



Hunger Council of the Windham Region

**Our Vision: All people in the Windham Region have access to an adequate supply of nutritious food!**

38 Eastwood Drive, Suite 100  
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HungerFreeVT.org

## Hunger Council of the Windham Region Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: January 20, 2016**

**Present:** Leigh Brady (Putney Food Shelf), Patrick Donnelly (Groundworks Collaborative), Anna Edson (Brattleboro Food Coop), Sue Graff (United Way of Windham County), Pat Haine (Guilford Cares Food Pantry), Susan Kochinkas (Putney Food Shelf), Emilie Kornheiser (Promise Communities), Prudence MacKinney (VT Dept. of Health), Lorelei Morrissette (Brattleboro Housing Partnerships), Olga Peters (The Commons), Carla Rumrill (Chester-Andover Family Center), Kira Sawyer-Hartigan (Windham Southeast School Union), Nancy Schaefer (Brattleboro Memorial Hospital), Maddi Shaw (Brattleboro Reformer), Kathy Squires (Townshend Community Food Shelf), Sandy Vincent (Chester-Andover Family Center), Telos Whitfield (Healthy Harvest Network), Genna Williams (Vermont Foodbank)

**Co-Chairs:** Katherine Jandernoa and Lisa Pitcher

**Hunger Free Vermont Staff:** Anore Horton and Jenna Banning

<u>Welcome and Introductions</u>	<u>Action Steps &amp; Handouts:</u>
<p><b><u>Council Survey Results</u></b> <i>Presentation of results; discussion of future topics and timing</i></p> <p>Katherine thanked everyone who participated in the survey, and encouraged Council members to continue sharing feedback and suggestions. Anore, Jenna, Katherine, and Lisa will be meeting to review the results of the survey, which will be used to help plan for the Hunger Council’s future meetings.</p> <p>The Council discussed some of the highlights of the survey, including what the Council is interested in exploring for future meeting topics and different suggestions for people to invite to Council meetings. Jenna agreed to share the “New Member Packet” to help Council members conduct outreach and invite people from their networks to future meetings.</p>	<p><u>Handout:</u> Executive Summary of the Member Survey (attached)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Jenna will share New Member Packet with Council – see attached.</p>
<p><b><u>Vermont School Food Marketing Campaign</u></b> <i>Richard Berkfield shared updates on Food Connects’ Marketing Campaign</i></p> <p>Richard Berkfield – Richard is the Executive Director of Food Connects, and presented an overview of the Vermont School Food Marketing Campaign, a statewide campaign to increase participation in school meals. The campaign is focused on middle and high school students of all incomes, but particularly students from families with low-incomes. Richard shared a poster developed for the campaign, which includes both data on school food participation rates as well as images tied to the campaign. (See attached.) Richard asked Council members for feedback on the messaging and for suggestions on how to get feedback from teens (the target population for this campaign). Council members</p>	<p><u>Handouts and Links:</u> “Powered By Vermont School Food” flyer (attached)</p> <p>“Powered by VT School Food” facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PoweredbyVTSchoolFood/?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/PoweredbyVTSchoolFood/?fref=ts</a></p>



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<p>suggested Richard contact the Boys and Girls Club, Shelly Crawford at Bellows Falls High School, the Prevention Coalition, and the Healthy Harvest Network for interviews with teenagers. The group also strongly encouraged getting students directly involved in the marketing campaign itself, potentially through a club or by helping to create the school meal menu.</p> <p>The Council discussed the many barriers to eating a school meal, especially the stigma attached, and agreed that Universal School Meals (every student gets free school meal, not just the low-income students) are the only way to eliminate stigma. Anore Horton described what marketing already exists in school cafeterias, how “traditional” school meals differ for full-pay students and free meal students, and how Universal School Meals can operate. The Council also discussed the challenges for some schools to provide Universal School Meals.</p> <p>Richard acknowledged the importance of the Council’s suggestion to work with school food service staff, and agreed to provide an update on the Marketing Campaign’s work at the Council’s next meeting.</p>	<p><u>Action:</u> Richard will share update at March meeting.</p>
<p><b><u>Transportation Resources Flyer</u></b> <i>Presentation of draft flyer &amp; discussion</i></p> <p>Katherine and Lisa described the original intent of the Transportation Resources Flyer to provide a simple, easily-understood guide to connect people with low-incomes to transportation resources so they can access food sites. Hunger Free Vermont staff and an intern have been working on compiling information and creating a draft flyer, which the Council reviewed.</p> <p>The Council discussed different ways that the information could be presented to fit with how users might approach the guide, but ultimately decided that this guide might instead be more helpful as a reference for service providers, who could use this information to help clients meet their unique transportation needs. The Council also agreed that there should be increased and better promotion of 2-1-1, which can provide 24/7/365 individualized information. Council members agreed that they could help clients understand how to access the 2-1-1 system and what information from the guide is helpful for their situations.</p>	<p><u>Handout:</u> draft Transportation Resources Flyer (attached)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Hunger Free Vermont will revise flyer and share at the March meeting. Hunger Free Vermont will also contact Vermont 2-1-1 to see what marketing can be done to promote their resources.</p>
<p><b><u>Feeding our Communities Cookbook</u></b></p> <p><i>Emilie Kornheiser</i> – Emilie introduced a potential “feel-good” long term project. Through her work with Promise Communities and coordinating Groundworks’ volunteers, she is aware that there is not a lot of information available on how to host and serve large community meals. Emilie is interested in coordinating a call for recipes and potentially an event recognizing the folks who serve community meals.</p> <p><i>Council members shared recipes and cookbooks that could be helpful resources, and discussed what should be included in this cookbook’s creation and event, including “tips</i></p>	<p><u>Handouts/Links:</u> <i>Good and Cheap</i> (link to free pdf): <a href="http://www.leannebrown.com/">http://www.leannebrown.com/</a> New School Cuisine cookbook (attached): <a href="http://vermontfarmtoschool.org/resources/new-school-cuisine-cookbook-">http://vermontfarmtoschool.org/resources/new-school-cuisine-cookbook-</a></p>



