

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Thursday, May 21, 2020 via Zoom videoconference

Type of Meeting: Informal Meeting of Full Council

Recorder: Victoria Raschke, Attendance: Kimberly Pettigrew

Attending Appointed (Voting) Members	Kimberly Pettigrew Kristen Faerber Victoria Raschke Willa Essie Elizabeth Wunshel Ellen Morar Jen Russomanno Vivian Williams
Attending Associate (Non-voting) Members	Bailey Foster Chad Hellwinckel Kathy Prince/Rhea Kenney
Other Attendees	Fiona McAnally - City of Knoxville Amber Ford – Knox County Health Department

1.	<p>Brief overview of the work of the Food Access Committee as part of EOC: Kimberly was contacted by the mayors to act as a point of contact and address immediate and long-term needs for food access in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The previous work of the Food Policy Council to create a robust network of organizations aided in the efforts. Food requests to 211/311 had dropped in number as of the meeting. A tip sheet was sent out to all participating organizations.</p>
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2.

Updates from council members:

Brett: last day of emergency meal distribution was May 20. Meals were distributed at 28 school sites and additional CAC rec center sites. 800 meals were delivered by KCS transportation. A total of 802,646 meals served at school sites and 31,742 meals served at CAC sites. 200 people and over 10K labor hours. Transitioning to summer feeding through CAC with grab and go waiver in place.

Vivian: worked with Sarah Moore Green and a church to distribute toiletries and cleaning supplies with meal pickups.

Kimberly: 2 markets are open, MSFM having moved to Mary Costas Plaza for the time being. Prioritizing food access over community building. Eastside Sunday Market will open June 7 with the first hour set aside for the elderly and immunocompromised. SNAP and Double Food Bucks available at all Nourish markets with \$20 double up for any SNAP amount swiped (so \$5 SNAP spend still earns \$20 match). Working with Bridge, Interfaith, Love Towers, Centro Hispano and Great Schools on perishables program to people not eligible for stimulus. Hope to continue through the year if funded.

Chad: Working with City of Knoxville and 4 nonprofits to deliver compost to home gardens. Distribute 100 cubic yards. Still have some left at Botanical Gardens and SEED. Asking for a letter of support for an NSF grant for neighborhood composting program. (Note: Executive committee can support this and draft letter)

Ellen: YMCA has been providing free emergency childcare for essential workers at 4 sites for 150 children. Only snacks are provided, children bring lunch from home. Still working on what summer programming will look like.

Kathy & Ria: transitioned to box program at pantries. Second Harvest has done mobile pantries for furloughed restaurant workers. SH isn't usually a direct service provider, but they have had to adjust some systems. Working on getting more perishables and fresh produce including through new federal program to reimburse local suppliers.

Elizabeth: Face to face programming suspended through July. 4-H camp cancelled. Trainings had moved online and Extension has developed online resource for families including recipes and financial information.

Jen: CSA tripled in customers. expanded partnerships with other farms. Many CSAs are full. Farmers markets at UT hospital and Children's are suspended. Waiting to hear about FMNP for 2020.

Willia: The book is out. Small event on August 27 at a supporting housing unit. Salvation Army will deliver food boxes if they receive the grant funding. Also working on a community garden at supportive housing. Book is dedicated to FPC. Will get info on how to order.

Victoria: Tennessee Association of Farmers Markets developed online resource page for markets already opening and opening during safer at home orders, highlighting Nourish. Participated in regional calls to address market manager concerns as the farmers market season begins across the state.

Beadsley: 10K seed starts given away and set up 100 community garden beds.

CAC via Fiona: Judith has been promoted and is now over all CAC food services. Mobile Meals is back to daily delivery schedule. Thru the safer at home order have delivered 85K meals, 2000 commodity boxes, established 10 grab and go supplemental feeding sites and contracted to other surrounding counties.

Fiona: Updated council on the work of SCHAS SOS (865-523-2920) program to help with grocery shopping for seniors and those who were unable to get out. Serves 16 counties. Services are on a sliding scale. The pandemic response has forced state and federal agencies to be flexible about how things are done and how money is spent because the established emergency feeding plans were not possible in a pandemic (congregate feeding).

3.	Developing emergency food plan moving forward: Kimberly is reaching out to EOC to be part of the conversation going forward. The Food Access Committee was able to aid communication between organizations because of the existing FPC network. Emergency plan should include maintaining a list of participating agencies including Centro Hispano and Bridge Refugee Services.
4.	State of the Food System report: In person City Council and County Commission meetings are still on hold. Kimberly is developing a cover letter that includes what the FPC and Food Access Committee members have worked on over the pandemic response. Looking at refresh of the report in 2020 to include equity measures as well as WIC and FMNP data. Action item: please review and let Kimberly know of any additional changes and updates.
5.	Next meeting: August 30, 2020. 8:30 a.m. Location TBD.
6.	Meeting adjourned.