



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

DATE: Tuesday, December 10, 2019

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS:

Name:	Email:	Organization:
August Ruckdeschel	august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov	SCEDP
Josephine Connolly-Schoonen	Josephine.conoly-schoonen@stonybrook.edu	Stony Brook Medicine
Karyn Kirschbaum	Kkirschb@wsboces.org	WSBOCES-CHSC
Cara Montesano	cara.montesano@stonybrookmedicine.edu	Stony Brook Medicine
Janet Sklar	janetsklar@optonline.net	NYSNA
Allison Puglia	allison@islandharvest.org	Island Harvest Food Bank
Alexandra DeRosa	alexandra.derosa@suffolkcountyny.gov	SC Leg Kara Hahn
Susan Zimet	susan.zimet@otda.ny.gov	Governor/OTDA
Sara Ashraf	sara.ashraf32@sphmail.cuny.edu	CUNY SPH
Peter Hong	houlin.hong@stonybrook.edu	Stony Brook University
James Stork	james.stork@stonybrook.edu	Stony Brook University
Jenna Brown	jenna.brown@wakefern.com	ShopRite
Diane Shulman	diane@shulmanproduce.com	Jerry Shulman Produce

1. Food and Anti-Hunger Policy Coordinator - Susan Zimet
 - a. 2016 - Hunger Action Network of New York State
 - i. Believes in addressing the comprehensive root cause of hunger including, but not limited to, housing, healthcare, heating, job
 - ii. Moving hunger up the chain on the importance scale
 - a) Food normally is on the bottom of the importance totem pole. This is when people turn to food pantries

- b. Worked on improving Hunger Prevention & Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) - HPNAP is a state program that provides lines of credit to be used to purchase nutritious food items, as well as food safety and sanitation supplies, either through the Food Bank For New York City or the United Way of New York City.
 - i. 5 year contract: increased budget from \$24.5 million to \$34 million
 - ii. Another \$500,000 from the General Assembly
 - iii. More pantries opened - more places going after this money
- c. Feb 2019 - Food and Anti-Hunger Policy Coordinator
 - i. Anti-Hunger Task Force: coordinator to report to government office on some of the issues involved in hunger issues to bring them to the forefront
 - a) Maximize our programs, encourage agencies to work together (Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Department of Health, Dept. of Education, etc.)
- d. FreshConnect Program (Farmers' market dollars) - The FreshConnect Checks Program was designed to increase the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) consumers by 40 percent while supporting local farmers, farmers' markets, farm stands, and mobile markets.
 - i. The FreshConnect Checks Program has also been available to veterans, service members, and their immediate families since 2014, and can be used to purchase fresh foods at participating farmers' markets and farm stands.
 - ii. Increase dollars to spend at farmers market
 - iii. "Double Up Food Bucks" - Get more fruits and vegetables when you spend your SNAP EBT Card dollars at participating farmers' markets. For example, if you spend \$10 from your SNAP EBT Card at a participating farmers market or mobile market, they give you another \$10 to buy fresh fruits and veggies grown in New York State. <https://doubleupnys.com/>
 - a) Veterans
 - a. Trying to get extra money put into the veterans budget for more money for fresh connect
 - b) Launching more activities for veterans
 - a. Connect military members and non-military individuals through gleaning activities. Gleaning is the process of collecting excess farm crops for distribution to the hungry and poor.
- e. Lunch shaming
 - i. 2 million out of 2.9 million children in New York are receiving free or reduced meals
 - ii. Students who had a balance on their account for multiple days, the cashiers were taking the meal from the student and throwing it away
 - 1. Child may receive a sandwich instead
 - iii. Food Service Programs not for profit, independent of school budget
 - 1. They have to break even
 - 2. If in debt, money needs to come out of program fund of school

