



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
October 5th, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: *LTC Tathetra Joseph, Fort Bragg Co-chair
Shella Korch, Public Health Representative
Dr. Anicca Cox, Community Representative
Lauren Tyler, Community Representative
Stephanie White, Fort Bragg Schools Representative
Candace Scott, Child and Adult Care Representative*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative
Sabrina Steigelman, Cumberland County Schools Representative
Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Local Government Representative
Natasha Randall, Local Government Representative*

STAFF PRESENT: *Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Cumberland County Grants Manager
Crispi Abono, Intern
Callia Cox, Intern*

PUBLIC: *Hannah Darr, UNC Intern
Jeannie Romanello, Rye Family Farms*

Item 1. Call to Order:

LTC Joseph welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

a. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by *LTC Joseph*. Quorum was met based on current membership status.

a. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: *LTC Joseph* moved to approve the Food Policy Council meeting agenda.

VOTE: *Approved (5 - 0)*

b. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting August 3, 2022



MOTION: *Lauren Tyler* moved to approve the Minutes from August 3, 2022

SECOND: *Sheila Korch*

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0)

a. Special Programming

i. Introduction of Interns

1. *Crispi Abono* will be interning with the FPC from July 27th to October 30th, 2022. Crispi is a soldier in the United States Army and an Occupational Therapy Assistant by trade. He is also earning his MPH in Population Health Informatics from the City University of New York.
2. *Callia Cox* will be interning with the FPC from September to May 2023. Callia is training to be a registered dietitian and currently earning her MPH in Nutrition from UNC-Chapel Hill.

ii. Fort Bragg Updates

1. *Hannah Darr* presented a review of her practicum project related to Fort Bragg Food Insecurity. The project encompassed conducting national and local research, individual Food Pantry client interviews, organization interviews (Food Policy Council, Army, Bragg'N'Barn Thift Store, New Parent Support Program, North Post Commissary, South Post Commissary, Family Advocacy Program, ACS Financial Readiness/Army Emergency Relief, Relocation Readiness Program, and Cumberland County SNAP), and ideas to implement change. Based on the interviews conducted, the Fort Bragg causal factors of food insecurity include inability to find child care, ineligibility for SNAP/access to healthy food, PCS'ing (Permanent Change of Station), car payments, and inflation/cost of gas, financial education, timely military reimbursements, and individual and organizational awareness of issues and resource programs. Based on the research, the next steps to address Fort Bragg food insecurity is to establish work groups/ resource touchpoint meetings, populations-specific marketing materials, create centralized resource platforms, and connect with DODEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) schools. Hannah also designed digital ads that can be used to advertise resources.
2. *LTC Joseph* highlighted the absence of a WIC office on Fort Bragg and the importance of advertising the Cumberland County Mobile WIC unit
3. *Candance Scott* asked if within Hannah's interviews, did food pantry users express that they tried to use the services through DDS? Hannah explained that most interviewees expressed they are interested in military-affiliated childcare but faced with the barriers of cost and access.



4. The DDS had openings for childcare, therefore this is an example of a resource information gap.

Item 2. Executive Reports

- a. Co-Chair
- b. Acting Secretary *Veronica Feliciano* was not in attendance.

Item 3. Action Items

- a. Secretary Election
 - i. *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* suggested that the FPC interns take the secretary responsibilities as a part of their job duties. This will include taking notes, writing memos, writing meeting minutes, establishing meeting agendas, and dissemination for FPC meetings and ad-hoc committee meetings as necessary.
 - ii. *Candance Scott* mentioned that it is hard for FPC members to take notes during their ad-hoc meetings, therefore support from the interns would be helpful.
MOTION: LTC Joseph moved to accept FPC interns as acting secretaries.
SECOND: Candance Scotts
VOTE: Unanimous (6-0)
- b. Special meeting date/recruitment of new members
 - i. With the recent resignations, there are 5 applicants who have expressed interest in joining the FPC. A special meeting will need to be held for applicants to introduce themselves and for FPC members to vote for the special election.
 - Available positions:
 - (1) Higher Education, (1) Cumberland County Co-Chair, (1) Representative from healthcare, public health, food insecurity/food access, or adult care,
 - (2) Representative from local farming agriculture.
 - ii. Proposed dates/times for the special meeting are Wednesday October 12th 12pm or 5pm and Wednesday October 26th 12pm or 5pm
 - Based on the doodle poll, October 26th at 5pm will work best
 - iii. *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* also explained that current members need to decide if they would like to stay on the board for the 2023-2024 year.



