

**Oakland County Food Policy Council  
Full Council Meeting  
September 21, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Caira Boggs (Beaumont Health), Robin Danto (MSU-E), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Kristine Hahn (MSU-E), Christine Hodge (Great Start Collaborative), Carrie Hribar (OCHD), Trevor Johnson (community resident), Rita Little (OCHD), Jennifer Lucarelli (Oakland University), Elizabeth Onye (OCHD), Lindsay TerHaar (OCHD), Deborah Tien (community resident), Virginia (Ginnie) Uhley (Oakland university- William Beaumont School of Medicine), Erica Willemsen (Macomb County Health Department), Kelly Wilson (Taste the Local Difference), Amanda Woods (OCHD), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA), Joann Wrobel (OCHD)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Member introductions were made.

**Workgroup updates**

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Cohort
  - Cohort members were introduced: Trevor Johnson, Kristine Hahn, and Virginia (Ginnie) Uhley. Amanda shared these three members have been meeting since early 2021 and have participated in an intensive learning cohort hosted by Michigan Local Food Council Network (MLFCN). The cohort created a work plan to address equity, inclusivity, and diversity within the council's mission, culture, and operations.
  - Trevor and Ginnie highlighted racial and food insecurity data in Oakland County. The data report is available online and upon request. Email Amanda at [woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com).
  - Council members were divided into breakout rooms to take a deeper dive and further discuss the workplan. After approximately 20 minutes of discussion, council members regrouped and reported out. All group members agreed more time should be added to the workplan activities. Members suggested holding a shared language training for all to build out the foundation for furthering this work within the council. The training could be used as means to review and revise the OCFPC mission/vision, as well as support selecting a framework to guide the process.
  - Amanda requested approval of the workplan. Members approved. The cohort will be meeting after the full council meeting to debrief and start action planning. If other council members are interested in joining the cohort, email Amanda at [woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com).

- Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) Workgroup
  - Update provided via minutes: Group held first meeting in August. Group determined they should better understand barriers SNAP recipients experience, learn more about the data Fair Food Network (FFN) is collecting, and discover what the current SNAP redemption rates are by county or state (as data is available). The workgroup's short-term goal is to gather additional data regarding SNAP/DUFB to assist with identifying next steps; long-term/end goal is to increase availability and utilization of DUFB in Oakland County. Group will meet again in October. If other council members are interested in joining the workgroup, email Amanda at [woods@oakgov.com](mailto:woods@oakgov.com).

### **Policy Updates (provided via meeting minutes)**

- SNAP
  - Emergency Benefits: Michigan residents receiving SNAP benefits should have received [emergency benefits for September](#). All households receiving SNAP benefits receive a benefit increase of at least \$95/month, even if they are receiving the maximum payment threshold for their household, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow [SNAP Outreach at Food Bank Council of Michigan](#) on Facebook for useful information on changing SNAP benefits.
  - P-EBT is scheduled to expire 9/30/21. MDHHS has not announced P-EBT benefits for October and beyond.
  - New SNAP benefit amounts are set to go into effect on October 1, 2021. A 1-person household is expected to receive \$16 extra per month with amounts increasing depending on household size. Overall, recipients may see a 25% increase in benefit levels. Visit [USDA's website](#) to monitor USDA updates related to the benefit increase.
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization Update
  - The House Committee on Education and Labor advanced their portion of the budget, which covers labor enforcement, employment education and training, school facilities funding, higher education, childcare and pre-K, and child nutrition. The child nutrition portion is estimated at \$35 billion and proposes:
    - Expanding Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and increase funding for meals served under CEP
    - Funding expanding Summer EBT
    - Funding school kitchen modernization and training
  - Resources on Child Nutrition Reauthorization are at Food Research & Action Center: <https://frac.org/action/bills-we-are-supporting> and National Farm to School Network: <http://www.farmtoschool.org/cnr2021>.

### **Partner Updates**

- Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools): Schools continue experience supply chain issues impacting school breakfast and lunch programs. This problem is further compounded by

staffing shortages many industries are currently experiencing. [USDA Waiver #100 was released](#) on 9/15/21 to address this issue for schools. This waiver allows fiscal action flexibility for meal pattern violations related to COVID -19 due to supply chain disruptions impacting schools. This waiver gives MDE the ability to waive fiscal action against an SFA during an audit due to meal pattern not being met for claimed meals due the inability to get food. It is critically important that schools keep documentation of production records (including substitutions) as well as invoices. Copy of waiver attached with meeting minutes.

- Rita Little and Elizabeth Onye (Oakland County Health Division): The Prescription for a Healthy Oakland will end program enrollment on 11/15/2021. They will be hosting a community partner information session on 9/9/21 to support interested partners. Amanda shared event information immediately after the council meeting. Amanda announced the prescription program is seeking grant funding to expand the program into the southern part of Oakland County. The council submitted a letter of support on behalf of the program.
- Selena Goss (Gleaners): Gleaners has resumed in-person nutrition programming for the first time in over 1.5 years.

### **Next Meeting**

November 16, 2021, 9-10:30 AM