

Task Force B Meeting Summary Monday, January 9, 2006

Task Force Participants: Janet Cushman – MI Department of Human Services, Diane Golzynski – MI Department of Community Health, Giancarlo Guzman – Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, Barb Hensinger – MI Department of Agriculture, Jane Marshall (Chair) – Food Bank Council of Michigan, Marla Moss – MI Department of Education, Barb Mutch – Michigan State University Extension, Monica Myklebust – University of Michigan, Terri Stangl – Center for Civil Justice, Todd Wickstrom – Heritage Foods, Jan Williams – MI Department of Human Services.

Additional Participants: Lisa Rose Starner – Mixed Greens, Karla Stratton – MI Department of Community Health, Cynthia Vagnetti – documentary film maker, Gloria Zunker – MI Department of Education.

The fourth Task Force B: Improving Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods meeting convened on Monday, January 9, 2006 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in Constitution Hall in Lansing. Council Member Jane Marshall chaired the meeting.

Ms. Marshall called the meeting to order and there was a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

MFPC staff member Kristin Brooks presented the reformatted recommendation regarding access to fresh foods through direct markets. Recommendation B5, as reformatted, is a compilation of the Recommendations B1 – B4 that were voted out of the November Task Force B meeting and presented to the Council during the December meeting. All recommendations presented to the Council were reformatted taking Council Members' feedback into consideration. Task Force participants discussed a few alterations to recommendation B5. MFPC staff will incorporate these changes and send the recommendation to the Task Force for final approval.

Gloria Zunker, from the Michigan Department of Education, delivered a presentation on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), including its highlights, successes and challenges in Michigan. The SFSP provides free meals to children in low-income areas when the national school lunch program is not in operation. The state has recently taken over the administration of this program and local sponsoring agencies, such as schools, non-profits, and camps implement and largely market the program. Some of the program challenges are that 45% of free/reduced price lunch children do not live in the areas that qualify for SFSP and SFSP reimbursement rates are often too low for sponsoring agencies to cover costs. The presentation was followed with a discussion of possible improvements to the program and the development of a recommendation.

Recommendation B7: Increase Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods for Low-Income Children through Improvement and Expansion of the Summer Food Service Program.

- a) Michigan Department of Education (MDE) should increase the number of sponsor sites that administer the Summer Food Service Program and set specific annual goals to reach based on sponsor baseline information.
- b) MDE should increase the number of children participating in the program at each sponsor site and set specific annual goals to reach based on baseline participation information.
- c) Michigan Department of Education should pursue and secure state, local, faith-based and non-profit partnerships to increase participation and expand the value of the services received by children at Summer Food Service Program sites.

MFPC staff will further develop the recommendation and include implementation strategies, and send it to Task Force members for feedback.

Although the After School Supper Program was on the agenda as a presentation topic, the presenter was unable to attend the meeting, and so the topic was not discussed.

The next Task Force B meeting will focus on the food stamp and family nutrition programs, including opportunities with the Michigan Nutrition Network. The next meeting of Task Force B is **Monday, March 13, 2006 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am** at Constitution Hall.