

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

November 16, 2020, 11:30am-1:00pm ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance: Joshua Brewer, Jaden Castinado, Andrea DeJesus, Megan Dougherty, John Green, Sharolyn Jackson, Jacquie Mack, Jennifer Morris Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Stephanie Smith, Kirsten Spear, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator), Elias Martinson, Shanika Rose

Unable to attend: Carol Barta, Michael Wilson

Guests: Ann Smit (Common Table), Mary Mertz (Riley County Farm Bureau), Gabrielle Farris (Student), Erica Blair (Rural Grocery initiative)

1. Building the Framework

· CAT committee updates/asks

1. Konza Student Table

a. Update from Jaden – Running for two months now. Started at 300 meals, have now gone up to 450 meals. It's very well received from the people benefiting from the program and the wider community. The most interesting thing has been the variance of population in relation to what is being served.

2. Recent challenge has been that we're running out very quickly – in 20 minutes last week. Several people had families in quarantine and picked up food for the whole family. They had several people arrive for food who were not students.

a. Ann – was this a night that Common Table was also serving food? Yes, this would have been a common table night.

b. Sharolyn – Maybe the recent social media push was shared and caused the surge.

c. Vickie – Next week will have print outs to direct people to common table, et cetera.

d. Stephanie – Were any of the people USD 383? Vickie wasn't sure, it was moving really fast. Stephanie says that they're doing their food distribution on Monday, so if someone found out they were quarantined after that, they might have missed the distribution.

b. Blessing Box update

1. Vickie has set up a listserv for all of the box sponsors.

2. Ogden has set up another box, but it is not up and running quite yet. This is their second box, and they're almost ready for a 3rd.

3. ATA bus would like to sponsor a box on a busy route.

- c. Kitchen Restore
 1. It's official that Kitchen restore is moving to Salvation Army.
 2. They're getting low on kits because of high demand from agencies. Megan asks that if anyone knows anyone who would like to volunteer, they are at the point where they need help.
 3. They have had a monetary donation.
 4. 50 kits have been distributed thus far.
 5. Sharolyn is presenting the project to the rotary club on Thursday.
- Community Resource/Map
 - a. Think back to our partner meetings - does everyone remember the man who asked us to remember that not everyone has a cell phone, or access to technology? Vickie was thinking of this after she received a note from a local pastor, who is very thankful for the community resource map, and shared how they're using it in community outreach.
 - b. Equity in food - Equal access is both opportunity and tools.
- Pathways Grant
 - a. Begins moving forward in February. The FFC portion of the grant will be used for at least the following:
 1. Food/lifestyle prescriptions.
 2. Help from interns
 3. Master food plan for our county.
- KMAN interview; KSNT interview, Riley Countian and Manhattan Mercury print media pickup
 - a. The KMAN spot was specifically to promote our website. The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation had us use their spot to promote the website, which they helped us build.
 - b. KSNT interview airs today. It focuses on blessing boxes and the Konza student table and our website.
 - c. The Manhattan Mercury had an extensive article over the weekend about common table and food insecurity in our community.
- Jaden – Presented details on a new food security scholars program at Kansas State. There will be 20 students selected to participate in a two-phase education program. The first phase will focus on learning the issues surrounding food insecurity, and the second phase will be more community involved and will include grant writing for research. They are currently reaching out to this community to establish a board of directors/stakeholders, and would like for someone from the FFC to participate. This person would be a connector between the students and the FFC for future projects.
 - a. David – Do we know who the faculty will be?
 1. Jaden – This will be very student driven, and is still in the planning process. The first module is education piece led by an advisor and students like Jaden. Second is more involved with community.

- Vickie received an email from Fanny Fang and three others in the Flint Hills Leadership Program
 - a. They wanted to meet with the FFC about a project they want to start called a “Community Cupboard” program, However, it’s pretty much identical to the existing blessing boxes, so Vickie advised they help with that committee and identify ways to expand or enhance our existing program.
- 2. What’s Our Work? ·
 - Website – feedback, updates, <https://nourishtogether.org>
 - a. Maureen – has not heard any feedback, but wondered if there’s a way to monitor the traffic?
 1. We’re trying to see if we can track it through google analytics.
 - a. Adrian – it seems there is not google analytics, but a version from WordPress. We’re not quite sure how to use it yet. He will contact 502 Media for direction.
 - Resources and writers for articles; Impact Tracker
 - a. Request from Vickie – we need people to write articles, it can’t be just the Megan, Vickie, and Sharolyn. We really need everyone to participate.
 - b. Ann suggested a meal count from Common table for the impact tracker. Does anyone else have any ideas?
 - Where to post our publicity? Agendas? Minutes?
 - a. We really don’t have a place on our website for any publicity. Should we add it to our About us page?
 - b. Josh recommends that we don’t add to the website, but use our social media pages for pushing out publicity and news.
 - Calendar of events (Facebook update)
 - a. Update from Josh: He has been posting in the mornings. Jayden has taken the lead on the Instagram channel. They’re using an editorial calendar to communicate and keep track of content.
 - b. How do we communicate with our partners to make sure we’re sharing community events? Josh will send this information to Vickie to send out.
 - c. Adrian – do we withhold the sharing feature until our partner makes us a co-host, or do we share anyway?
 1. Josh – it’s more effective if they make us a co-host, but he has been sharing events as they pop up.
 - Opportunity for community use walk in cooler/freezer (Food Insecurity CAT)
 - a. One big hurdle in the area of food recovery and food insecurity is the lack of space to store donated food. A potential opportunity to purchase a community shared walk in cooler/freezer is in discussion with multiple partners. More on this as it becomes available. Through a grant, the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition has some funding that is available for this project if it is feasible with costs, location, coordination of use factors.

Best location is still being determined. Options include: A. East Campus, which would be ideal to have if at some point a central communal meal site and social service agencies were housed there, but the future of that building is still very much undecided. B. Family and Child Resource Center, back yard area as an option and possibly even at some point the opportunity to use the existing small kitchen and dining room for another communal meal site or home delivery meal prep site. C. Possibly an existing CT church location.

3. Until We Meet Again
 - CATs are not meeting in December, but the Admin team will meet. Do we want to meet as a council in December? Consensus is yes. Maureen will take minutes for Kirsten, who will not be able to attend.
4. Next meeting date/location (Monday, December 21, 2020, 11:30am) Zoom
5. Vickie shared this quote with the council: “I cannot give all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can give.



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