

**ECP Meeting
January 16, 2017
Minutes**

Focus Topic: Food and Security and work of local pantries

Guest Speaker: Denise Esser from Waynesboro Community Human Services

In attendance: Ann Spottswood, Zach Horn, Melanie , Pat Connell, Lois Waters, Record Herald,

Staff: Amy Hicks, Vanessa Bigler, Cheri Kearney, Channa Divales

Mercersburg to Greencastle, Waynesboro, Fannett metal, Shippensburg and Chambersburg- all locations of food pantries that will benefit the food drive.

Denise Esser: Waynesboro Community and Human Services

Age ranged of those served: (30-50 yo range)

Open Mon-Friday, by appointment (preferred)

-Choice food bank.

-Varies in the fact that they approach from a self-serve style. Versus by just giving clients a bag of food.

-Cards made up using "my plate" function. This creates a balanced diet and goes by family size.

-Boxed and bagged, and then weighed.

-Client's food is measured by pounds, approx. 40 lbs. per family, 200 families a month, 8000 lbs. per month .

-Families can come once a month. Some have food stamps.

-Food stamps last about three weeks. Food bank serves as supplement.

-Federal poverty guidelines have not been updated since 1960. Recently has been updated?

Same numbers were being used to calculate for costs today but current inflation was not reflected in those numbers.

Adjustment made each year by a few dollars however it still is not reflective of current societal standard.

-They work with the clients by reviewing their income and mapping out wants versus needs.

-Clients come in for clothing and diaper bank and emergency financial assistance. (shut off electric/gas bill, late rent, prescription, etc)

Food Bank use is encouraged so that clients can use their money towards bills rather than use all of it on food.

Food that is distributed from food bank comes from:

-food drives

-Churches, schools, businesses

-central PA Food Bank

-Walmart, shop and save, Panera, and KFC

It sounds like a lot of donations but not all are healthy foods for families.

-Healthy foods are a big focus and highly encouraged.

-Working families: some do not have a lot of hours, some have other circumstances like a broken down vehicle and the food pantry allows them to get food so they can focus on paying the bills.

Federal guidelines are strict however the food pantries have more flexibility so they are able to assist more versus the rules regarding rent and utility assistance, etc.

Corpus Christie- Pat (older population with some families)
through St Vincent de Paul society

-for anyone, with current ID , can receive food
Mon, Tues and Friday from 9-12

Canned goods, boxed goods
Sometimes through parish or butcher shoppe
100 people a week, 758 families, 2190 people

-4984 bags of food distributed last year

-gleaning project through SCCAP
veggies, eggs, fruit

-Clients given a bag versus client picking out

-All parts of Franklin County are served

-no screening process for food, Screening is used for financial aid, which occurs once a week

Lois Waters- Christ Community Church Pantry

30-40 yo with children

-no screening

-high need for food

once a week Tues 5:30-7pm

-food and clothing pantry

all donations, mostly from church congregation

-served in 2016: 622 people

-Examples of the demographic served:

out of work, elderly, ill, those who need to supplement food stamps

Cheri asked the group what do they see as the biggest impact on families?

What is provided? It is enough to generate security for the families?

-Not a lot of feedback is generated but groups have consistent numbers.

Amy asked if baby items are in high demand.

-Church does not get a lot of requests or donations

Pat from Waynesboro- most of the baby donations goes to Women groups

Denise Esser-

Diaper bank- twice a month given out for free, some are donated but most are purchased

Baby food- some is donated, the rest comes from PA food bank.

Not a huge demand. WIC seems to help with most baby needs.

Meat and more items of "substance" are highly requested. All are able to provide meat for clients.

Amy stated that the perception is that the food banks are thought to have mostly canned and boxed goods. Most pantries can handle meat and other donations so shelf life normally is not an issue.

Denise Esser mentioned that expiration date is not always accurate. Canned foods are still good typically two years after the expiration date. She expressed the thought that they do not want clients to suffer low esteem when told this, rather to see that the food is still good and can be used. Expired dates are not preferred.

Supplemental Nutrition Program, within SNAP program.

WIC is not intended to provide a month's worth of groceries, more of three week's amount.

-This program benefits both unemployed and under-employed candidates.

-The program has been modified so that there are some that are unable to receive the benefits.

-Mostly those within 18-54 without children

Is there more of a need during the summer? (I.e. children not eating at school)

-Lois mentioned their numbers are higher during summer times.

-Request for food has gone down at Corpus Christie while rent and utility assistance has gone up.

Ann asked about backpack programs and utilization of those programs.

-Denise said the impact is hard to measure and compare as the counselors are the ones that pick the recipients.

-Some may be already clients of the food pantry.

Ann was seeking a way to correlate backpack programs so the need was addressed to the community all year long.

-Amy mentioned that she is on a committee for homeless matters/ population that is seeking to bridge the gap within the district, and throughout the community.

-Lots of groups and levels are trying to come together to serve all cohesively, but there are a lot of different areas that need to come together to address this goal.

Cheri asked if backpack programs are maintained throughout the summer.

-Most do not according to Denise.

Amy asked how do we ensure that kids have access to the backpack programs right away?

Questions on ease of opening cans or microwaveable foods.

Denise said they look at the food:

- that could be opened by a kindergartner could open and easily accessible.

Record Herald asked students about life skills, how are they being taught?

-One of the students said he is being taught by his parents. He also mentioned that while he works at Arby's, most of his money goes to his car and phone bill.

-Another student shared that some items are being taught within her classes, most of which are elective. Most skills in that area are being taught at home.

-Channa mentioned a field trip that encouraged a day of being an "adult". They were given "money" and a "job" to see how they would use their resources.

➤ Discussion on usage with multiple food banks.

Denise stated she would rather people utilize the food banks so that they are paying their bills.

Cheri mentioned that SCCAP works with clients to measure the gaps for their lives and assists them with finding resources that addresses those gaps.

➤ Discussion:

The idea of making the connection to local businesses and easing the process so that food can be donated .

-How can we connect?

-How can we create a smooth process?

-How can we ease concern of food safety and legal issues?

Education on outreach by Food Pantries:

Denise has done some education and wants to do more, was not really well received.

- Attendance was hard to encourage.

Corpus Christi does not provide any education outreach.

Ann mentioned circumstances prevent education.

Produce outreach program in Shippensburg – Clients were given a cookbook instead of classes, it was really well received.

-The cookbook encouraged usage for newer or different items.

-Farm program at Wilson- another example of vegetables that are given but a cookbook allows them to know what or how to prepare a vegetable.

Meeting ended at 12:10pm