

Healthy Franklin County Nutrition Task Force
Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce
Garden Workshop

Minutes – August 10, 2016

Introductions: Kari Coleman (Laural Life/Manito), Jay Eury (SCCAP), Nickie Fickel (Summit Health), Elizabeth Grant (Franklin County), Sarah Hamel (YMCA/Franklin County), Barb Houpt (YMCA), Karen Johnston (HCP), Geof Lambert (Costa Academy), Chris Mayer (Wilson College), Nicole Nicholson (Franklin County Head Start), Julie Patterson (Falling Springs), Noel Purdy (Chambersburg Chamber), Guy Shaul (Boro of Chambersburg), Ann Spottswood (Summit Health), Taurus Steal, Judy Stenger, Tom Stenger, Bob Whitmore (Healthy Franklin County), Lori Young (Franklin County)

Background/History: Nickie Fickel with Summit Health explained the history of how the community garden concept evolved from the CHNA, to the Healthy Franklin County Nutrition Task Force (NFCNTF), to today. Noel Purdy explained her involvement with another committee that is focusing on building a healthier community through economy, coupled with strategies identified in the Downtown Master Plan which include community gardens. Noel Purdy discussed the committee meeting that was held last month with various stakeholders regarding community gardens, and it was determined that that committee should merge with the one started under the HFCNTF. Nickie shared the proposed Community Garden Project Plan FY 2016/2017 which the group reviewed and guided the discussion (it is attached to the minutes).

Mapping of Gardens: The committee that met last month agreed that one of the first steps in assessing need was to map an inventory of existing community gardens. Elizabeth Grant presented a first draft of that map to the group and explained how the map could be used, i.e. determine locations of existing and future gardens, classifying different uses (education, food, demonstration, etc.), and for general planning purposes.

Discussion of Project Plan: Through this discussion, the group determined that the geographic focus of the inventory should be the Chambersburg Area School District footprint as we know that certain census tracts within this boundary are identified as high-priority target areas for providing access to fresh and healthy vegetables. The group agreed that through this initial phase, outputs would be building a program, creating best practices and rolling out to other areas in the County, such as Waynesboro. The group also discussed defining what a “community garden” is. It was suggested that in tandem with completing the inventory, that a survey be created that could be distributed to various stakeholders to help determine “need”.

It was also decided that a profile form be created that existing gardens can complete to be mapped. The form could also determine what resource existing gardens need to help sustain their efforts (i.e. volunteers, funding, supplies, etc.).

The group briefly discussed the potential need for a community gardens coordinator paid position. This person would be responsible for the coordination of all the gardens within Franklin County. It was suggested to speak with the Master Gardener’s to learn what they do before this is pursued any further.

Community Film Night – Group agreed that helping with the community film night is a good opportunity to let the community know that this is group forming, get people interested and excited in gardens, and

help us assess and gather info on gardens and the needs/resources they may or may not have. Film night will be held September 15th from 5:30-6:30.

Next Steps: The committee members were encouraged to send locations of community gardens to Elizabeth.

- Elizabeth will send out a spreadsheet that will list community gardens so committee members can fill-in and send back. A profile form will be created to help gather this info as well.
- Noel and Nickie will work on a draft survey (using the toolkit that is available through resources at www.communitygarden.org) and send to the committee for feedback. The survey, once approved, could be distributed through various organizations and community networks, including the North Square Farmer's Market.
- Elizabeth will sit on the panel discussion at the Community of Gardeners film night on September 15
- Committee members are encouraged to think about serving as chair and vice chair of the workgroup; those interested were requested to loop back to Nickie.

Next Meeting: October 12th at 1:30 in the Sentry Trust Building (785 5th Ave) 1st Floor Board Room