



# ACTION TEAM MINUTES



## FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes 03/16/2021

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am

### Introductions

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Caira Boggs (Beaumont), Breanna Bradley (OLHSA), Chrissy Bielicki (AmeriCorps- Beaumont), Jeremy Brown (Oakland County Farmers Market), Robin Danto (MSU-E), Tony Drautz (OCHD), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Melanie Grund (Oakland County), Kristine Hahn (MSU-E), Christine Hodge (Oakland Schools-Great Start Collaborative), Carrie Hribar (OCHD), Ashley Krasicky (OLHSA), Trevor Johnson (community resident), Rita Little (OCHD), Laura Mulligan (Ascension Providence Rochester), Elizabeth Onye (OCHD), Melissa Opshal (YMCA of Metro Detroit), Erica Willemsen (Macomb County Health Department), Kelly Wilson (Taste the Local Difference), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA), Amanda Woods (OCHD), Joann Wrobel (OCHD), Courtney VanderWal (Taste the Local Difference)

Introductions were made.

### 1. Child Nutrition Update

Lori Adkins provided an update on Child Nutrition Services in Michigan and nationally. She first [showed a video](#) produced by the School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM). The video may be shared with Congressional representatives.

It is unknown how much it will cost to continue offering meals for all students under “School Meals for All.” The Congressional Budget Office (COB) estimates the cost at \$75B - \$100B. Meals for all students reduces paperwork burden for parents and operators. The program ensures all kids have access to food through school and will not go hungry when trying to learn.

The USDA Farm to School Census report from 2019 will be released from USDA later this spring. A new training program, “Bringing the Farm to School,” has been developed to help schools partner with local farmers. It will include food producer trainings and regional facilitator workshops.

Team Nutrition Training Grants are available for school districts. The goal is to improve school meal quality and student perceptions of school meals. Food service managers would participate in a 2-year quality training.

Lastly, National School Breakfast Week was celebrated March 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. To help celebrate, Oakland Schools’ “Educationally Speaking” [produced a podcast about school breakfast](#). Bryan Van Dorn (United Way of SE MI), Stephanie Willingham (MDE), Katie McConkie (Lamphere Schools), and Lori talked about the impact school breakfast programs have on kids and families in Michigan.

### 2. OCFPC 2021 Survey Results

Amanda reviewed the results of the 2021 OCFPC Survey (see PowerPoint presentation). Members reported having limited capacity to take on new project(s) regardless if the project was COVID or non-COVID related. Members were asked about additional council support during this time. Members



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requested continuing policy updates, addressing COVID-related emergent food needs, and sharing resources. OCFPC will continue to honor these requests. If there is a need, request, or resource to share, email Amanda ([woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com)) and she will disseminate to the group. Amanda will continue to assess fluctuating capacity through future member surveys.

### 3. Policy Updates (shared via minutes only)

#### Federal:

Bipartisan legislation titled the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 1537) has been reintroduced by the Chairwoman of Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee Chairwoman of Immigration Subcommittee Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA). This is the same agriculture immigration bill that was passed in the House of Representatives in 2019. The legislation has the support of Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and is expected to come to the House floor before the end of March.

The [American Rescue Plan](#) became law in early March. This package includes several items addressing food security, procurement, and racial equity in the food system.

The Farm to School Act of 2021 (H.R. 1768) was introduced March 10, 2021. The bill, sponsored by Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-VI), Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), and Representative Alma Adams (D-NC), will expand funding for and programmatic scope of the [USDA Farm to School Grant Program](#), while also ensuring that more communities, specifically those serving racially diverse and high-need student populations, as well as engaging with beginning, veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers, have a competitive opportunity to benefit from this valuable program. See a fact sheet from the National Farm to School Network and NSAC at [F2SAct2021-FactSheet.pdf \(sustainableagriculture.net\)](#)

The sub-committees on Agriculture for both the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Appropriations have begun work the FY22 agriculture appropriations bill. Led by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, groups are signing onto a letter to the sub-committees asking for the USDA Office of Urban Agriculture to be fully funded at \$25 million in the upcoming fiscal year.

