**Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

Date & Location: Wednesday, January 15, 2025; United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Educational

Recorder: Sara Keel

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| Attending Appointed  (Voting) Members  **Bolded names in attendance** | **Bruce Crabtree**  **Femeika Elliott**  Bailey Foster  **Brett Foster**  Laura Deubler  **Sara Keel**  **Marisa Moazen**  **Rylan Thompson**  **Lauren Woods**  **Donna Wright**  **Sarah** **Dewitt** |
| Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members  **Bolded names in attendance** | Trace Bateman  John Camp  **Nicole Gross**  Julia Stewart  Judith Pelot  Adam Caraco  Travis Henderson  Marsha Spence  Marissa McKeague  **Charlotte Rodina**  Hailey Lewis  Caesar Stair  Sandra Wairimu  Becky Hooper  Jen Russamano  **Jasmine Bryant**  Jen Durant |
| Staff Support  **Bolded names in attendance** | **Arien Allen—United Way Greater Knoxville**  Kimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater Knoxville  **Madelyn Howe—Knox County Health Department**  **Jessie Hillman—Knoxville-Knox County Planning**  **Kara Finger—City of Knoxville** |
| Other Attendees (all names listed were in attendance) | **Other Attendees:**  Liliana Burbano – UT Medical Center  Parker Owens – KCDC, AmeriCorps  Cade Mullins – Real Good Kitchen Foundation, AmeriCorps  Torrie Boggs – Real Good Kitchen Foundation  Maryl Burke – CAC Beardsley Farm  Megan Rockefeller – CAC Beardsley Farm, AmeriCorps  Lily Slade – Student  Devalle Muhammad – Muslim Community of Knoxville  Darius Hunt  Sophie Spangler – SHFB  Sarah Wharton – Little Chefs, Big Change  Amanda Spangler – UTK Plant Sciences  Laila Malik – Rooted East  Mak Harmon – Rooted East  Erica Lisowe – Knox Garden Alliance  Nick Thompson – Knox Garden Alliance  Enid Ludovic – Centro Hispano  Khan Chov – United Way Community Schools  Nicole Gross – American Heart Association  Jenny Ramirez – Little Chefs, Big Change  Annie Perez – Second Harvest  Jerry Saguin – CAC Mobile Meals, AmeriCorps  Amada Ferguson – CROP  Calvin Weasley – CROP  Laura Deubler – Second Harvest  Barbara Price – CAC Beardsley Farm |

