

**Task Force B Meeting Summary  
Monday, July 10, 2006**

Task Force Participants: Diane Golzynski – MI Department of Community Health, Martha Gonzales-Cortes – MI Department of Human Services, Sherri King – MI Department of Community Health, Jane Marshall (Chair) – Food Bank Council of Michigan, Barb Mutch – Michigan State University Extension, Monica Myklebust – University of Michigan, Terri Stangl – Center for Civil Justice, Karla Stratton – MI Department of Community Health, Jan Williams – MI Department of Human Services.

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

The meeting began with a discussion of Recommendation B11: School, Community and Urban Gardens. The task force reviewed the draft of the recommendation, made some slight revisions, and decided that it is ready to go before the full council for a vote in August. The recommendation is:

**Recommendation B11: Increase the numbers and success of school, community and urban gardens as a means to increase access to fresh and healthy food.**

- a) MDA, in partnership with MSUE, MDCH and other appropriate organizations, should provide technical assistance and direction to communities and organizations that promote community and urban gardens.
- b) MDE should specifically encourage the installation of school gardens and minimal cooking instruction facilities at every school as part of farm-to-school and school wellness policy development and implementation.

MFPC staff member Kristin Brooks explained that one goal of this meeting (aside from finalizing Rec. B11) was to give Task Force B participants an overview of the work of the council, and the work of the other three task forces. Ms. Brooks then presented to the task force participants information on the original executive order, and the goals contained therein. She explained how the recommendations from the council meet those goals and reviewed a chart showing those relationships. Task force members contributed input to further develop the chart.

Ms. Brooks reviewed the recommendations from the other three task forces and explained areas of overlap with Task Force B.

Ms. Brooks then reviewed the Task Force B recommendations. They are:

- Rec. B5: Healthy Food Access through Direct Markets
- Rec. B7: Summer Food Service Program

- Rec. B8: Food Assistance Program (Food Stamps)
- Rec. B9: Emergency Food Needs
- Rec. B10: Nutrition Education
- Rec. B11: School, Community and Urban Gardens (DRAFT)

Ms. Brooks led a brief discussion of these six recommendations, and asked task force participants to rank the recommendations to help staff in determining the order in which they should be presented in the final report to the Governor. Input from task force participants not present for the meeting will be solicited via e-mail.

Ms. Brooks updated the task force on her recent presentation at a National Conference of State Legislatures site visit in Connecticut. The main topic of the site visit was state food policy councils, and people in attendance were impressed with the work that Michigan has done so far with the MFPC.

Finally, Ms. Brooks explained to the task force participants that future plans for the Council and Task Forces are still under discussion, but that there are important tasks the council and task forces can work on in the future and MFPC staff is developing a plan to accomplish them. She promised to keep task force participants updated on the progress of the final report and on its delivery to the Governor.

Ms. Marshall thanked task force participants for all their work in developing recommendations.

Ms. Brooks asked task force participants to complete an evaluation to assist in planning for the future of the MFPC. Input from task force participants not present for the meeting will be solicited via e-mail. This is the final meeting of Task Force B for this phase of the Michigan Food Policy Council.