



Food Access and Security Coalition

Meeting Minutes

11/27/2023

Facilitator: Honor Crawford	
Attendees:	
<p>Honor Crawford, Benton-Franklin Health District Annie Goodwin, Benton-Franklin Health District Drew Meuer, Second Harvest Leslie Stahlnecker, ESD 123 Eunice Aguilar, Benton-Franklin Health District Rosa Tamez, Housing Authority of the City of Pasco and Franklin County Juan Hurtado, ESD 123 Yajaira Lemus, Benton-Franklin Health District Stephanie Edmondson, DSHS</p>	<p>Daisy Parra-Padilla, Benton-Franklin Health District Kelly Harnish, Benton-Franklin Health District Kathleen Lodahl, WSU Extension Benton & Franklin Counties Rebecca Van Pelt, Benton Franklin Health District Zachary Shileika, TC Futures Karen Hayes, Kadlec Adilenne Espindola, ESD 123 Lauren Carlson, Benton Franklin Head Start</p>

Agenda Items	Purpose	
<p>1. Welcome and Introduction 1.1. Name, agency, icebreaker</p>	<p>Networking, context building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed
<p>2. Old Business 2.1. Documentation: Recordings, agendas, minutes 2.2. Member Spotlight</p>	<p>Recap and check-in</p>	<p>2.1 Past meeting recordings, agendas, and minutes are located here.</p> <p>2.2 Member Spotlight sign-up is located here.</p>

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<p>3. Member Spotlight/Topic Spotlight</p> <p>3.1 Stephanie Edmondson, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services on Mobile Outreach Trucks</p>	<p>Awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSHS Community Services Division (CSD) launched two new mobile outreach trucks as part of an expansion to their mobile fleet in our region. <p style="text-align: center;">Mobile Community Service Outreach Truck Goals:</p> <p>Goal 1: improve participation in the Basic Food Program by providing services at locations where DSHS representatives do not usually have a presence including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior centers Job fairs Resource fairs Health fairs Migrant worker camps Other community events <p>Goal 2: Create access points where people can apply for Basic Food, Cash, and Child Care benefits.</p> <p>Goal 3: Operate as a response vehicle for disaster recovery events where the Disaster Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program may be activated. (Wildfires, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trucks are staffed by program specialists who will determine financial eligibility for DSHS Cash, Food, and some medical programs. Specialists can process client applications, complete reviews, update cases based on reported changes, issue EBT cards and can also issue ID vouchers, and answer client questions. Each vehicle is a fully functional Mobile Community Services Office. The Mobile Outreach Truck includes a wheelchair lift, four semi-private interview areas, a reception area, and a sunshade for protection from the elements outside the truck. <p>Stephanie will send the coalition a follow-up email with contact information and how to schedule a visit from the Mobile Outreach Trucks.</p> <p>Joyce asked Stephanie to highlight the Community Support event at the Union Gospel Mission on November 15th that the trucks were present for. Specialists on the trucks were able to assist 26 individuals.</p>

