



**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
April 6, 2022, 12:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: *LTC Tathetra Joseph, Fort Bragg Co-chair
Sandy Ammons, Cumberland County Co-chair
Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative
Dr. Anicca Cox, Community Representative
Lauren Tyler, Community Representative
Nathan Crew, Local Agriculture Representative
Dr. Dana Kolbfleisch, Higher Education Representative
Sabrina Steigelman, Cumberland County Schools Representative
Shella Korch, Public Health Representative
Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Local Government Representative*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Aaron Paplaczky, Agriculture Representative
Stephanie White, Fort Bragg Schools Representative
Yahaira Nadermann, Secretary/Food Access Representative
Candace Scott, Child and Adult Care Representative
Natasha Randall, Local Government Representative*

STAFF PRESENT: *Sheena Butler, Food Policy Council Liaison
Hannah Darr, UNC Intern*

Item 1. Call to Order:

Sandy Ammons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

a. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by *Sandy Ammons*. Quorum was met.

b. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: *Dr. Kenjuana McCray* moved to approve the Food Policy Council meeting agenda.

SECOND: *Lauren Tyler*

VOTE: *Approved (9 - 0)*



c. Approval of Minutes: *Regular Meeting March 2, 2022; Special Meeting March 23, 2022*

MOTION: *Shella Korch* moved to correct the Food Policy Council meeting minutes from the March 2nd meeting on page 4 to read “*Shella Korch replied by addressing that she is working with Lauren Tyler to try and make this possible through a grant proposal submission for the Cumberland County American Rescue Plan Recovery Funds. Cumberland County is currently reviewing all submissions and bid awards will be announced when that is complete.*”

SECOND: *Dr. Kenjuana McCray*

MOTION: *Nate Crew* moved to approve the Food Policy Council meeting minutes from the regular and special meetings in March.

SECOND: *Dr. Kenjuana McCray*

VOTE: *Unanimous (9 - 0)*

Item 2. Executive Reports:

a. Co-chairs

Sandy Ammons welcomed LTC Joseph to the group as the Fort Bragg Co-chair.

b. Secretary

No executive report.

Item 3. Informational & Discussion Items:

a. *Jam Board Discussion*

Hannah Darr

Hannah Darr introduced a roadmap laying out the plans for the April FPC meeting, May FPC meeting, and Community Forum. She reviewed the key challenges identified in the Jam Board activity from last meeting: transportation, manpower, community involvement, inflation, COVID, engagement/burnout among volunteers, nutrition education, low program attendance, and few opportunities to sell produce. She also reviewed potential partners highlighted through the activity: FTCC Horticulture Club, ASYMCA, NC Co-Op Extension, Cumberland County & Fort Bragg Schools, Future Farmers of America, Garden at Glenville Kate, Cape Fear Botanical Garden, local farms/farmer’s markets, Murchison Choice Neighborhood project.



Hannah Darr reviewed the components of the sustainable food system: production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and surplus/waste. Sheena and Hannah organized the ideas from the Jam Board activity into the sustainable food system components. Production, distribution, and access were key themes from the discussion last meeting.

Production	Processing	Distribution	Access	Consumption	Surplus/Waste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban agriculture spaces Community gardens Education about home gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connections between farmers and community members Connections between farmers and corner stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation problems Volunteer availability Mobile delivery Centralized farmer's market in Cumberland County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer's markets Produce boxes Change Dirt Bag Farmer's market to Saturday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation/Cost barriers Education about fresh produce preparation Nutrition education in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh produce waste in food pantries Focus on sustainability and care for natural resources

Sandy Ammons asked the council if there was anything from the chart of ideas that the council thought could be recommendations to the county. She mentioned that the council had talked about removing barriers for local farmers to sell produce to the public. She asked if anyone had thought about what those barriers were.

Veronica Feliciano replied that she would encourage the council to come to a conclusion about a first goal or milestone.

Sandy Ammons asked if *Veronica* had a recommendation about a first goal.

Veronica Feliciano said that her first recommendation would be to collect existing resources and decide if we would serve as a connector between existing organizations or programs or a group that would create new programs. *Veronica* suggested that a database of existing resources be created.

Hannah Darr replied that creating a database was a project that we had discussed having as a resource on the Food Policy Council website. She mentioned that *Veronica* made a good point about are we serving as conduits to help connect existing resources or creating something new.

Sheena Butler replied that the purpose of the food pantry tours throughout March was to help council members get a better sense of existing resources in the community.



She mentioned that we are not aiming to recreate the wheel but rather add on to existing services and “connect the dots.”

LTC Joseph asked who is responsible for getting the word out about existing services to underprivileged communities. She noted that if the messaging is not in place, usually nothing else works.

Dr. Cox replied that maybe one of the policy recommendations could be about information systems. Another policy recommendation could resolve around opportunity zones. For example, the County could create a free space in an opportunity zone for farmers to sell produce.

