report is being reviewed by leadership, with the goal to publish early fall. The report summarizes the conversations with community leaders and residents, and lays out council-oriented action items, including:

- Improve engagement at the community level, specifically with residents
- Convene a group of stakeholders invested and engaged in the social determinants of health

Workgroup members announced they are recruiting at least one new member to join the workgroup. The workgroup will begin driving forward some items from the report, and support future council learning activities. The workgroup meets 1-2 times per month (bi-weekly) on Monday's at 9 AM. The meeting time can be adjusted based on member availability. Email Amanda ([woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com)) with additional questions and/or interest.

### Policy Updates

- State of Michigan updates – no updates (at time of meeting)
- Federal Updates:
  - On July 11, the full Senate Appropriations Committee held a markup of three subcommittee bills, including Agriculture.

- Highlights include:
  - WIC: \$7.697 billion, a \$667 million increase over FY 2024. This ensures all eligible participants can continue to receive WIC benefits and services, in addition to full funding for fruit and vegetable vouchers.
  - SNAP: Fully funds to serve an estimated 42 million people per month and potentially restrictive policy riders were not included.
  - Child Nutrition: Fully funds child nutrition programs to ensure schools can continue to serve healthy meals to all eligible children. The committee estimates that in 2025 it will serve an estimated 5 billion lunches and 2.7 billion breakfasts.

#### Farm Bill Update

- Both the Senate and House Agriculture Chairs, Sen. Stabenow and Rep. G.T. Thompson respectively, released Farm Bill proposals in May. Read the bill summaries below along with responses to the proposed bills: [House Farm Bill proposal](#) & [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities response](#), [Senate proposal](#) & [FRAC response](#)
- One of the major differences between the two bills centers on SNAP re-evaluations passed in the 2018 Farm Bill. These re-evaluations allow for SNAP benefits under the Thrifty Food Plan to be updated to align with the current Dietary Guidelines and to match the costs of purchasing and preparing food. Without these regular re-evaluations, benefits would be cut for recipients over time.

#### Advocacy Alert:

- Workgroup members are focused on proposed SNAP changes that could cut benefits for users.
- Amanda connected with Keesa Johnson (MLFCN), and she shared that in person meetings are preferred, and to follow-up with an email to include any additional documents. Social media is also another way to connect with legislators. She stated providing written information through any channel is key.
- Workgroup members are finalizing a one-pager and email template. Once completed, OCFPC Members may use them to connect with House Representatives and Senators Peters and Stabenow.
- Refresher on advocacy: [Watch Food Gathers 101 training on advocacy](#) (58 minutes, recorded on YouTube).

#### Partner Updates

- Robin: Senior Fresh is available. Robin is trying to connect with groups that may not have been historically reached for this program. Please email ([dantor@oakgov.com](mailto:dantor@oakgov.com)) or call her (248-215-6307) if you would like more information. [Link to application and general information](#).

- Madelyne: Gleaners is selling their Pontiac facility that both OLHSA and Lighthouse utilize. They are seeking connections to potential properties. Melanie suggested Jill Robinson in Treasurers Office, and Amanda will connect with Economic & Development Team.
- Lauren Marks: United Way will be offering an online advocacy training and Farm Bill advocacy web page. Lauren will share with Amanda to promote once both are live.
- Kelsey: Market Days are underway! Visit the Healthy Oakland Partnership web page, under Family & Senior Market Day 2024 to find dates and locations.
- Katelyn: The Farm is always seeking volunteers to help in the garden. Please email her (Katelyn.Smoger@trinity-health.org) to inquire about opportunities.

### Host – Tour of The Farm at Trinity Health Oakland

Katelyn Smoger gave a tour of The Farm at Trinity Health Oakland. [Learn more about The Farm.](#)



*Council members touring the gardens, in front of a newly built hoop house.*

*Next meeting: September 17, 9 AM-10:30 AM – Virtual*