

Healthy Franklin County Nutrition Task Force
Food Insecurity Work Group
June 14, 2017

Meeting 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), Denise Esser (Waynesboro Community & Human Services), Tara Davis (Central PA Food Bank).

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and their respective affiliations. Jay introduced Tara Davis, SNAP Outreach Manager for the Central PA Food Bank.

Tara Davis, Outreach Manager for the Central PA Food Bank

The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributes more than 48 million pounds of food and grocery products, equivalent to more than 40 million meals, every year to more than 900 soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries in 27 central Pennsylvania counties. These agencies directly feed thousands of hungry families throughout central Pennsylvania.

The Central PA Food Bank took over the SNAP (food stamps) initiative three years ago.

- Established a hot line that screens for eligibility for food stamps
- Provide technical assistance to Franklin County Assistance with applications and screening (streamlined the process and shortened the application in recent years)
- A bilingual helpline is available
- English/Spanish rack cards are available

Other programs include military share, youth, fresh food.

Senior vouchers for farmers markets are available through the Area Agency on Aging.

Ms. Davis will connect Nickie with their GIS staff to help with Franklin County food insecurity asset mapping project.

It was also discussed that opportunities for HFC include creating an lobbying/advocacy work group. The Central PA Food Bank recently hired a full time Director of Advocacy.

A discussion was had about the difficulty of creating programs that address only symptoms of system issues; lobbying and policy reform should be a focus area for HFC and partners.