



**Oakland County Food Policy Council  
Full Council Meeting  
May 17, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** David Bowman (St. Joseph Mercy Oakland), Robin Danto (OC-MSUE), Tony Drautz (OCHD), Michael Fraley (Hospitality House), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Paul Green (Taste the Local Difference), Melanie Grund (Oakland County Housing and Neighborhood Development), Kristine Hahn (MSUE), Chelsea Hansen (Great Start Collaborative), Carrie Hribar (OCHD), Theresa Krell (St. Joseph Mercy Oakland), Kelsey Merz (OCHD), Megan Page (OCHD), Jessica Ramsey (Gleaners), Lindsay TerHaar (OCHD), Ginny Uhley (OU William Beaumont School of Medicine), Mackenzie Velas (OCHD), Erica Willemssen (Macomb County Health Department), Kelly Wilson (Taste the Local Difference), Michelle Wilson-Merriwether (OLHSA), Amanda Woods (OCHD).

Guest: Rachel Faust(intern)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Amanda welcomed everyone and thanked them for adjusting to TEAMS. Attendees introduced themselves and Amanda welcomed Michelle Wilson-Merriwether as a new member of the Council.

**DEIJ Workgroup Update**

There was a training on shared language during the March Full Council meeting. The training was well-received and appreciated based on member feedback. It was also noted this event was a good learning opportunity for the members. Kristine H. provided the cohort update. The cohort members met on April 7 with the facilitators to discuss next steps, which includes identifying who is not engaged with the Oakland County Food Policy council, to learn why, and assess the council's current culture. The council will also complete a cultural assessment, date TBD. Robin Carter-Cooper (Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Oakland County) reviewed the cohort's workplan and reflected it was moving in a positive direction. Kristine said the cohort will be meeting every two weeks on Mondays.

The Michigan Local Food Council Network is offering two new cohort learning sessions: Policy Advocacy and Equitable Participation (attachment in meeting minutes). Trevor is interested in participating in the Equitable Participation cohort and Kristine invited council members to join him. If you are interested, please contact Amanda (woods@oakgov.com). The training is 6 months long, June through December, and will host monthly virtual meetings approximately 1.5 to 2 hours long.

Next, the council members participated in a stakeholder mapping exercise using [Jamboard](#). Amanda created separate slides for each sector of the food system. The food system sectors are: Consumers, Growers/Producers, Emergency Food Providers, Retailers, Distributors, Government (local, state, federal), Community Organizations and Institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.). The results will be used with the cultural assessment and action planning process. Amanda will leave it open for though 5/27.



## **Double up Food Bucks (DUFB) Workgroup Update:**

In early 2021, the council decided to renew focus on expanding DUFB vendors in Oakland County. DUFB is managed by the Fair Food Network in Michigan and allows a SNAP user to receive up to \$20 in match from their EBT to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Presently, because higher than anticipated demand for program in part due to the pandemic, FFN has paused on vendor expansion. The work group has shifted to looking at how to support SNAP users with other household costs due to rising food prices. The workgroup decided to create a resource flyer to provide SNAP users with information on programs they may be eligible as SNAP recipients. Workgroup members are looking to the council members to help curate this resource. If you have information about discounts available to those receiving SNAP benefits, for example, reduced cost internet packages, discounted cell phone plans, and reduced priced or discounts for leisure activities, such as museums or parks. Additional ideas can be entered using Menti: <https://www.menti.com/> and enter code: 4122 0553. The link will remain open for more input for until May 31.

**OCFPC Chair Update:** A call for a new council co-chair has been made public. Chair responsibilities include develop agendas with ECHO support staff, help facilitate meetings, and provide guidance around advocacy and grant funding. Additional details are available at the [council's website](#). The position has been promoted through several list serves, networks, and LinkedIn without a great response. One member suggested sending out the chair announcement to the stakeholders identified in the Jamboard.

If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for this volunteer position or where to promote the position, please inform Amanda. The applicant is not required to be a previous member of the Oakland County Food Policy Council. The applicant should have a strong commitment and alignment with the council's values and have a desire to positively impact Oakland County food policies. For those interested, the application, job description, and information on how to apply is on the website. A review committee has been formed to review the applications and interview potential candidates.

## **Partner Updates**

- Erica- The Community Health Assessment (CHA) process is now live in Macomb County. They have not had a large response yet and are looking for 8,000 responses. Contact Erica for additional details if you can help promote the survey. Flyer is attached.
- Megan- Prescription for Healthy Oakland is wrapping up in the Pontiac area, but is now in southeastern Oakland County. Currently, 69 people are enrolled. There are 3 markets participating: the Oak Park Farmers Market, Glory Market, and Hollywood Market in Royal Oak. Kelly and Kristine wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Oakland County Food Policy Council for this program to expand into the Oak Park area.
- Amanda- There is a White House stakeholder call around food insecurity tomorrow. Also, next Monday, the Michigan Local Food Council Network is hosting a session on organizing an advocacy campaign. They are going to go over how to advocate and organize farmers.
- Melanie- She and Carlos (Fair Food Network) attended MLFCN's Legislative day in Lansing. They were able to discuss DUFB funding with Oakland County representatives' staff members. They also discussed food and transportation issues with the staffers. Melanie felt this was a great opportunity



to meet with state representatives and hopefully can increase awareness about the Oakland County Food Policy Council.

- Anne- There will be a grand opening celebration for the new Forgotten Harvest Campus on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am -4:00pm at 15000 West Eight Mile Road Oak Park and all are welcome to attend.
- Kristine- Oakland County Parks and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners are providing a limited number of free plants kits to Oakland County residents. Plant kit registration will begin on the morning of Wednesday, June 1, and plant kit distribution will be on June 11 and 12 at Catalpa Oaks County Park and the Oakland County Farmer's Market. Registration opened on the morning of June 1 at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Oaklandplants22/>

**Next Meeting:** July 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-10:30am