

Food and Farm Council of Riley County and City of Manhattan Monthly Meeting
Family and Child Resource Center 2101 Claflin Road
Monday August 15, 2002
11:30am – 1:00pm

Recorded Meeting Link

<https://ksu.zoom.us/rec/share/UTU8ZSSTftxVa3VKIJ0yIB5g44jbBcw9oKnydgAIU5EF6tZv2PPZ4aApzwmiS6QT.sGqQCEybNjmc2EHZ>

Passcode: ?DRq8&^W

Member Attendees: Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self, Mike Wilson, Carol Barta, Jacquie Mack, David Procter, Kate LaRosh, Mary Mertz, Megan Dougherty, Andrea DeJesus, Sharolyn Jackson, Kirsten Spear, Shanika Rose (County Liaison), Vickie James (Coordinator)

Guests: Lizz Daniels, Janette Gelroth, Blake Druecker

Members Unable to attend: John Green, Josh Brewer, Stephanie Smith, Eli Martinson (City liaison)

Welcome and introductions of new County appointment member Janette Gelroth and slated to be approved Tuesday, Aug 16th, City appointment members Blake Druecker and Lizz Daniels

Farewell to members in attendance rotating off the board: Carol Barta, Jacquie Mack, and Kirsten Spear

Nominations for 2022 – 2023 officers – Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary, At Large

It was noted that only current members can vote, and current members make nominations to the floor or may write-in a potential candidate's name. Paper ballots were shared and Shanika Rose, County Liaison tabulated those ballots. Results of the voting was unanimous: Co-Chairs, Adrian Self and Maureen Olewnik; Chair Elect no one on the ballot; Secretary, Janette Gelroth; At Large positions Michael Wilson, Kate LaRosh, Andrea DeJesus, and Sharolyn Jackson.

As a new member, Jeanette Gelroth will be secretary for the monthly board meetings, but not required to attend and take notes at the additional administrative council meetings. Maureen will cover that role.

Discussion was then carried out on current programs, board participation in those activities and future/continued leadership of the programs. Board members, in the past, self-selected the area they wanted to be involved in and discussion was carried out around ongoing support.

Food Insecurity CAT – Supporting Council Members: Andrea DeJesus, Kate LaRosh, Mary Mertz, Mike Wilson, David Procter, Adrian Self, Maureen Olewnik

A. **KS Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program** Lead: Jacquie Mack, and Carol Barta have agreed to remain active in managing this program.

The program is going well, but we need to continue identifying senior citizen living areas that need this service. Support for this activity does not seem to be a top priority for local and state agencies, so we need to get the better organized to get information out earlier to as many eligible seniors as possible.

We missed providing this help for the first 3 farmers markets because sign-up packets were not ready.

If others can help in identification of locations that could use this help, please send that information to Carol Barta and/or Jacquie Mack.

Mike Wilson noted that he would like to get more involved in helping with this.

The current income threshold for participation in this program is \$2098. We have found that many participants are living on ~800/month.

Through our current outreach in this area, we have gone from 38% - 99% redemption last year so we feel comfortable that the training program has been very effective.

It was noted that the Manhattan Housing Authority and the National Church Residents are working together on this program and will be helpful in identifying those in need.

Applications must be filled out each year.

B. Blessing Boxes – Lead: Christine Glendening, David Procter

FFC is currently supporting 22 Blessing Boxes. The Flint Hills Breadbasket is preparing to sponsor 2 new boxes in Northview.

David Procter has agreed to be the contacts point for purchasing supplies etc., needed for building new boxes.

Sponsors are responsible for repair and expense of boxes they are sponsoring.

About every 6 weeks, a reminder is sent out to the sponsors to include dos and don'ts on how to maintain the boxes and safely "stock the box".

College Ave United Methodist Church would like to install a blessing box.

FFC currently has 2 builders identified to build the boxes, and a design template is available if needed. Vickie will send this along to David.

Communication stays between FFC and the builder, so we do not to overwhelm the builders with requests.

Prices of materials for the boxes have gone up substantially. We can take donations from the community as we no longer have internal funds to cover the costs.

The money for any purchases must come through our fiscal agent RCHD and Shanika Rose assists with this.

C. Flint Hills Food Recovery – Lead: Kate LaRosh

This is our newest program and is now active. The online system, ChowMatch is live, and we have facilitated a few food donations to date. We are actively signing up food donor groups. There will be some growing pains as we figure out how to create new habits with using an app system instead of "calling around town" to identify recipients.

It's new and the system is taking some time to get groups used to working on it. Once in the system, scheduling a pickup is extremely fast, taking about 1 minute.

We now have stickers that food donor sites can post to let folks know that they are participating and bring more visibility to the program.

Our goal of this program is no waste. We will need financial donations to help support the walk-in cooler and the app. Acknowledgement and visibility of this work will help with funding. Information has recently been shared in the Manhattan Mercury, on WIBW and this week will be on the local KMAN radio station. (Recording below!)

D. **Konza Student Table** – Lead: Vickie James

Vickie will remain as lead working with some volunteer groups on campus. 350 meals were served Wednesday night, and those meals were handed out in 12 minutes. We will now gear up an additional 50 servings each week to max at about 600 as students return to campus.

