

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KARA HAHN
MAJORITY LEADER
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING
& AGRICULTURE



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

VICE-CHAIR
PARKS & RECREATION

MEMBER
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION & INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
PERSONNEL & HOUSING
PUBLIC SAFETY

**TO: Members of the Food Policy Council:
All interested parties**

FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn

DATE: February 13th, 2018

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Agenda

INTRODUCTIONS:

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I. Introductions

II. Health and Welfare Council of Long Island: Celeste Hernandez

- a. Currently works with 200 non-profit organizations, providing advocacy and policy work
- b. Main issues on Long Island:
 - i. Poverty level is the highest since 1959
 - 1. Over 300,000 people are food insecure (87,000 of those are children)
 - 2. Suggestion: another good indicator of poverty rates is collecting data from the free school lunch applications
 - ii. Undocumented immigrants are not applying for health insurance due to fear of importation
 - iii. There are 3,800 unaccompanied minors (undocumented) in Nassau County and 4,600 in Suffolk County
- c. Have been working with non-profits for 7 years now
 - i. Advocacy, policy work, and grassroots organizations
- d. Involved in direct services, such as:
 - i. SNAP & health care enrollment: staff from the organization go to health care centers (such as WIC) to help people sign up
 - 1. Help people navigate these systems
 - ii. Virtual Vita: free income tax program for those who make less than \$54,000 a year
 - 1. Available in Spanish & English
 - 2. Have been running this program for 3 years
- e. Involved in the Summer Lunch Program
 - i. Suggested: School Vacation (such as winter break/spring break) Feeding Programs?
- f. Obesity rate in NYS has declined by 1% and is trending down- data is from WIC
- g. Health care coverage & immigrants:
 - i. Provided with emergency health coverage only
 - ii. Pregnant woman are covered under Medicaid (also after pregnancy if there are associated complications from birth)
 - iii. Children of that pregnant mother are covered under Medicaid and CHIP
 - iv. Children under 18 years of age are covered, even if undocumented
- h. There is currently no law that elementary schools have school nurses on LI
 - i. In Queens, the schools have free doctors and dentists for children
- i. New project: community gardens are being planted in low income communities
 - i. Seeds and seedlings are free
 - ii. Provides access to fresh foods

III. 2017 Final Report

- a. There are some missing pieces, then the report will re-circulate
- b. General consensus: everyone is waiting for the missing piece to give back suggestions
- c. Will vote to approve at next meeting

IV. 2018 Agenda Survey

- a. 7 people have responded
- b. Helped give suggestions on speakers for the next meeting
- c. Location of next meeting in the Spring is unknown right now
- d. Some topics that those who responded would like discussed: building coalitions, land preservation, and food waste.
- e. Our council's current strengths according to responders: networking and coalition building
- f. Link is still live for those to take survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B628J3X>

V. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Community Gardens
 - i. Progress is slow
 - ii. Transitioned from paid staff to volunteers, making things difficult
 - iii. In March, will be working at Bellport's Boys & Girls Club after school program
 - 1. Nutrition and seedling growing education
 - 2. Waiting to hear back from NYS about a \$25,000 grant
 - iv. There is currently another survey out for farmers- 6 have responded- regarding getting fresh foods into schools and corner stores
 - v. 82 followers on Facebook- please follow!
 - 1. Long Island Community Garden Association LICGA
- b. Why Buy Local?
 - i. July-November there will be free transportation via the North Fork Trolley
 - ii. Goal: get people out of their cars, cut back on traffic, and increase revenue for the community at vineyards, apple/pumpkin picking, farm stands, etc.
 - iii. Currently in contact with the Town of Riverhead and Wine Council
 - iv. Will try to advertise this service better
- c. Food Equity
 - i. Some progress, have not met as a team yet
 - ii. The organization has expanded- Cornell University is doing an evaluation
 - iii. Trying to work closely with store owners (currently trying to recruit in Bellport), through difficult to get in contact with.
- d. Agricultural Education
 - i. March: National Nutrition Month, National Frozen Food Month, National School Breakfast Month

- ii. Janet distributed the following free information from the Dept. of Agriculture and Markets:
 - 1. School lunch, summer programs
 - 2. How to prevent food waste
 - 3. Guides to smart snacks in schools
 - 4. How to get local foods into schools
 - 5. Healthy recipes for schools
- iii. NYS Nutrition Association is looking for speakers
 - 1. Date: October 26-27, 2018
- iv. April: Farm to cafeteria conference
 - 1. Run by the National Farm to School Association

VI. Vacancies:

- a. 1 community group
- b. Food retailer
- c. LI farm bureau

VII. New Business:

- a. Vending Machine Bill
 - i. IR 1096-2014 passed in 2014 – need a status update

