



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

**DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

**RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

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**INTRODUCTIONS:**

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## 1. SCDHS WIC Program- Presentation by Sharon Oliver-Murthy

- a. WIC is a 44 year old domestic discretionary program, reauthorized every 5 years programs and funded by grants and federal dollars through the Farm Bill
  - i. Converting from checks to EBT cards statewide by 2020- already completed on Long Island as of 1/22/19
  - ii. WIC to Go Mobile app: loads benefits, WIC approved food information, Next Apt. date, etc.
- b. For vulnerable participants (up to 185% of poverty line)- pregnant women, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age 5
  - i. Income and nutritional risk eligibility requirements
- c. Supplemental program, not primary source of food for participants
- d. Foods are re-evaluated by institution of medicine for quality to aid in preventing obesity
  - i. Program is re-evaluated at federal and state level
- e. Suffolk county participants:
  - i. 4,500 children (45%)
  - ii. 3,000 infants (28%)
  - iii. 3,000 women (28%)
- f. \$11 million redeemed in the last year data available
- g. There has been a reduction in redemption rates due to:
  - i. Improved economy
  - ii. Administrative fear amongst vulnerable populations. 60% of WIC users in Suffolk County are Hispanic.
- h. There are nine WIC clinics co-located within Hudson Health Care health centers. Largest center- Brentwood. Smallest center- Southampton
- i. 118 contracted stores in Suffolk currently taking WIC benefits

## 2. Food Policy Council Report 2018- Johns Hopkins

- a. Statistics on 341 food policy councils (Exec Summaries distributed) - <http://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/food-policy-resources/?resource=1263>

## 3. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Food Equity: instead of targeting corner stores, now targeting food pantries. Focusing on client choice food pantry by having client choose items instead of providing them with a pre-packed bag of food.
  - i. Helps with making healthy food choices outside of food pantry
- b. Why Buy Local?
  - i. Surveys of subscribers to Agriculture and Fishing E-Newsletter
  - ii. Survey of commercial fishermen to assess challenges and needs within the industry
  - iii. Mapping local farmers, vineyards, cider, flowers, restaurants selling local oysters. Please click link on website to add your business.
  - iv. Chooseli.org - provides access to information on local farmers, breweries, wineries, restaurants selling local foods, etc.
  - v. Shellfish Permit Streamlining – The County executive pushed for changes in shellfish DHS permits at special events - one permit food for whole season in all locations, fee waived for 2 years.
    1. Promoting pop-up sales at local events, benefits for economy and environment
- c. School Administration and Food Education
  - i. Reduced child lunch program has been eliminated making it easier for families on program

1. Children previously qualifying for reduced price meals now receive free meals
  - ii. Encouraging more flexibility with sodium restrictions in schools
  - iii. 2019 budget \$1.5 mil for farm-to-school grants to support NYS product
    1. Same as 2018 budget, doubled from 2017 budget
    2. Thank you letter sent for maintaining higher budget
- 4. End-of-year report**
  - a. Still pending- awaiting formatting of Mobile Markets info
  - b. Will be approved via email once complete
- 5. Vacancies**
  - a. Community based organization position filled, pending confirmation
- 6. New Business**
  - a. Invitation to press event
    - i. Sisters of St. Joseph farmland preservation. Press event announcing County purchase of farmland development rights
    - ii. Friday, April 12th at noon: 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, NY 11717
- 7. Adjournment**
  - a. Next Meeting- June 11th Location to be confirmed
    - i. Considering Bridge Gardens 36 Mitchell Ln, Bridgehampton
    - ii. Time has been changed to 10:30 am
  - b. Island Harvest Food Drive: Saturday 4/13/19 at every Stop & Shop, link will be shared on Facebook page.