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| 1. | **Welcome and Introductions – Marisa Moazen** |
| 2. | **Organizational & Committee Updates**   * **Beardsley Farm** – [Snow Day Fundraiser](https://www.beardsleyfarm.org/events/2025/2/7/snow-day) Feb 7 @ Mill and Mine * **Rooted East** – Documentary finished “Roots of Resilience: East Knoxville’s Black Food Renaissance”. Rooted East is hosting a three night premier at Central Cinema Jan 31-Feb 2, last night is free for the community, first night will include special guests. Tickets: [Jan 31](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.com%2Fe%2Froots-of-resilience-east-knoxvilles-black-food-rennaissance-tickets-1134143326219%3Futm_experiment%3Dtest_share_listing%26aff%3Debdsshios%26fbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0ELzu6Ppso30vmA66-9-OHA5KdmvxBgmPQt1i7zYKMxI2U-k0_KDXLEBU_aem_27BL3If8atxejrOmQNzfJg&h=AT3SEjLgpax_2HTfiYQ49AbULohAwCkLrjzIXhV9AVO-7hcAedumzYrRNC3IK6s5G_v8dwwMMGud54cVnLbhtNvYpYEt24Ijdsyltnp6QrpgzGbbg6aIHAFzVz0ARDHr6w&__tn__=-UK-y-R&c[0]=AT14XrUMpju2pmR8P4F0fAp3trCzgs_jFe_QK7E2Wa-anJMWsA7xpqI6TYnoIP1f66GdVAqsJzRB-UdevGUYAWUzeeEzELcB0fEcyd3mAJa6DK-Ah0sIORW_nEBzTqpLXi76nr_V5JzBVDYvhZ0sGL5Ui6CT53KVYWyn43H1WobxCCwSVKlc8LQ0HWz60KZks1d5mlimAPBNDSLCJHA97cxrm7YUdZ9bPJV9Yz95H_gIG32rIUHbvjZMciJGX68JyvhKtKE-RJm0HCk3r5m745t1NA), [Feb 1](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.com%2Fe%2F1138470619269%3Faff%3Debdsshios%26fbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3eaklC1J6Wa2yVkp8dGCwxRDCCnA9d0XXlNe3VrEMUBFH1qr99yrPkxQI_aem_T-Ij4oYrF8ZWAW38BDwPzg&h=AT0monnCE05eJhVhB67NoyZSacSIJyhV3vXc9W-5Q8LWvAkKE4wSXH-m3lfKQL8-OgKXSFiBcRoYjtqBug5aUTjwS9BuFv0K4MLOJb4MYDNUfuZJrHBxD91TnhrW2-v7pA&__tn__=-UK-y-R&c[0]=AT14XrUMpju2pmR8P4F0fAp3trCzgs_jFe_QK7E2Wa-anJMWsA7xpqI6TYnoIP1f66GdVAqsJzRB-UdevGUYAWUzeeEzELcB0fEcyd3mAJa6DK-Ah0sIORW_nEBzTqpLXi76nr_V5JzBVDYvhZ0sGL5Ui6CT53KVYWyn43H1WobxCCwSVKlc8LQ0HWz60KZks1d5mlimAPBNDSLCJHA97cxrm7YUdZ9bPJV9Yz95H_gIG32rIUHbvjZMciJGX68JyvhKtKE-RJm0HCk3r5m745t1NA), [Feb 2](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.com%2Fe%2F1138486115619%3Faff%3Debdsshios%26fbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2r4Tme9x-tO5jiU1uoAKLzvv0nQRghiu3EuqU7H6zt5O0K4bUndcY4P_c_aem_-mdU73M8PfVXoagu7wLAHA&h=AT0fcZu_DLeAQtUF2w2slj9uiOlvdPDZDXiRKxjAWs0smse7u_E_vuqmV1WzZLCtYYkdlRkUkARnJ90YqAN-LHxcu4ddzC7EYel7BrK-ERyPcjjHBy-cN7iCZUw-FIi6LA&__tn__=-UK-y-R&c[0]=AT14XrUMpju2pmR8P4F0fAp3trCzgs_jFe_QK7E2Wa-anJMWsA7xpqI6TYnoIP1f66GdVAqsJzRB-UdevGUYAWUzeeEzELcB0fEcyd3mAJa6DK-Ah0sIORW_nEBzTqpLXi76nr_V5JzBVDYvhZ0sGL5Ui6CT53KVYWyn43H1WobxCCwSVKlc8LQ0HWz60KZks1d5mlimAPBNDSLCJHA97cxrm7YUdZ9bPJV9Yz95H_gIG32rIUHbvjZMciJGX68JyvhKtKE-RJm0HCk3r5m745t1NA)   The 3rd Knoxville Black Maternal Health Conference includes ‘Paternal Health & Fatherhood” track for fathers, aspiring fathers, and male leaders and youth. <https://knoxvilleblackmaternalhealth.com/>   * **TSU Extension** - New Farmer Program – Knox Area New Farmer Academy, certificate program. Once a month April 4- September. Small through large scale growers. Geared towards beginners. * **Real Good Kitchen Foundation** [Food Business Incubator Program](https://share.hsforms.com/1-AsVZGWkQ1-Q4FaGJHnNwA4vksq) – Applications online and due Sunday 1/19/25 * **KCDC** – Liberty Place opened, 32 homeless veterans now in supportive housing. Two commercial kitchens on properties. Looking to potentially partner with a chef to utilize kitchens to provide low-cost meals to residents. Kitchens located at Northgate Terrace and Love Towers. * **United Way** – Food Distribution working group meeting January 21, 2025, 2:00-3:30pm, Knox Pride Center   Healthy food financing party (see email from Ariel)   * [Farm to School Workshop](https://www.eventcreate.com/e/f2seast2025), Feb 7 from 9am-3pm @ UT Conference Center, great speaker lineup. Same day as National Wear Red Day – wear red to support women’s heart health. * Small Comforts Kitchen is officially open at Baker Creek Bottoms (3726 Sevier Heights Road, Suite #102) * Kimberly received grant for Walter Hardy Park, soliciting RFPs from landscape architects for project, hosting community input sessions, Ariel can send RFP. * **Knox County Health Department -** conducting [community health assessment](https://engageberrydunn.mysocialpinpoint.com/knox-county-community-health-assessment). Share with everyone you work with. Includes interactive map to show locations that do or do not support their health. This year includes new questions regarding dental health, substance misuse and treatment. * [TNN Nonprofit Advocacy Summit](https://tnnonprofits.org/upcoming-events/nonprofit-day-on-the-hill/#:~:text=Advocacy%20Summit%20%E2%80%93%20Tuesday%2C%20February%204th%2C%202025%3A&text=This%20full%2Dday%20event%20is,to%20your%20organization%20and%20community.) – deadline to register this Friday Jan 17 |
