

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Wednesday, July 16, 2025; United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Educational

Recorder: Sara Keel

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)	<u>Other Attendees:</u> Alhen Drillich Denarius Ross, Wesley House Lily Slade, United Way Leigh Check, Bearden UMC CG Donna Wright, Salvation Army

	<p>Mary Clay Kline, Second Harvest Food Bank Mike Smith, Concord UMC Tom D'Angelo, KCD Jeanne Jenkins, UTK College of Nursing Cheryl Steele, KCC Chris Battle, Battlefield Farms Kevin Murphy, Farm Bureau Joy Wilson, BGCTNV Penny Taylor, UTK College of Nursing Torrie Boggs, RGKF Anna Elyse Kahane Susan Troop, KCDC Mary Ann Davis, KCC Amanda Spangler, UT PLSC Dr. Tran, TSU Shenaiah Thomas, BGCTNV</p>
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1.	Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Dewitt, Vice Chair
2.	Organizational & Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariel Allen Branding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New logo and branding guide shown • Ariel Allen WINS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Battlefield farm has received a refrigerated truck for mobile distributions ○ Beardsley Farm has partnered with the Red Cross to deliver food to schools ○ Food Policy represented in climate action planning ○ Robert Wood Johnson funding is finalized, establishing food distribution working groups, looking for people to lead the working groups. Hiring 5 data ambassadors, ideally from low access areas. ○ Knoxville Urban Forest Master Plan – Support neighborhood scale forestry plans. Can have committees formed from neighborhoods. Reach out to Knox Planning.
3.	Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Panel • Panel includes: Lara Whitfield-Garfinkle Community Engagement and Deaf Blind Program Coordinator at Knoxville Center for the Deaf • Monique Johnson Founder and CEO of Learn Play Sign • Carly Pearson ADA Coordinator for Knox County • Stephanie Brewer Cook ADA Coordinator for the City of Knoxville

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding identification and terminology – “Deaf” is preferred, avoid “hearing impaired”. “Wheelchair bound” not ideal, wheelchair provides freedom. “handicapped” is not ideal. Person first language, see the person not the disability. • Navigating food systems as people with a disability – Lack of information, not presented in a way that is accessible (audible options, written options, too much information, presented in a confusing way). Logistics of shopping with kids and a disability, lots of planning involved. Shortages during emergency events – access to transportation for those who couldn’t get out. • Inclusive food systems – having ways to communicate other than spoken word, I.e. communication card. Providing for everyone regardless of demographic or ability. More sign language in every aspect of life, without having to ask. Remember that for many, English is not their first language. • Facility accessibility – especially parking and issues entering through the door, slopes in the sidewalk. Doorbell set at a height that someone in a wheelchair can reach. Deaf individuals cannot utilize intercoms at front doors, must hold up signs. Automatic door openers. Connecting sidewalks. Updating older facilities. • Communication – digestible information, non-cumbersome paperwork. Knowing that you will be comfortable and accepted at locations providing food resources. Large print. Information separated out. Leave out filler words. • How to make people feel comfortable – more diverse representation in organization staff. Drive through pickup – have options for those who need more assistance with communication (special lane, designated person with signage). • Dignity and cultural relevance – how to work with older populations. Always provide an interpreter if requested. Visit www.kcdtn.org to request an interpreter. In-person is ideal, video interpreting can freeze or malfunction and cause frustrations. Ensure your interpreter is qualified. Can look to the Disability Resource Center. Amputee Coalition. TN Disability Pathfinder. • First steps, policy change – have the conversation, start the dialogue. Reach out to experts in the community. More visualization, more ASL. Provide cultural sensitivity training, available from KCD.
4.	Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Meetings:

- August 19, 2025 – Food Policy Council Mtg 8:30-10:00am, United Way of Greater Knoxville