Vickie suggested that board members participate in the Wednesday evening hand-out.

There is minimal abuse of the system, those that receive the food are those in need. This is a great partnership with the FFC, K-State Housing and Dining and St. Isadore's Catholic Student Center. 100% of the food is supported by donated funds.

There are a few weeks that K-State Housing and Dining cannot prepare the food and Sodexo has been identified as the back-up caterer.

The Konza student table has a Facebook page, and you can sign-up to volunteer to help through the Signup Genius Link

[Konza Student Table: Konza Student Table \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

E. **Healthy Food Rx** – Lead: Vickie James, Cathy Jones

Thanks to Farm Bureau and the Kansas Pathways grant we can provide vouchers at Downtown Farmers Market and Hy-Vee through WIC, Pawnee Mental Health Center Adult Rehab Program, K-State Lafene Health Center and the K-State Cats Cupboard. Both the DFM and Hy-Vee provide half the voucher value and the other half is matched from grants funds or futuristically hopefully local supported donations from the community.

Education is a critically important part of this program. Low-income people often have low access to healthy food and sometimes need information on what healthy food is and how to safely prepare that food.

F. **Food Security Scholars** – Lead: Adrian Self Maureen Olewnik

As the new semester begins, we hope to have a scholar that would be assigned to us for Flint Hills Food Recovery program. There will be more interaction reviewed as the semester moves forward.

G. **aTa Bus Program** – Lead: Mary Mertz, Mike Wilson

FFC distributed all the free bus passes that aTa provided. These were provided to Fit Closet, The Crisis Center, and other organizations supporting those in need. We look forward to receiving more in September.

Mike noted that persons not able to use the fixed route system can contact aTa for help in providing individual service. The Garden Grove community put together a sign-up sheet to get to help transport people to the Saturday Downtown Farmers Market and aTa was able to get them to the market. aTa can also provide passes to the Afghan refugees.

Education CAT – Supporting Council Members: Stephanie, Kate, Megan, Sharolyn

H. **Kitchen Restore** – Lead: Megan Dougherty

The Kitchen restore program is still going strong. We are always in need of more donations, both gently used kitchen equipment and monetary. This group meets 2 times per month to help pack and sort donations and deliver kits.

Storage shed for material drop off is useful, but unfortunately often, things that are not appropriate are left in the shed, including clothes, curtains, etc.

Today will be the 20th kit for the Afghan refugee group. The kits may need to be larger to accommodate larger family units.

It was suggested that each board member helps on occasion to get a sense of the need, activity, etc.

I. **Power of Produce (POP)** – Lead: Vickie James, Cathy Jones and Theresa (student leader)

POP is great, many kids are enjoying the activities, averaging 90-100 at the DFM each Saturday. Current hours of POP are 9-11. The educational aspect of this program has been impactful and participation from children has been very high.

J. **Blogs** – Lead: Sharolyn Jackson, Megan Dougherty

There will be follow-up on getting blogs in place.

Website – Lead: Adrian Self, John Green A plan needs to be put in place for maintenance and updates.

Social Media – Lead: Lizz Daniels

It was requested that all members post, tag, share, etc. information on the FFC activities.

Master Food Plan – Lead: Vickie James, Maureen Olewnik, Adrian Self

Each member of the FFC board needs to review the MFP and come to the next meeting with ideas on how to move this plan forward. What is the low hanging fruit in the system? How can we get more students and other volunteers involved and where can we go for funding?

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion FFC grant with KSU students – Lead: Vickie James

For the initiatives listed above, it was requested that the leads write a short manual on how the activity operates. This is essential for our ability to manage and pass the leadership along to others when needed.

For our new board members, please consider where you would like to help. Janette Gelroth has agreed to be secretary and volunteers time with Kitchen Restore. Please let Vickie know where you would like to participate.

For all board members, be prepared and attend the meeting with information on activities over the last month. The to-do list included at the bottom of the agenda needs to be used by each person monthly.

Participate as a leader in CAT community network. Names of board participants are included in these minutes. Consider who will take the lead on setting agendas, meeting dates, etc. for these CAT activities. Many activities are a work in progress, and we are open to change, or adjustment as needed.

Even though much of the activity on the CAT is carried out by partners, those activities are still a part of the FFC, therefore, we need to have involvement and connectivity over time.

**Until we meet again – Next monthly FFC meeting will be Monday, September 19th, 11:30am-1:00pm
Family Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS. 66502**



In accordance with provisions of the American Disabilities Act, every attempt will be made to accommodate the needs of person with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of our services, programs, and activities. Please contact the Health Department Administration Office (785-776-4779) for assistance

**Food and Farm Council of Riley County and City of Manhattan
Officer Election 2022-2023**

Chair or Co-Chair (2)

_____ Adrian Self

_____ Maureen Olewnik

Chair Elect

Secretary

_____ Janette Gelroth

At Large Administrative Council Members (4)

_____ Andrea DeJesus

_____ Michael Wilson

_____ Kate LaRosh

_____ Sharolyn Jackson
