

# Adams County Food Policy Council | September 6, 2023

## September Meeting Minutes PA CareerLink, 9 AM

### Attendance:

Kathy Gaskin – Healthy Adams County  
Christine Heyser, PA Department of Human Services  
Grace Bushway  
Matt Moser, The Gleaning Project  
Nick Milone, GASD Food Service Director  
Lisa Beaver – Food Pantry Manager/SCCAP Gettysburg  
Jen Gastley, Healthy Adams County  
Reza Djalal, AC Farmers Market Manager  
Claudia Aguilar - ACFM Assistant/ Food Programs Coordinator  
Stephanie McIlwee, PICPI  
Mary Ann Leidigh, Shippensburg  
Amy Santarelli, Penn State Extension  
Sarah Davis, Penn State Extension  
Sarah Weigle – Adams County Planning GIS

### Minutes:

The August meeting minutes were accepted.

### Food Forum Planning Committee Update – Kathy

The committee continues to plan for the Forum next Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Kathy noted that she will make a donation to the Adams County Technical Institute for the use of their facility for the event. The buffet will be at 5:30 pm. Nick will reach out to Jeremy to assist with vendors. The dinner is taken care of.

The first part of the Program was organized by Ryan and will include a conversation with Dawn Plummer, the new PA Food Policy Council Director. He will ask questions about the position.

The second part of the Program will consist of a Panel of local food program participants talking about their challenges and issues finding food. Megan Shreve cannot attend, so Matt will be the moderator. Cara, a Healthy Options leader and original program participant along with another Healthy Options participant, Lupita, have agreed to be part of the panel. Kathy will reach out to Linda Thompson to hopefully add a senior participant. Lisa added that she talked to a few people at the Pantry, but is unsure if they will work with the panel? Will try to find a third panelist or Claudia could fill in with background on the Healthy Options Program. Questions will be derived for the participants and given ahead of time. Panelists will also be given a gift card for their participation.

Commissioner Martin will read the Hunger Action Month proclamation before breaking into the five table discussions. The topics and moderators include:

- Food Systems/ Disaster Planning – Christine Heyser
- Food Policy – Ryan Prater
  - Working to get a legislator or staff to attend
- Child Nutrition – Nick Milone

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- Strengthening connections between Ag and Community – Reza Djalal, Amy Santarelli, Matthew Moser
  - Ben Wenk and Mike Showers will be attending to provide grower input.
- Food Access/ Programs – Kathy Gaskin, Claudia Aguilar, Lisa Beaver
  - Would like to emphasize that there are gaps in the community that people are unaware of.

Hope to have an evaluation of the event at the end to receive suggestions from attendees and suggest future attendance at a Food Policy Council meeting. There are currently 45 people registered for the event, planning for about 60.

Christine asked Kathy what would be one take-away from the event? Build community knowledge of the Food Policy Council. And if there are other areas of interest or focus, this an opportunity for input.

Sarah will check with Sherri or someone from the Planning Office. If someone could contact the County Assistance Office?

Questions will continue to be formulated and sent to the participants beforehand.

Jen will check people in. There will also be a table of resources, name tags will be brought. Child care starts at 5:30 pm.

### **Committee Updates:**

Dashboard/website/Local Food Guide – Sarah

- Background was given on the previous Local Food Resource Guide, which was a booklet, but has been refocused to locations providing access to food within Adams County.
- The locations have been checked and the map image updated. Draft tri-fold handouts were passed around for feedback from the Council. The format between the Local Food Resources and the Pantry and Soup Kitchen brochures will be consistent. The Council liked both draft cover pictures, both versions will be available.
- Wellspan has given money for printing costs. Jen can order prints from Canva, Sarah will share the designs with Jen to print directly.
- The locations/ business information with links were updated on the FPC's website and the handouts will be available for download.
- Developing a web map will be the next step.

Food Programs – Kathy and Claudia

- Healthy Options - Claudia
  - Four voucher distributions and at the Market have been picked up for the Program. Some people did not renew, additional participants from the waitlist will be added, and new people can be added to the waitlist.
  - Healthy Options usage is being updated with the list.
- Fruit and Veggie Bucks - Kathy
  - USDA mini-grant has made the program possible, partnered with Kennie's and the 50% discount.
  - Agency referrals direct SNAP recipients to Kennie's to signup.
  - Sign-ups for this year just kicked-off! Rolling sign-ups are available during the year.

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- Adams County Farmers Market Programs – Reza
  - Since FNMP has increased this year the Market has been running out of wooden tokens! This makes it harder to track SNAP and FNMP because other tokens may be used in place of the designated tokens. But we're able to look at other options on the back end to track data. There has been a consistent redemption of SNAP and all FNMP checks are being used.
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### Member Updates:

- Reza – There will be a Hunger Action Day at the Market in advance of the Giving Spree
- Lisa
  - A Hunger Action Calendar is being used in September with suggestions of things to do each day and serve as a reminder that anyone may be in need.
  - Many of the local Wellspan doctor's offices have food and may be offered as part of the appointment pre-registration questions
- Nick
  - GASD opened August 22 and meal eligibility programs are offered.
  - The high school has been upgraded to a food court layout, with an MTO and themed stations.
  - There has been more talk about what constitutes an eligible meal and use of the USDA website, for example the posted recipes.
  - Healthy Habits days are being incorporated to focus on health, featuring things like smoothie shots, crudité and dips, nutritional breakfast sandwiches, and yogurt parfaits.
  - The District is hoping for some new hires with an increase in wages.
- Kathy – An End of Life forum will be held on October 22 at Trinity UCC Church, lunch included.
- Mary Ann
  - A Cumberland County Food System Alliance grant was received, with assistance from Shippensburg University and local health care.
  - Work is being done on a County Food Assistance guide, out of Dickinson.
  - Regionally working with Central Penn Food Bank and looking to start a policy committee.
- Kathy – Will probably start meeting in person quarterly.

### Next Meeting:

October 4th, 2023 @ 8:30am (Via Zoom).