Item 4. Informational & Discussion Items

a. Ad-hoc Committee Assignments

i. WIC/EBT Access

1. The committee is interested in getting the local farmers' markets to accept SNAP/WIC. The committee has reached out to local farmers' markets (Dirt Bag, Downtown Market, Nathan Crew's future FM)
2. Dirt Bag and the Downtown Market did not express interest; however, Nathan and his business partner are interested in piloting. Future actions will be dedicated to creating buy-in and establishing this pilot.
3. *Anicca Cox* explained that a resource guide on expanding SNAP to the farmer's markets has been identified and it is best practice for the market to accept SNAP, rather than individual farmers at the market. Also, the pilot market with Nathan Crew will require funds. She was also concerned if it is necessary to continue with this ad-hoc committee, since there were no farmers interested in using SNAP/EBT, more importantly, due to lack of funding/support.
4. *Lauren Tyler* mentioned that *Nathan Crew* is currently under the Urban Agriculture Program grant (\$50,000) to help food insecurity efforts started by Urban Ministry, the Food Banks, and the Botanical Gardens. She added that there is a possibility for soldiers to volunteer at the Botanic Garden and earn hours that can count towards promotion. Finally, she stressed that *Christ Koffman*, who is the CEO of the Botanic Garden, is willing to participate in the FPC and any project that is geared to giving back to the community. The FPC could potentially partner with the Botanical Gardens and FTCC to deliver produce boxes to the food bank at least three times a week. Also, the Botanical Garden will be applying for a grant this fall related to sustainability.
5. *LTC Joseph* suggested that the FPC collaborates with *Nathan Crew* and the Botanical Gardens to pilot a farmers' market that accepts SNAP/WIC. *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* expressed that the FPC will look into additional funding from the Health Department and external grants to support the pilot and provided further explanation that the previous allocated funds for the WIC/EBT group had to be redirected to support advertisements and messaging due to timing constraints of the *Healthy Cities* grant which ended September 30, 2022.



ii. Transportation

- Committee members were not in attendance
- *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* explained that the ad-hoc committee has a goal of expanding transit services to Hope Mills and is determining if current bus routes include the Food Pantry. In addition, Dr. Green has provided contacts for the transportation system to foster future collaboration.

iii. Communication & Outreach

- *Stephanie White* reported that the committee has reviewed how to submit requests using the Public Information Office. Also, the committee has created flyers and verbiage for the ads/PSAs. In the future the committee is looking to revamp the FPC webpage. *Stephanie White* also emphasized that initiatives must be advertised 30 days prior to the event, so it is important to have information sent to the ad-hoc committee/PIO in a timely fashion.
- *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* confirmed that the PSAs will be running from now to the end of December. The PSAs are running weekly through *Beasley Media Group*.

b. November/December FPC Meetings

- i. Wednesday, November 2nd @ 5pm has been previously published.
- ii. Wednesday, December 7th @ 12pm has been previously published
- iii. According to the bylaws, FPC meetings must be monthly and any changes to to dates/times must be made public.
- iv. Advertisement of ad-hoc committee meetings/FPC meetings
 - Each committee needs to send their dates
 - A memo 7 days prior to meetings must go out
 - Minutes must be made public within 7 days after a meeting



c. Introduction of Visitors

- i. *Jeannie Romanello* from Rye Family Farms was invited by Lauren Tyler

d. Public Comment

- i. *Jeannie Romanello* is a local micro greens producer, and she currently works with

local students to teach them how to work with microgreens and highlight their nutritional benefits. She is interested in learning how she can help the FPC and how she can enroll to accept SNAP. Jeannie Romanello`s questions were answered through the WIC/EBT access ad-hoc Committee discussion.

e. Announcements

- i. *Candance Scott* notes that there is a lot of duplication of funding between the private and public sectors due to lack of communication/touchpoint meetings. Candance will ask Derek from the City of Fayetteville if the FPC can access some of the funds if the FPC work is related to qualified census tracks in the city. Candance will follow up with LTC Joseph and Martina Sconiers-Talbert.

ADJOURN

MOTION: *LTC Joseph* moves to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: *Candance Scott*

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

This meeting was adjourned at *1:23PM*.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 5pm