

**Interdepartmental Collaboration Committee
Food Policy Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Members in attendance:

Rich Pirog, MSU-CRFS, MI Food Hub Network
Auday Arabo, President, Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers of Michigan and Ohio
Phillip Knight, Executive Director of Food Bank Council of Michigan
Michelle Napier-Dunnings Michigan Food and Farming Systems
Kathryn Colasanti, MSU-CRFS
Kevin Besey, Division Director Food and Dairy
Lori Yelton, MDARD
Gwen Imes, DHHS (called in)
Dawn Sweeney DHHS (called in)

Guests:

Tina Reynolds, Healthy Kids Healthy MI, Environmental Council Organization
Noel Bielaczyc, MSU-CRFS
Amanda Shreve, Michigan Farmers Market Association (called in)
Liz Gensler, MSU-CRFS (called in)
Lisa Ugoviski Ottawa Department of Public Health (called in)
Josh Penn, MI Association of Planning
Amanda Shreve, MIFMA (called in)
Amanda Edmonds Growing Hope (called in)
Diane Conners, Ground Work Center (called in)
Karen Plummer, Simple Farms (called in)

Welcome and Introductions

Review of August 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Michelle provided some corrections. Minutes to be updated and added to ICC Food Policy webpage

Priority List Updates

Michigan Good Food Fund- Rich provided an update. As of the end of September there have been 75 inquiries which 50 were for loans. The inquiries were across the State of Michigan, with many in southeast Michigan. The requests were significantly for retail and some for agricultural food systems. Kresge Foundation has added to the fund which is now near 10 million. The goal for the fund is 30 million. A business person has been hired to work with the fund and has experience with food hubs. The advisory group is looking to develop partners for intermediary funding in the southeast part of the state.

Kevin asked how State of Michigan (SOM) departments and agencies can help with letting others know of the fund. Rich recommended pipeline communication to get the word out is best. Lori discussed recent webinar that was provided to SOM staff and other organizations as one example of pipeline communication.

WIC- Auday stated there is a WIC work group meeting set for January 11, 2016. Auday discussed a problem with WIC contract loss to a store if had to close for a fire or damage done to the store. More will be discussed at the January group meeting.

Small and Mid-Size Farm Food Safety certification- Michelle reported that three MEAP technicians and farmers went through tools to make a grid on the relationship of Safe Food Assist.

MIFFS is using a Specialty Crop Grant to assess food safety needs for Michigan specialty crop farmers through a survey. The survey is to help identify what farmers want help with in regards to FSMA, Food Safety Modernization Act.

Kevin stated that MDARD is trying to be proactive and is looking into available state funding for FSMA and produce safety which could help with education for small and mid-size farms. Discussion followed on group GAP and food safety education. Natasha and another employee will be attending a meeting in Washington DC on continuing Group GAP in November. Michigan was one of a few states that was successful at receiving certification with Group GAP.

Local Food Policy- Lori and Liz provided an update of the Michigan Local Food Council Network meeting held in Detroit on October 8th. There was good networking and the groups were made aware of what different food groups/policy groups have as objectives, challenges and projects.

Small Meat Processor Growth-Noel Bielaczyc provide a presentation, see guest speaker notes below.

Farmers Market Expansion- was not highlighted for the meeting

Double Up food Bucks- was not highlighted for the meeting

Barriers of SNAP use at farmers Markets- Lori reported there have been two SNAP access barriers group meetings since the last ICC food policy meeting in August. A history of the equipment and devices and wording of the Farm Bill regarding these devices was discussed. Amanda Shreve attended an advocacy meeting in Washington DC where a letter was drafted to Agriculture Secretary Vilsack on providing support to instruct states to include wireless devices for farmers markets into state EBT contracts. Lori reviewed the letter with the committee and guests. Amanda Shreve provided more information on three other states that have added this language their state contracts. State renewal will not be up until 2018 so MIFMA is requesting guidance until this date. A response was requested by mid-November. A follow up meeting of the group on barriers with SNAP at farmers Markets will be held in early December.

Amanda Edmonds asked a question on the contract, which Amanda Shreve provided information.

Dawn stated that HHS is continuing to work with this request.

Auday asked HHS if there was a way to communicate with stores when the access to SNAP in retail store registers goes down. Dawn explained there is a process for the department when all state SNAP is down. Jim McCreight with HHS was able to resolve the problem.

Guest Speakers:

Kathryn Colasanti, MSU-CRFS on Shared Measurements

Kathryn reviewed the Process of Collective Input Framework and how to work with organizations to align data. The shared measurement process would help with key findings and priorities from interviews and surveys. Key findings and priorities were economic impact, healthy food access and procurement. The use of primary and secondary data was discussed and how it could be used at the county and state levels to compare to federal data. MSU-CRFS is partnering with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition.

Noel Bielaczyc, MSU_CRFS on meat processing

Noel Bielaczyc provided a handout and discussed meat processing and supply capacity from the Red Meat Survey 2014. He provided maps which illustrated the distance of slaughter and processing facilities, average age of owner, median number of employees by season, inspection data, top challenges for these facilities and the seasonality of processing.

Summary of topics identified that have a state agency component and status:

Topic	State Agency	Status
MI Good Food Fund	MDARD	Recent webinar to staff. Will continue to work with Ag Development Division on communicating availability to businesses.
WIC	MDHHS	Need assistance from MDHHS. Lunch planned to further discussions.
Food Safety for small and mid-sized farms	MDARD	Proposals moving forward to address.
SNAP	MDHHS	Farmers market technology issues being reviewed but needs solution. More real-time notification of system outages to all affected stores was requested.

New Business:

Diane Conners provided information on the 10 cent per meal pilot for schools in certain prosperity areas. Senator Booher has shown interest. Handouts were provided to the committee.

The committee discussed increasing the time of the meetings by one-half hour. The committee will begin meeting from 9:30-11:30 at our January 26, 2016 meeting.

The 2016 meetings are scheduled for January 26, April 26, July 26 and October 25, 2016 from 9:30-11:30 at Constitution Hall, Lansing MI in the Richard Van Deusen Room.