

Full Council Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Shane Bies (Oakland County Health & Human Services), Robin Danto (OCHD), Susan Erspamer (Hospitality House), Melissa Gervais (Gleaners), Angela Gill (Lighthouse), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Angelya Higginbotham (OCHD), Carrie Hribar (OCHHS), Kelly Humes (OC), Theresa Krell (Trinity Health Oakland), Bre'Anna Koenig (Macomb County Health Department), Jessica Loton Williams (Fair Food Network), Kelsey Merz (OCHD), Kristine Olmedo (United Community Family Services), Breanna Schroeder (PACE), Alejandra Solorzano (Benefit Data Trust), Chad Techner (Metro Food Rescue), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA), Joann Wrobel (OCHD), Amanda Woods (OCHHS)

Welcome and Introductions

Chad and Amanda welcomed group. Member introductions were made.

Workgroup Updates

Amanda shared out two workgroup updates:

- DEIJ Workgroup: Amanda is reconnecting with community members who were interviewed for the Key Informant Interviews to confirm the community member summary accurately captured their collective responses. She is also asking how the council can do a better job connecting with community members.
- DUFB: The contract with Fair Food Network is done. Jessica Lofton-Williams shared FFN has been reaching out to grocery stores, particularly in the Pontiac area. If you have a contact for convenience stores and corners stores with small produce sections, or other grocery markets the area, please email her at jwilliams@fairfoodnetwork.org.

New Council Member Outreach

Chad highlighted the food system areas the Council could diversify its membership. These include: for-profit stores such as grocery stores, local government representatives and their staff, members of rural communities, and food processors and producers. Chad has reached out to a representative at the Springfield Community Twp Fire Dept. [Upload contacts here](#) or email Amanda (woods@oakgov.com) for outreach.

Policy Updates

- Federal Updates:
 - Farm Bill: Both the Senate and House Agriculture Chairs, Sen. Stabenow and Rep.

GT Thompson, released their respective Farm Bill proposals in May. Read the bill summaries below along with responses to the proposed bills. One of the major differences between the two bills centers on SNAP re-evaluations that were passed in the last 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 since it would keep pace with costs and preparation trends. Amanda will email Farm Bill workgroup to re-engage for the Council's education strategy.

- [House Farm Bill proposal](#) & [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities response](#)
- [Senate proposal](#) & [FRAC response](#)
- State of Michigan Updates
 - Summer EBT: Benefits will be available for the first time this summer, but the time frame for benefit release is TBD. Eligibility is based on spring count day. MDE is still processing applications for SFSP. There are 17 Oakland County school districts participating in SFSP. Once the list is finalized, Lori will share out. OLHSA will be having Meet up and Eat up in Pontiac, still working on site applications.
 - Hunger Free Campus program has been included in the House MiLEAP budget as a pilot program with a \$500,000 appropriation. The funding will go to a small number of schools as a test run, if it is unable to pass the policy portion of the legislation. The pilot program would support their efforts in instituting the full program for next year.

Partner Updates

- Kelsey (OCHD): Needs help promoting Healthy Oakland Partnership Market days for families and seniors. Amanda has attached toolkit materials for promotion in the email. For additional information, contact Kelsey at merzk@oakgov.com.
- Robin (OCHD): Senior Market Fresh is available. Contact Robin for more information or to refer an eligible senior, dantor@oakgov.com or 248-215-6307.
- Madelyne (OLHSA): OLSHA needs help for summer programming, Meet Up and Eat Up. It is best suited for college students, and they are concerned if they do not receive enough applicants to fill the positions, they will need to cut feeding sites. Link to application: <https://www.olhsa.org/employment/employment-application>

Next Council Meeting

July 16, 2024, 9:00-10:30 AM, **In-Person at Trinity Health Oakland The Farm (Pontiac)**