



**Food Policy Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 4th, 2018, 8:30AM – 10:30 AM
Sustainacenter -
704 E Boulder St, Colorado Springs
CO, 80903**

Board members present: Megan Harris / Zac Chapman / Julie Slivka / Joanna Zaremba / Sean Svette / Beth Anderson / Erika Liljestrand

Staff members present: Sabrina Cotta / Rebecca Greenburg

Guests present: Aubrey Day / Ellen Johnson-Fay / Richard Male / Marion Kalb / Robert Popejoy

- 1) **Call to Order** – Megan called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.
- 2) **Public Comments** – There were no comments.
- 3) **Presentation by Marion Kalb – Food Systems Coordinator, Jefferson County Public Health and board member of the Jefferson County Food Policy** – Marion discussed the work she is doing in Jefferson County as their Food System Coordinator. She also coordinates the Food Policy Board for Jefferson County. Please see attachment for details on their vision, mission, and focus. Marion's work is funded through tobacco dollars through Healthy Colorado. Jefferson County uses a grant to fund her position and the food policy council. She works with six municipalities as well as unincorporated areas in the county. They try to have a representative from all municipalities coming to council. Food Policy Board started about 3 years ago. She came in at 1.5 years. They had done basic organization, vision, and they wanted to get started doing something active. Jefferson County is Golden, Lakewood, Wheatridge, Arvada, Edgewater, parts of Westminster, unincorporated areas of Evergreen and Conifer. Golden is where they focused. Have a City Planner who is favorable. Their board has a loose structure. They have a leadership team that meets monthly. Council meets

monthly. They are doing some leadership building with council members, so they are more involved with running meetings. They are the main local food group in the area besides Hunger-Free Golden. Board is 15-25 people with multiple funded people. The county may fund SNAP piece when their funding runs out.

1. The group is programmatic. They try pilot projects and then go for policy. What are the areas we're interested in and what can we do to build momentum. They are working on three areas in policy change.
2. Normal policy change
 - a. City of Golden is working on regulations that all farmers markets on city property have to accept SNAP and 50% have to be SNAP-eligible items.
 - b. Working to try to get a corner store located in the middle of a mobile home area to accept SNAP. City of Golden wants to require all corner stores in the city to accept SNAP and carry some SNAP products.
3. Systems change
 - a. Working with Centura Health to institute systems change. Funding local food shares from a local CSA. Use SNAP double up food bucks for CSA purchases. Working with human services department that administers snap program. Figured out there's a technical change so the people doing the SNAP process can get connected with WIC for referrals.
4. Environmental change
 - a. Built environment. WIC and Jefferson County Public Health back up to each other and shared GIS info. They opened a new WIC office in the southern part of the county away from the northern existing offices. Jefferson County employee food drive focused on the northern part of the county. They incorporated a large food bank in the southern part of the county to address the need there.

Held two events that shaped their direction.

- Imagine Jeffco's Food Future Event—110 attended. Create awareness around food and what's going on in Jeff county, music. Promoted urban agriculture, SNAP, WIC, etc., and they identified some priorities.
- Urban Ag Day at 13 acre farm in Wheatridge. Invited all of mayor, city council, county commissioners. They heard about some of the issues growers are facing and the need to allow for more season extenders that have been limited in the county. First year, make people aware of what's going on. July 1, working on second iteration.

Also working with Denver county and tri counties and looking at borders and populous areas that don't have a lot of access to local food.

They are also working on the Farm Bill now too. Are growers getting money they need through conservation and equipment. Hope to go to board of health and have them endorse the platform and start to meet with elected officials. Can't advocate at the state level because the grant dollars come through the state. SNAP and WIC were a focus before she came in. Enrollment: 60% or less eligible that are enrolled. Want to work on enrollment. They have a person for human services. Have a part-time staff person dedicated to Double Up SNAP program

and working on the farmers markets to all accepting SNAP. It's tough unless you can find people who will testify for the program. If the growers testify that it has an impact then the economic argument is better accepted. They held classes and had federal employees have markets sign up on the spot, have equipment, do training, etc.

Aubrey: We also have low snap enrollment based upon eligibility. We recently opened a new WIC clinic in the Southeast. Moving Public Health to Garden of the Gods became a barrier. Livewell got a big grant, and they are gearing up Double Up SNAP in El Paso County. There will be student sent back here. Might be good try to have a policy saying any markets on city property have to accept SNAP.

