

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

January 17th, 2022, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, via ZOOM

In Attendance:

Carol Barta, Andrea DeJesus, Megan Dougherty, John Green, Kate LaRosh, Mary Mertz, Jacquie Mack, Maureen Olewnik, David Procter, Adrian Self, Vickie James (FFC Coordinator).

Unable to Attend: Joshua Brewer, Sharolyn Jackson, Elias Martinson, Shanika Rose, Kirsten Spear, Stephanie Smith, and Michael Wilson

Guests: Carol Shanklin

1. Community Action Teams (CATs)

- a. **Waste CAT** – The admin. council has decided to put a pause on this activity. The number of participants is small and focus of the members needs to shift to work on the Master Food Plan (MFP). However, those interested in this area need to keep an eye on compost groups and other related activities around the country. Large companies like Amazon are looking at packaging, etc. and trying to move in the direction of better control on waste. The current goal is to reengage the CAT once the MFP is completed. If accepted by commissioners, the MFP will provide some direction on how to move it forward.
- b. **Education CAT** – Megan Dougherty noted that this CAT did not meet in December. They are, however, working on getting back to more in-person education programs and zoom opportunities. Kitchen Restore is still quite active. 112 kits were provided to those in need in 2021. They are also partnering with Afghan refugee program. There is currently a need for volunteers and donations.
- c. **Food Insecurity CAT**
 - i. **1. Community Food Recovery Update** – a small group met to discuss a potential structure of a food recovery plan. There was discussion with others that have developed a workable plans in other areas of the country. This group will meet again on January 28th to discuss potential additions to the MFP.

As an ongoing part of the FFC mission to serve in an educational role to the City/County Commissions and the public with local food system issues, a 3rd in a series fact sheet was developed. This one being Client

Choice Food Pantry Model Fact Sheet. That paper will go to city and county commissioners as an educational fact sheet.



Client Choice Fact Sheet_Print Version.

- ii. **2. Breadbasket** – The Director position for the Flint Hills Breadbasket (FHBB) is now open. – Vickie talked with the chairman of the board asking about the position requirements and found that the process is fast moving with plans to close the application process by the end of Jan. Applicants will be reviewed in February, and the new hire will then spend time with the current director in March, taking over at the in April. The FFC would like to have a discussion with the board about the our work, especially the development of a community wide food recovery network and the partnership with Breadbasket in that effort. The Council would also like to share the white paper developed on pantry models.

There was discussion on the need for someone from the FFC to talk with the Breadbasket board sometime in the near future. This discussion would include information in the Client Choice Model Fact Sheet and have someone that is working within that model be included in the conversation.

Dave Procter moved that ‘a representative of FFC engage in a discussion with the FHBB board to provide information on FFC work in the development of the Client Choice Model Fact Sheet and food recovery efforts to date.’

Mary Mertz seconded the motion.

Further discussion indicated that an FFC Administrative level board member (Vickie James, Maureen Olewnik, or Adrian Self) should be included with attendees. In these discussions emphasis should be made on partnering with all efforts to make activities easier for all.

Voice vote unanimously passed.

The next FHBB board meeting will be Friday, January 21, 2022. This time frame may be too short to allow development of appropriate talking points or get time on their agenda. Vickie will reach back out to the board chair with a request for time on an upcoming agenda.

2. Master Food Plan

- a. Timeline, next steps – discussion on the timeline for the MFP has been on hold between holidays.
- b. There is a MFP leadership meeting tomorrow, January 18, 2022. John Adam is doing the layout and design work for the food system assessment update. Summit themes and survey results are being worked into a usable document for sharing with Commissioners and the public. No action needed to be taken today. When drafts are available, they will be shared with the group for review and input.

3. Policy Work

- a. BCBSKS Pathways Grant – Discussion around an opportunity for a FFC implementation grant to enhance and strengthen our work. This would require the strengthening of by-laws to show greater effectiveness through policy efforts. We will consider strengthening the by-laws to include:
 - i. Healthy Meetings – The Council observes this now but we do not have a formal policy about serving healthy food and beverages at all meetings when food/beverages are included in our by-laws. We would pattern this approach with education to current partners by encouraging policy to be discussed with their own boards, become a part of their meetings, and practices. Ex. Farm Bureau Board considers including a healthy food and beverage statement in their by-laws.
 - ii. HiAP – Health in all Policies. – Again, we practice this but don't have a formal policy in our by-laws.
 - iii. DEI - Diversity Equity and Inclusion
Adrian Self noted that Manhattan diversity equity and inclusion task force, appointed by the city, had five areas that they were studying and concluded that all were impacted by food. Perhaps some wording from that work could be used to develop our policy.