| 3. | **Food in Schools (Right to Access) Presentation**   * **Brett Foster | Knox County Schools Nutrition**   + 60,361 students, 91 feeding sites, including a diverse mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities.   + Offer school breakfast, grab and go/breakfast in the classroom, school lunch, afterschool snack, and fresh fruit and vegetable program.   + Requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work to meet the requirements for meal patterns set by the USDA. Monday is highest calorie day, balanced out through the rest of the week.   + KCS Nutrition place emphasis on allowing choice for students.   + School nutrition programs are funded outside of the school system, operates like a business.   + Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or no cost meals for students – able to use Medicaid as a qualifier starting in 23-24 school year, adding 25 new schools. Currently operating CEP at 64 schools or 70% of schools in Knox County. Looking for funding for unpaid meal debt.   + Many advocacy opportunities (see slides). Large delegation from Tennessee attends Legislative Action Conference each year.   + Questions can be directed to [Brett.foster@knoxschool.org](mailto:Brett.foster@knoxschool.org)   + Food decisions are up to individual school kitchen managers, good amount of recent turnover. More coaching may be needed for new managers.   + Regarding snow days and cancelled school – KCS Nutrition is able to adjust food delivery days to utilize food on other school days.   + Can they share unused food with the community? KCS Nutrition must follow strict rules set by the USDA, so they are unable to share unused items with the community. Luckily, they have minimal waste.   + Kitchen managers utilize software for production records, allow staff to see trends over time.   + Legislature needs to hear more from parents in support of healthy meals for all.   + People can donate through the Nutrition Office, can allocate funds to specific schools. * **Charlotte Rodina & Maryl Burke | CAC Beardsley Farm**   + Found that repeated exposure was key to larger impact, rather than one-time visit to the farm. Barriers – transportation to farm, time.   + School Garden Program started in 2021 at Dogwood Elementary, grew to 11 schools. Programs are tailored to the needs of each school.   + Offer academics in-school on a variety of topics. Also offer Garden recess for students unable to participate in after-school programs.   + After school garden club includes garden chores, light lesson/project, healthy snack.   + Cooking Classes include handwashing/knife safety all the way to using heating elements. Taste Tests encourage students to try new fruits or vegetables. Lessons ensure all language surrounding food is positive and shame-free.   + Additional supports include:     - Monthly fresh produce distributions. Intended to be a supplement for families. Purchased from grant funds from local farms and free items from Second Harvest. 155 families or 300 kids per month.     - Weekly school distributions – partnership with Rotary Club of Knoxville. Volunteers pack bags of food from Second Harvest for the Backpack Buddies program to support students over the weekend. Distributed to 155 kids per week.     - Garden Maintenance/Improvements – maintain gardens during the summer so they are ready for teachers in the fall. Purchase garden tools/equipment.     - Attend and provide programming at school events.   + 2025 Updates – community members will begin advocating for programming in their own schools/communities. * **Sarah Wharton | Little Chefs, Big Change**   + Afterschool Health Cooking Classes – for 2nd-8th graders. Students work with adult volunteers at stations to complete recipes. The program focuses on continued exposure to healthy eating and new recipes.   + Recipes are plant-based, nutritious, and meals are multi-course. Utilize positive language around food. Talking points are research-based and shame-free.   + Publishing a paper with Dr. Sarah Colby with UTK.   + Will soon be offering their Virtual Family Cooking Program. They will send ingredients, recipes, cooking kit, shopping guide to participating families. Classes are held over zoom (4 classes total) and allow students to cook with their adult family members.   + Plan to expand programming in 2025. Looking to diversify funding streams. |
| 4. | **Meeting Adjourned** |

Upcoming Meetings:

* January 21, 2025: Food Distribution Working Group, 2:00-3:30pm, Knox Pride Center
* January 31, 2025: HHFI Launch Party, 9:00-11:00am, Regas Building
* February 7, 2025: Farm to School Workshop, 9:00am-3:00pm, UT Conference Center
* February 19, 2025: Food Policy Council, 8:30-10:00am, TBD