Zac: FINI bill did not get cut, and there's also \$200K from state for Double Up SNAP.

Marion: Livewell hired a community food navigator person to encourage people to come to farmers markets and SNAP program.

Richard from Jeff Co Food Policy Board: It's hard to mobilize constituency and organize without staff. There are some funding sources within Colorado that may have an interest in funding and supporting a staff position here. He suggested to pick out one or two issues that you think you can win and own, give visibility, bring in new constituency, so we can grow credibility, visibility of constituency. Win on the smaller issue that can start to bring people together, media. Look at strategic partnerships to build and create the organization. Gaining visibility, credibility, and work on some funding. He does some coaching with senior staff at Livewell. They might be able to support some of the efforts as well and help with some of the funding issues.

Marion: Their board doesn't have a strategic plan, but they will see how things go with Denver, tri-county.

Richard: Strategic vision and organization is going through a prioritization of the issues. Sometimes a strategic plan is premature with new organization. Sometimes it's throwing out different programs, and then see where there is interest and a market energy for it. Learn to play to strengths as a grassroots organization.

Marion: WIC farmers market nutrition program and Senior farmers market nutrition program don't exist in our state. They require state legislation and state administration. This might be a possibility for the future. Livewell would also be great at it if they made it a priority. Sabrina: Technically, we could make a budget request to city council.

Aubrey: Centura is doing food screenings. We could invite Cindy Wacker to do a presentation.

Richard: There's a need for a power base from a community organization standpoint. Need visibility and credibility to demonstrate your value to politicians and business community and other kinds of leaders. Options might be bringing others together for a conference or a workshop. An Op-Ed piece for the newspaper. Letters to the editor. The PR and establishing a base of support will go a long way to convince the politicians and others that there's a value in what

we're doing to establish local food as a priority in the county. Think about how we can bring some strategic partnerships under our banner, so the brand becomes us and the visibility becomes us.

- 4) **Ethics Training held by City Attorney Rebecca Greenburg** – All board members were given a copy of *Article 3 Code of Ethics*.
- 5) **Report on Sustainafest**– Sean, Joanna, Erika, and Clarissa attended and connected with vendors and community members attending. Some good conversations, especially with vendors and a possible opportunity to speak at the Sustainability In Progress meeting in May. Joanna offered to try to do a presentation at the meeting with Sabrina attending in support, but Julie contacted Anna from SIP during the meeting, and learned that Anna was no longer planning on us presenting at the May meeting.
- 6) **Discussion of Presentations, File Sharing Logistics** – Sabrina will put together a Powerpoint to be used for presentations. Megan will send the strategic plan out to the board members and will consolidate Dropbox file in Google Drive. Board members will send Sabrina their gmail addresses, so she can send it to them to access that way. Sean will get Megan the Food Policy Advisory Board cards he saw at UCCS.
- 7) **Discussion About Making a Funding Request**– The board decided to discuss budget recommendations at the June Meeting. Deadline to make a request is beginning of July. The board discussed the possibility of asking for funding for a Food Systems Coordinator. Megan will at Denver and Fort Collins' positions and job descriptions. Megan, Sean, Erika, and Joanna will meet on 5/14 from 4:45 pm- 5:45 pm to work on a job description. They will look at our origination ordinance, PlanCOS language, strategic plan, and comprehensive policy plan ideas for guidance.
- 8) **June meeting agenda discussion** – Aubrey brought up that the County is updating water master plan right now, including recommendations around agricultural use and better use of water. She said we could request a presentation or review materials that are online from the county. Sabrina will request presentation for the board.
- 9) **Discussion of Livewell Call, about Farm Bill that Supports Farm Seed to Table** – First & Third Thursday 12-12:30 pm. Sean will listen to May 17 call.
- 10) **Discussion of Food Assessment Funding** – Colorado Springs Health Foundation granted funding to Public Health to continue the Food Assessment. It will include deep community-level data gathering and a policy audit and market assessment for potential retail opportunities. Funding a position with CSFR.

- 11) **Procedures, standards and rules** – The Board discussed and voted to approve the rules.
- 12) **Elections** – The board held elections. Megan Harris will remain Chair. Joanna Zaremba will be Vice Chair. Erika Liljestrand was selected to be Secretary. Elections will be held again in August and continue on an August schedule.
- 13) **Next Meeting** – June 8th, 2018 at 8:30 am.
- 14) **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.