

Healthy Franklin County - Nutrition Task Force Community Garden Committee
June 14, 2017 – Minutes

In attendance: Jay Eury (SCCAP/Gleaning Project), Debbie Boyd (Nutrition Links/Penn State), Nickie Fickel (Summit Health/CS), Kari Coleman (Manito/Laurel Life), Barb Houpt (YMCA Chambersburg), Noel Purdy (Healthy Franklin County)

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and their respective affiliations. The community garden group had not met in a while and this was a regroup.

Inventory/Mapping Update: Nickie reported that she met with the GIS staff at the County and they are going to map all food insecurity assets including existing community gardens, emergency food banks, etc - so that we can identify gaps. Debbie suggested that we work with the PA Central Food Bank GIS staff to share data on the project. A connection was made at Food Insecurity meeting (which followed the Community Garden work group meeting) with the PA Central Food Bank SNAP coordinator.

Community Gardens Connections: Kari reported that she helped facilitate a connection between residents in the Redwood neighborhood with Network Ministries. It was suggested that we reach out to Josh to see how things are going and if he needs any assistance; Noel will do this.

It was suggested that we host a training/networking event with the Master Gardeners at Network Ministries; it could take the format of a “series” every other month. The purpose could be to help community garden organizers/volunteers to build capacity. The Master Gardeners could use their curriculum and or do a gardening demonstration. It was also suggested that Boys and Girls Club staff and students could participate in trainings so they can build up to managing their own community garden on site in a year or two. (It was discussed that Boys and Girls Club may have capacity issues—I learned yesterday that they are participating in a Youth Employment Program where some of their students are getting paid to do work on site by a workforce investment board program).*

New Community Garden(s)-Scoping/Feasibility: Noel shared an updated map of residents who expressed support of and participation in community gardens from the neighborhood surrounding Southgate (include public housing). 25 said they support the concept and 22 said they would participate. Building out Network Ministries land with new gardens and or Boys and Girls Club as a new location was discussed (see above note*). While Mike Waters Park has been discussed in the past we did not discuss it at this meeting.

FCHA Meeting (and possible projects): Jay reported out on the FCHA meeting with Kari, Noel and their property managers. The FCHA will assist with outreach to their residents. FCHA has a vision/mission committee that we will route projects through to help facilitate awareness, education and support from the residents. The idea of scaling up Saturday Distro (distribute gleaned food from NSFM in the housing authority) to a full-on mobile market with a more formalized schedule and coordination was pushed back to year two or three. Noel and Nickie will do a ride along with Kari/Jay to see the current scale. It was also discussed that we could coordinate a beautification / gardening assistance DAY to help residents who may be interested. Kari has relationships with residents who would likely participate; staff will work on creating a post card to document interest so we can plan and coordinate resources. There could be a master gardeners connection here too; mid to late July was suggested. This too should be routed through FCHA vision/mission committee.

Leadership Franklin County RFP: The nutrition block party concept was discussed as a possible project to build some volunteer capacity around however the discussion did not advance toward an application. Other ideas bounced around are Nutrition Fairs, with parents; the new Nutrition Coordinator with Nutrition Links could assist with this. Noel will review nutrition block party project plans to evaluate other possible opportunities to build local capacity/partnerships.

NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 9 AT 1:30PM.

BEAUTIFICATION / GARDENING ASSISTANCE DAY

Draft project plan

Project Purpose: To build gardening skills of FCHA residents and to build trust/relationships for future partnerships.

Scale: pilot

Goal: 10 residents to participate

Partners: FCHA, SCCAP, MANITO, HFC, SERVICE CLUBS

Cost: in-kind donations of supplies and materials

Tasks/timelines

- Design interest post card – June 19-23
- Send to FCHA Staff/Vision/Mission Committee for Input – June 26
- Distribute through Saturday DISTRO and FCHA – July 3-7
- Deadline – to be sent back – July 14
- ORGANIZE partners/supplies --- July 19-23
- Project Day – July 29th???