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<p><i>and tricks” of how to host an event and calendar of regular free community meals. The Council approved of the idea to have a recipe contest, especially as a way to highlight the good work being done already to host community meals.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">nutritious-and-seasonal-recipes-school-cooks-school-cooks</a></p> <p><u>Action:</u> Emilie will share update of project at March meeting.</p>
<p><b><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></b></p> <p><i>Summer Meals Sub-Committee:</i> Sue Graff shared an update on the Summer Meals sub-committee’s work. The group will be meeting next on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 10:30 at the United Way building to start preparing for outreach and engaging natural partners.</p> <p>The group last met in December, and concluded that they need more data, particularly on where children are during the summer. They have sent out a survey to schools, and thanks in large part to the work of Kira Sawyer-Hartigan, 52 surveys were returned, mostly from WSSU. The responses showed that most respondents knew there was a summer meals program, and over half participated. Respondents also stated that their children were in many different locations during the summer, which the sub-committee will be using to shape their outreach.</p> <p>Going forward, the sub-committee will be focusing on developing new open meal sites and partners (for example, the Brattleboro Farmers Market), increasing camp participation in the summer meals, increasing outreach (potentially through local ambassadors), building relationships with institutional meal providers, and developing an idea of weekend and out-of-school programming.</p> <p><i>Sue, Anore, and the Council discussed how afterschool and summer meal programming can be helped by the presence of a school serving Universal School Meals. Anore also clarified that income data from students will still be available from schools serving USM, just not through the school meals programs.</i></p> <p><i>The Council discussed potential outreach at Town Meeting Day, which will take place before the next Town Meeting Day, and decided that sharing a flyer of food resources (attached) and the Summer Meals sub-committee’s Parent Survey (attached).</i></p>	<p><u>Action:</u> Anore Horton will share summer meal data as soon as it is available from the USDA.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Anore will call-in to next Summer Meals subcommittee meeting.</p> <p><u>Handouts:</u> Food Resources Flyer and Parent Survey (attached)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Hunger Council members will print out and share surveys at their Town Meeting Days.</p>
<p><b><u>Announcements &amp; Wrap-up</u></b></p> <p><i>Katherine Jandernoa</i> - Respondents to the Member Survey emphasized the value of the Hunger Councils for networking and information-sharing, so going forward, we will be building in more time for announcements and brainstorming as a group.</p> <p><i>Prudence McKinney</i> - Prudence shared a quick update of the eWIC rollout in the Brattleboro District Office. While there has been a learning curve, clients now shopping with eWIC have largely had positive reviews. However, there have been some issues, and the District Office’s Grocery Store Liaison has been working with the participating stores. Once the rollout is complete across the state in May, the WIC District Offices will be able to focus on internal and external improvements.</p>	<p><u>Handout:</u> Visit <a href="http://healthvermont.gov/wic/Rutland_Grocery_Stores.aspx">http://healthvermont.gov/wic/Rutland_Grocery_Stores.aspx</a> to see list of stores participating in eWIC. (It’s for all of Vermont, despite the address)</p>



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<p><i>Nancy Schaefer</i> – Brattleboro Memorial Hospital met with Groundworks to tackle homelessness issues, especially health. There have been a few focus group meetings, and the findings of these meetings will be reviewed on Monday. Brattleboro Memorial Hospital did a Cooking Demo at the Groundworks Food Shelf, and offered to conduct similar demos at other food shelves. Nancy shared a calendar of educational programming being offered by BMH, most of which is free (see attached). There’s an upcoming 4 week series focusing on changing relationships with food, and Nancy would like to develop more programming, especially in Putney and Bellows Falls.</p> <p><i>Sue Graff</i> – The United Ways is focusing on helping to provide for basic needs. The United Way is now coordinating the Kids and Coats fund, which gives all of the money raised going directly to families. Sue thanked the media for its coverage of this fund, which she hopes will stay in the public conscience during this cold season. Sue also thanked a number of local businesses and organizations for their support of the fund. Sue also shared news on two free state and federal income tax filing assistance programs: My Free Taxes, an online filing system with high income eligibility, and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), in-person tax assistance by appointment from IRS-trained volunteers. (See attached flyer) Sue also shared that May 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Saturday in May, is Free Dental Day.</p> <p><i>Sandy Vincent</i> – Sandy will be meeting with the Community Cares person in Chester to pull together information on transportation to food shelves in the community.</p> <p><i>Telos Whitfield</i> – Health Harvest Network is expanding to include more than just food shelves in its network, including Kindle Farms School and Food Connects. Telos noted that there are some very small food shelves that are opening in more outlying areas (i.e. Weathersfield) that HHN is working to connect with. <i>Sandy Vincent</i> offered to do outreach with these small food shelves and will share their contact information with the HHN.</p>	<p><u>Handout:</u> Calendar of BMH Community Health class programming (attached)</p> <p><u>Handouts:</u> United Ways “Free Tax Preparation” flyer (attached) “Kids in Coats” flyer (attached)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Sandy Vincent will contact the small food shelves opening in the Windsor region and connect them with the Healthy Harvest Network.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Hunger Free Vermont will update the list of food shelves in the region and send to the Hunger Council.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting: March 16, 2016 9:30 – 11:30am at Marlboro College in Brattleboro</b></p>	