Discussion noted that we should pursue all three areas noted above. It is an important task and should form a parallel group to pursue the policy work – Carol is willing to help with that.

Carol Barta motioned that 'the FFC pursue the BCBS Pathways Food and Farm Council implementation grant to work on policies that will be included in our by-laws under the three headings included above

(Healthy Meetings, Health in all Policies, and Diversity Equity and Inclusion).

Andrea DeJesus seconded the motion.

Voice vote was unanimously passed.

- b. **Kansas Food Action Network Policy Agenda 2022** – there was a brief review of our work with KFAN on state legislative actions; grocery sales tax, policy agendas, etc. The Director of KFAN will be on the next FFC agenda to provide an update on KFAN activities.

Adrian Self moved that ‘we add formal wording to the FFC by-laws that we are shall be a member of KFAN and support the state policy agendas as long as there are no conflicts of interest.’

Andrea DeJesus seconded the motion

Voice vote was unanimously passed. Wording will be drafted for Council review in advance of the February meeting.

- c. **East Campus conversation.** – This discussion is related to the future use of Manhattan High School East Campus following completion of the West Campus construction. There is currently a feasibility study to see if Common Table, a free meal service in Manhattan sponsored by various faith groups, could be in one location (East Campus). This would make it easier for people to know where to find food, for ATA bus scheduling to help get people there.

In addition to using the space for Common Table meals, the space in the USD 383 East Campus could possibly be used for additional services, such as social service agencies, or FFC related efforts like Kitchen Restore. The feasibility study awarded to USD 383 was made possible because of the Flint Hill Wellness Coalition and their BCBS Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant. Community conversation meetings will be held in January and February. FFC members and members of the CAT working teams are strongly encouraged to attend plus provide the information to attend to others.

[901 Poyntz \(k-state.edu\)](https://901.poyntz.k-state.edu)

You can read more here and sign up at the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/HGwx0Fidv5>

First Community Conversations

Tuesday, January 25, 7 - 9pm (in person at 901 Poyntz in School Cafeteria)

Saturday, January 29, 10am - 12pm (online, Zoom)

Second Community Conversations (Building on First Community Conversations)

February 15 7-9pm (in person)

February 19 10am - 12pm (online)

This information will also be shared on the FFC Facebook page.

There will be two meetings to discuss East Campus usage in February – Dave Proctor and Carol Barta are scheduled to work as small group facilitators at these sessions. Because of this participation, they will not be able to represent FFC. There will be need for other F&FC members to attend and voice ideas on use of the facilities.

Adrian Self moved that members ‘make a concerted effort to attend these meetings’.

Mary Mertz seconded the motion

Voice vote was unanimously passed.

4. **Community Recovery Network** – John Green will be having conversations with some potential receiving partners including Common Table to discuss needs for recovered food, their current program, and ideas. Kate LaRosh is communicating with another community and their food recovery process to help guide the development of our plan. Vickie is speaking with potential food donors (caterers and restaurants to get input.)
 - a. Leadership team meeting update - Currently we have a solid leadership team. We do need more Council and CAT members to help react to what this looks like from a managerial perspective.
 - b. Actions needed - roles identified - Carol Shanklin agreed to help in providing feedback. Erica Blair and Kelly Whitehair are participating.
5. Help is needed with website, blogs, and social media. FFC is looking for people that are knowledgeable in areas related to the food system. We need help in getting more short columns and blogs written. Social media highlights work that the FFC is doing, and it is important to acknowledge the work we have done. Encourage people to get involved.
6. Until We Meet Again
 - a. Next FFC meeting date/location, **Monday, February 21st**, 11:30am-1:00pm, location TBD

Final Comments – Guest Carol Shanklin noted that the FFC is making good progress. She is anxious to see the MFP report when it is completed and noted that coordination of agencies is key to our long-term success.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.



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