- 3. Takes away from other educational programs for students
- iv. Determining which kids have money to pay for school lunch vs those that can't could be an issue
 - 1. Asking some students to pay and not asking others
 - 2. Punching in student number in the lunch line that says price of meal
- f. School Lunch Program- purchasing local
 - i. If 30% of school food served at breakfast and lunch comes from local farm schools get higher reimbursement from government
- g. All public hospitals have to give money back to the community
 - i. Patient is sent home from the hospital with medication that requires to be taken with meals.
 - ii. Allison Puglia - Island Harvest and Northwell Health, Valley Stream Hospital Collaboration:
 - a) Dietitian onsite in nutrition center
 - iii. Any patient who screens positive for food insecurity is able to meet with Registered Dietician for personalized nutrition counseling (where do you eat, who buys it, what do you have access to, apply to SNAP) meet with them three times
 - iv. Patient given food when they go home from the hospital
 - a) May not be feeling well enough to go out and buy food
 - b) Money may be exhausted from hospital stay
 - c) Food given from hospital allows them to be sufficient enough
 - d) 75% of participants of this program are no longer food insecure
 - e) Starting the same program at Southside Hospital tomorrow 12/11/2019
 - v. Providing good nutrition to encourage good health
- h. Swipe Out Hunger - partners with college campuses nationwide to end student hunger.
 - i. College students can donate extra meal swipes that weren't used and put them in a bank on campus.
 - ii. Food insecure students are able to get those extra meal swipes discreetly
- i. Swipe It Forward
 - i. Similar to Swipe Out Hunger
 - ii. Delhi College: Students competed by taking food from pantry and created/cooked nutritious meals
 - iii. Regional colleges who have cooking programs will have similar competitions amongst themselves. Will come to Albany and have championship and get to keep trophy for one year.
 - a) Getting rid of food pantry stigma by depicting healthy meals that can be constructed through food pantry items
- j. Community garden - cost efficient
 - i. Working together, cooking together.
 - ii. Possible SNAP ED money that may be able to fund community gardens in New York

susan.zimet@otda.ny.gov

845-527-5309

Email or text is the best way to contact

2. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Food Equity
 - i. Food pantries, people visiting pantries are able to access the food they need
 - a) Integrate as many learning functions for the community as possible
- b. Why Buy Local?
 - i. Choose LI - motivate people to spend 10% of food budget on local produce.
 - a) Meant to inspire purchases during the ag and fish harvest seasons
 - b) Includes local breweries, cideries, distilleries, etc.
 - ii. Meat Processing Facility update
 - a) Owned by Suffolk County and located at the Farm – currently unutilized
 - b) Looking to secure funding to hire a consultant to do feasibility, engineering and design
 - c) Make it available for local farmers to avoid the far and costly travel for slaughtering in other states as they do now
 - d) Could include slaughtering and initial processing of the animals
- c. **School Administration and Food Education - Janet Sklar - NYSNA**
 - i. Elimination of reduced price lunches
 - ii. CEP - Community Eligibility Provision: allows schools with high percentages of low income students to offer free lunch to the entire student body
 - iii. Families who were participants in Medicaid, SNAP etc, would directly certify kids for school lunch program
 - a) USDA made changes to SNAP
 - a. Able bodied adults 18-49 years old must work at least 20 hrs/week to receive benefits
 - iv. Wyandanch and Brentwood cannot afford to put extra money into food service
 - a) Districts not understanding that getting qualifying number of kids receiving free lunch will open the doors for getting more funding back in turn for things like books and supplies.
 - b) Help districts understand what they are losing by not getting involved with these programs

3. Vacancies

- a. Seafood and Fisheries
- b. Food Distribution

4. New Business - Cara Montesano

- 1. Library projects under Stony Brook Public Health Department

2. MPH, social work interns, nursing students working together that will go to 4 libraries throughout month
 - a. Blood pressure screenings, community resources
3. Partner with dietetic interns: SNAP ED, sign up for SNAP, WIC resources, along with environmental change
 - a. Nutrient standards for vending machines
4. Libraries in Suffolk and Nassau
 - a. Needs assessments - map food insecurity (LI Index still updated?)
 - b. What libraries have summer feeding programs and food pantry services
 - c. Map out by library districts. Depends on data they get. School district vs library district. % of students receiving free lunches. Looking at disparities among regions.
 - d. Filling the gap in summers
 - e. Island Harvest at 5 or 6 libraries where they offer summer food. Looking to add three more libraries.
 - i. See which ones are most high need
 - f. Assess and identify libraries that do not have any programs in areas where there is a need
 - g. Map the meal gap - through Feeding America
 - i. Tells you county by county where there's food insecurity.

7. Sara Ashraf CUNY SPH

1. Food insecurity in college students
 - a. Food pantries on campus, but food insecurity still prevalent
2. Carl Perkins Program - employment in training classes to help people get jobs afterwards. If you take a Perkins class, you are eligible to get SNAP
 - a. PA, MA, NJ, CA and other states will do this.
3. OTDA - students at community colleges can possibly be eligible for SNAP and those who take Perkins classes can be eligible for SNAP

8. 2020 Schedule

1. February 11th (since changed to Feb. 4th)
2. April 14th
3. June 9th (since changed to June 16th)
4. August 11th
5. October 13th
6. December 8th