#### State of Michigan:

Supplemental budget bills have been passed allocating \$4.5 million for senior nutrition services, \$600 million for expanded SNAP benefits (continued funding), \$220 million for emergency rental assistance, \$650,000 for school lunch, \$7.4 million for school breakfast, \$300 million for afflicted businesses, \$55 million for unemployment, \$16.6 million for bars, \$22 million for food service, and \$11.5 million for licensing and inspection relief.

School Wellness Award (MDHHS): The application, along with more information about the award, can be found at <http://swa.mihealthtools.org>. Deadline is midnight EST on May 19, 2021.

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced that Michigan households receiving SNAP benefits that are not currently receiving the maximum amount allowed per household size will receive additional payments to raise benefit payments to the maximum for March. Households that normally receive the maximum benefits



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amount allowed for their household size will still receive a 15% increase in benefits through September 2021. Additional March benefits will be issued between March 20th – March 30<sup>th</sup>.

P-EBT Update: As a reminder, students in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible for P-EBT benefits if they qualify for a free or reduced price lunch at school **and** in-person learning is not available at their school at all or is not on a full-time basis. Families will receive an estimated \$127.53/per month per child if school is fully virtual and \$77.06/per month per child if enrolled in a hybrid schedule. Benefits are retroactive to September and are anticipated to rollout by end of March. For more information, [read MDHH's press release](#).

## 4. Partner Updates

- *Carrie* provided an COVID-19 vaccine update for Oakland County (see attached PowerPoint). Visit [oaklandcountyvaccine.com](http://oaklandcountyvaccine.com) to sign up and OCHD will notify the individual when they are eligible and an appointment is available. If citizens/residents have signed up and received the vaccine through Oakland County or another provider, visit [oaklandcountyvaccine.com](http://oaklandcountyvaccine.com) to remove their spot and OCHD will no longer contact them. Appointment invitations will come from [health@oakgov.com](mailto:health@oakgov.com). Check spam folders. Carrie also provided an update on [currently eligible priority groups](#) and the number of vaccines received and administered. She shared MDHHS is using the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to allocate vaccine supply to counties and health department jurisdictions. OCHD is also using SVI target vaccine administration.
- *Melanie*: Oakland County Neighborhood and Housing Development is gathering community input to help guide how federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is used. The housing survey is open for community input and is open to any individual who lives or works in Oakland County. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please [complete the survey](#) and share within additional organizations and individuals. Contact Melanie at [grundm@oakgov.com](mailto:grundm@oakgov.com) with questions.
- *Rita*: Prescription for Health is set to tentatively launch April 1. Participants will receive grocery vouchers for fruits and vegetables. The vouchers can be redeemed at Huron Foods, Save Plus, Sprout Fresh Market, Carnival Market, and Oakland County Farmers Market. These stores and markets primarily serve the target population and offer diverse food choices to accommodate cultural food preferences. There will also be physical activity challenges with giveaways (i.e. air fryers, gym memberships) to encourage and foster healthy lifestyles. If you would like to donate prizes for the challenges, contact Rita at [littlec@oakgov.com](mailto:littlec@oakgov.com).
- *Kristine*: The DEI cohort is developing a tool to measure gaps in membership representation. They will bring a future proposal to council members for feedback. MSU-E is offering virtual school garden webinars, see attached flyer for additional information. Growing Pontiac is working to revitalize the Pontiac Farmers Market. Kristine will share more details as they emerge.
- *Robin*: Senior Fresh is fast approaching and anticipates early demand. Call or email Robin for information and/or learn how to get Senior Fresh coupon booklets (phone: 248/858-0904 or [dantor@msu.edu](mailto:dantor@msu.edu)). Booklets are first come, first serve.
- *Kelly*: Taste the Local Difference (TLD) is working on the 2021 Local Food Guide. If you know of local food businesses, farmers, etc. that would benefit from some promotion, please connect them to Kelly at 248-





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891-7195. TLD also started a project with the Fair Food Network to support independent retailers/corner stores in sourcing local produce so they can meet the DUFB requirements.

**5. Next Meeting:** May 18, 2021, 9:00-10:30 AM.