

**Food Security Committee
Meeting Minutes
9/16/09**

BANPAC Members present: Joe Prickitt, Network for Healthy California; Debra Mason, Mt. Diablo CARES; Susan Stewart, Santa Clara County Dept. of Public Health; Sara Marin, Alameda County Community Food Bank

- Discussion of what food security committee should hone in on
- There should be a chair and a co-chair
- There is a goal to really drive the issue of food security and ensure a strategic focus, and identify what it is that stakeholders (i.e. other committee members) want to accomplish around food security. Need to identify a clear scope of work
- Joe talked about the various existing components of the other committees such as Power Play Program (part of the Youth Action Committee), Latino and African-American campaigns, etc.
- Joe also talked about his role with the Network and the goal to ensure that the various committees are working in conjunction with each other, and doing work that supports each other
- Deborah signed up for the food security committee as she was interested in seeing how to bring food security into her after school programs in Contra Costa and Solano counties
- Susan brought up possible direction to take within food security group. She talked about the unique diversity of the Bay Area populations that make up the various counties covered by BANPAC members, and how it is difficult to settle on one particular issue. This is especially true as whatever issue the committee decides to pursue needs to be one that is relevant to each of our current scopes of work
- Deb talked about her interest in furthering food stamp outreach and looking at the impact that this could have as well as the summer feeding program that was centered around summer school programs for young people.
- Sara brought up an interest in looking at Retailers Associations and how they could be a part of the food security conversations around access and quality foods for our community
- There was a discussion about EBT at Farmer's Market Associations and the importance of furthering this program, and/or helping to set it up at more farmer's markets, and ensuring that the portable debit/EBT machines are available to market vendors
- Joe talked about being aware of how busy committee members already are, so if there is a chance to tap into the work that we are already doing, that would make most sense when deciding on which area to focus. Also mentioned that Food Bank folks really need to be present since food banks are always key partners in this area.
- All four members clarified the need to have food bank employees as a central part of the committee to help support it in a stronger way. This could leverage support in a stronger way and could even be a natural cross over for the work that other committees (as well as those of us in food security committee) are doing with youth
- Talked about the need for committee members to be able to participate in meetings remotely (via teleconference)

- Group talked about where to meet and when/how often? Originally the group only met at the quarterly BANPAC meetings and had decided that face to face was better
- The issue that the group was interested in working on was the Child Nutrition Re-Authorization Act, although it really was never entirely tackled
- People that were participating had wanted to come away with some tangible action steps around food security
- Calif. Association of Food Banks is a very strong partner and we should reach out to Jessica Barthelow
- We could reach out to community partners in each of our specific counties and make this a strong, viable committee with specific actions
- Increasing food access via food stamps
- Talked about setting a date for a virtual meeting and ensuring that Cindy McGowan was a part of it
- Joe talked about how the Network prefers their strategies to be channel specific and have a defined target audience as Sara brought up the possibility of tailoring our strategies to a specific subset of the population
- With increasing those who are signed up for food stamps we could also ensure that access is less of an issue while simultaneously providing proper nutrition education
- We talked about the need to contact folks that were on the committee list who were not in fact able to come today to gauge their interest in participating in future meetings
- We need to make sure that when we meet again that we define a specific set of goals and objectives to streamline this process, and then we call and get others on board
- The following are folks that would be an asset to the committee- Jessica Barthelow- CAFB, Allison Pratt-Director of Policy and Services at Alameda County Community Food Bank, Liz Gomez-Manager of Outreach Programs at Alameda County Community Food Bank, Kathy Lewis-VP at Center for Collaborative Solutions, Cindy McGowan-Santa Clara County
- Every county has their safety net of people in terms of food security...our next steps as a group should be to get in touch with those folks from each county to be a part of committee

To Do's for each member present

Sara- identify and contact food security lead people in Alameda and Marin Counties, as well as touch base with Liz Gomez and Allison Pratt

Joe- identify and contact food security lead people in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, as well as contact Jessica Barthelow

Deborah - identify and contact food security lead people in Contra Costa and Solano Counties

Susan- identify and contact food security lead person/people in SF County

We will reconvene towards the middle-end of October via teleconference