

August 1, 2010

Minutes

Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access Of North Carolina Sustainable Food Advisory Council

July 22, 2010

JC Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC

Meeting began: 10:00 AM

Attending *Members*: Chair Alice Ammerman, Dr. Lynn Harvey, Earline Middleton

Guests: Claire Hermann (RAFI), Carol Klein (ECU),

Staff: Joy Hicks, Jim Cummings

Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of the Minutes
- Mission and focus of subcommittee – draft from Diane Beth
- Update on open meeting rules for subcommittees
- Current status of relevant legislative Obesity Task Force Policy
Overview of status (I'll get from Lee Dixon) of all legislative items
- Farm to School coordinator position through NCDA
- EBT (SNAP, WIC) use at Farmers Markets – short and long term planning
- Funding opportunity via USDA

Minutes of the June 4, 2010 teleconference were discussed and an item on page 2, (GAP certification is not a limiting factor), was deleted from those minutes. Action items were discussed and the minutes were approved.

Discussion of subcommittee mission and focus was deferred to a meeting with more members present.

Farm to School

1. Meet with Child Nutrition Group at conference on October 21, 2010 to highlight Farm to School Program

- Dr. Lynn Harvey reported that two break-out sessions had been scheduled at this meeting on Farm to School. She pointed out that the meeting was targeted towards child nutrition directors but that Council members and others were welcome to come to observe and learn more about potential barriers to implementing the Farm-to-School Program.

ACTION Item: The subcommittee will arrange to have someone present at these sessions

2. Survey schools on participation in the Program
 - Dr. Ammerman talked of the need to survey schools about the program to determine barriers of participation. She mentioned that she is working with Emily Jackson of Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) to conduct a survey.
 - Discussion followed on how best to receive feedback from school systems, the appropriate timeline, and ideas on further opportunities to engage the child nutrition group at their annual conference.
 - The point was made that the leading success factor for the Farm to School program is administrative support from Superintendents.
 - Discussion followed on the need to differentiate between locally implemented programs and the NCDA Farm to School program in surveys and data collection.
 - Discussion occurred on the ways to expand the state program. Dr. Harvey mentioned that charter schools might be an easy expansion since it might not face as many infrastructure challenges.
3. Look at GAP certification issues that might impede a grower's participation
 - Dr. Ammerman noted that GAP certification issues would be addressed at the full council meeting.

Snap-Ed

1. The group discussed information on what other states are doing regarding SNAP-Ed and the widely varying funding levels.
 - California has been particularly successful in SNAP-Ed funding and this information was shared with the Obesity Task Force. DSS opened the SNAP-Ed application process this year and a few more programs applied
 - One barrier to participation is paper work, particularly on documenting the match requirement. Also is a difficulty in encouraging classroom teachers to participate in nutrition education since it is not a requirement for No Child Left Behind.
 - Dr. Ammerman mentioned several creative projects that were being developed to engage students on nutrition information.

- Discussion followed on the DHHS-DSS administration of SNAP-Ed. It was noted that other states administer the program through the land grant university – an approach that was explored through the Childhood Obesity Taskforce.
- ACTION ITEM: Continue to explore other state examples of SNAP-Ed administration.
- ACTION ITEM: Conduct a working session on SNAP-Ed including a variety of stakeholders to explore how the system could be revamped to encourage participation, increase funding, and have broad state impact.

Update on the Farm to Fork Public Health and Food Access Disparities Working Interest Team and Potential Coordination of Efforts with this group

- Earline Middleton reported that this group had met but did not have any items to report at this time. She will keep the Subcommittee updated.

The Chair reviewed once again the open meetings law

Childhood Nutrition Federal Funding Reauthorization remains in the US House

Dr. Harvey encouraged those interested to contact the NC delegation and urge support for H.R.5504, Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act

NCDA&CS position to support Farm to School Program

The Budget signed by the Governor includes language that the Department will utilize a vacant position to support the Farm to School Program. Dr. Harvey informed the members that a USDA grant application submitted by DPI might possibly assist with this position.

ACTION ITEM: The Subcommittee will look to other states and offer to NCDA&CS information on what might be the role of the new position.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

Several farmer's markets in the state now accept EBT cards. There was some discussion that smaller markets seem more accepting of the cards than the larger markets. WIC is not currently under an electronic program but will begin at some point.

ACTION ITEM: Conduct a working session surrounding use of EBT cards at farmer's markets SNAP and future use with WIC benefits. Discuss options to

support these programs and potential funding for current gaps in the 21st Century Farmer's market program.

Funding Opportunity via USDA – the RFA was distributed but there was no time to discuss at the subcommittee meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken from notes by Joy Hicks and Jim Cummings