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		<p>Honor provided more details on the event at the UGM. 23 community agencies attended and we were able to distribute 170 hot meals, 40 sack lunches, 100 warming kits, and 40+ hygiene bags. G's to Gents provided over 75 haircuts and the mobile medical unit provided health checkups and administered 15 COVID vaccines and 41 flu shots, BFHD administered 14 HIV and syphilis tests.</p>
<p>4. Updates on Current Activities</p> <p>5.1. Kadlec Produce Rx Program</p> <p>5.2. Nutrition Education Subcommittee Updates</p>	<p>Stay informed</p>	<p>5.1 The pilot program is called Produce Power it is set to start the first week of February. Kadlec is in the midst of interviewing for a per diem community education instructor who will lead the produce power program as well as some other programs in schools.</p> <p>5.2 Regarding the subcommittee on nutrition that was previously established, Honor addressed concerns about whether or not that was an area of focus this coalition should work on. Honor stated she met with SNAP-Ed state contacts and affirmed that nutrition education is still a priority. Furthermore, while we have had nutrition education initiatives in this community in the past, there may not be any active focus on nutrition education at this time. We see this as an opportunity to provide a service for a need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joyce asked what the role of the nutrition subcommittee would be. • Honor responded that the subcommittee might be responsible for identifying and reviewing the existing nutrition curriculum (Second Harvest, SNAP-ED, approved curriculum, etc.) to check for cultural relevance and alignment with the latest nutrition guidelines. Then once reviewed, the group look into sorting the details such as target audience, logicitics (location/space), facilitators, champions/advocates, funding, etc. FASC would not be responsible for the maintenance of the activity but more likely the facilitation/establishment, unless that became a desire of the coalition.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathlene commented with a link to the list of approved curricula that WSU Extension/SNAP-ED could offer if written into their fiscal year 2024-2026 plan. • Kelly mentioned nutrition education would support the Benton-Franklin County 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan and provide opportunities for community building. • Adilenne commented that a culturally competent curriculum is a must and we should lean on the lived experiences of our local community members input for decision-making.
<p>5. Action Planning and Future Collaborative Efforts</p> <p>5.1. Food Security Data Reports</p> <p>5.2. Nutrition Education</p> <p>5.3. Reducing Food Waste</p>	<p>Planning</p>	<p>5.1 Honor mentioned the USDA Food Atlas tool and shared two maps showing food deserts and low vehicle availability as an example. We can use data from community partners, existing local assessments, Feeding America, and other sources to target interventions or build our own assessment down the road. This activity is still on the table.</p> <p>5.2 Already discussed</p> <p>5.3 Not discussed today</p>
<p>6. Partnership Building</p> <p>6.1 Stakeholder Activity</p>		<p>The group reviewed the distribution list and participated in a group activity to rank the sectors represented here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants added suggestions to the chat and verbalized them. • Honor requested contacts within the school nutrition services to understand school challenges and needs and potentially work towards reducing food waste in schools. • Daphne and Becky asked if Head Start and ECEAP were represented. • Lauren is the nutrition manager at Benton Franklin Head Start overseeing nutrition services and reaffirmed that food requirements do contribute to food waste.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor thanked her for providing that perspective and mentioned that while it can feel defeatist to want to work on something that depends on action at the state or federal level, as a coalition we convene for a purpose and have the power of the collective. We can advocate for things, and write letters to our state legislature even if it doesn't feel like much. We can coordinate with other Food Access/Nutrition groups in our area to have a broader impact. • Kathleen mentioned that ESD Farm to School Coordinators are working with Food Service Directors. • Joyce mentioned PSD-Home Visitor team. • Annie mentioned Tri-Cities Community Health, World Relief, United Way and B5. • Juan mentioned inviting the Migrant Nurse Case Manager. • Adilenne mentioned World Relief for immigrant, and refugee connections. • Karen mentioned the Tri-Cities Food Co-op, Damien Davis with the Pasco Farmers Market. • Honor mentioned local ag/producers including Tyson and Lamb Weston who may have community investment dollars to support activities down the road. • Zac mentioned first responders. • Joyce asked if Honor could draft an introductory email by request to explain the coalition's purpose. • Annie mentioned ConAgra and both she and Joyce will try to find contact information for them. • Honor will share an updated distribution list when possible.

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<p>7. Open Floor 7.1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor will share a list of Warming Centers along with the minutes. • Joyce shared that food was the second most requested resource at the 2-1-1 call center. Nearly 2,000 families called (food pantries, food giveaways, cash for food). 2-1-1 can assist with an eligibility check for Basic Food. • Honor shared that Second Harvest Mobile Market has a drive-through food distribution event for up to 250 families on Tuesday, November 28 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm at 1611 W Sylvester St. • Drew posted the link to the Second Harvest events page in the chat. Joyce asked if we could get that information in flyer form. • Honor also shared that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will have the 30th Anniversary Symposium of the Food Forum on November 30, 2023. The link to register is in the agenda. • Invite Honor to present to your org./agency on the 23'-25' CHIP if you're interested in learning more, reach out!