Sandy Ammons asked if Sheena could talk about the health department’s role in all of this. She also mentioned that she does not see the council creating the initiatives to distribute food but rather providing recommendations.

Sheena Butler replied that the health department’s role with the Food Policy Council was to create the council through the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge. The health department will still be supportive of the council after the summer. Sheena shared that the Food Policy Council website should be made available soon.

Sandy Ammons asked what the address of the website would be.

Sheena Butler replied www.cumberlandcountync.gov/foodpolicycouncil.

Sandy Ammons asked if it was possible to create a vanity URL as a shortcut to the website.

Sheena Butler stated that she could ask the PIO office if that was possible. She also stated that the website could be advertised through Community Food Strategies, which is the central hub for Food Policy Council information in North Carolina.

Sandy Ammons asked if the website would be accessible to the average citizen.

Sheena Butler replied yes.



Sandy Ammons stated that the website sounds like a good starting point and more could be added to it later on, like for example an interactive map. She asked when the website would be available.

Sheena Butler stated that edits were submitted last week, and she would check in with PIO.

Sandy Ammons asked how the word could be spread about the website.

Sheena Butler stated that organizations represented on the council could share the website via their social media platforms.

Sandy Ammons asked if a social media page could be set up for the council through PIO.

Sheena Butler replied that she was unsure if the council would be able to create their own social media page but would have access to advertise through the health department page.

Sandy Ammons stated that posting resources through social media could be a good avenue to get the word out about community resources.

Lauren Tyler stated that partnering with community organizations would be her recommendation to help underserved neighborhoods as well as making actionable goals.

LTC Joseph stated that she agrees with the partnering idea. She said that partnering Fort Bragg organizations would be a great way to spread the word. Looking at the stats for Fort Bragg were very disturbing to her considering that these soldiers and families are also serving in uniform.

Sheena Butler replied that the council could also help bridge gaps through partnerships. She asked how partnerships fit in with the components of the sustainable food system and the council's future goals.



Sandy Ammons stated that the council has broad long-term goals. She said step one sounds like the website/social media to help connect and spread information/communicate.

Dr. Cox stated that the food environment assessment report helped give the council a focal point for their efforts through opportunity zones. She asked how production, distribution, access, and education could be brought together in the opportunity zones.

Sandy Ammons asked if the council wanted to pick 3 opportunity zones to focus efforts.

Lauren Tyler stated that the Bunce Road neighborhood would be an opportunity zone. Mr. Pate is willing to help provide 30 produce boxes every other week to the neighborhood.

Nathan Crew stated that one of the other focal sites should be Fort Bragg. He stated that more and more people are wanting to get involved in production. He stated that if Fort Bragg had a farmer's market there are several veteran farmers he knows who would be interested in participating. He would like to see the gap between production and consumption be closed through education.

Dr. Cox stated that the council needs to think about funding and budgeting with Fort Bragg and Cumberland County.

Hannah Darr stated that online participants were having a bit of trouble hearing with in-person participants were not speaking directly into the microphone.

Lauren Tyler asked if the council had funding for initiatives.

Sheena Butler stated that the council would have to look into other grants for initiatives.

Sandy Ammons asked if there were any funds remaining in the current grant to utilize.

Sheena Butler stated that there was only funding to complete the community forum.



Sandy Ammons clarified that the council would then have resources available through the county but would not have a budget.

Dr. Cox asked if the Food Policy Council could be funded through the county.

Sandy Ammons stated that the council could go to the county with a plan and request funding.

Sheena Butler stated that the County Commissioners are supportive of the council and approved of establishing the council before there was even a single member appointed.

Hannah Darr stated that Veronica had put a few comments in the chat.

Veronica Feliciano stated that she is trying to tie together everything that has been said thus far. She stated that with a two-year appointment it can be a little overwhelming. Perhaps the council could select two themes per year to focus efforts. She stated that education should be a part of everything that is done. She stated that campaign messages should be clear and consistent.

b. Committee Assignments

Sandy Ammons

Hannah Darr reviewed the guidelines for creating ad-hoc committees from the by-laws. Ad-hoc committees can be established around a certain theme/project with a majority vote of the council. They are open to both council members and community members.

Veronica Feliciano stated that splitting up themes into different project teams could be a good way of accomplish work faster.

Nathan Crew stated that at the next meeting each council member could bring an idea of a focus area, and the council could vote to select three areas. Then the council could break into ad-hoc committees for each of the areas to address the goals and needs specific to the community.

Sandy Ammons asked if Nate had three areas in mind.



Nathan Crew stated that off the top of his head Fort Bragg would be one of his top choices.

Sheena Butler stated that the PowerPoint contains information from Dr. McGuirt about recommended areas and ideas. She also stated that working in groups could allow council members to work in an area that suits individual interests.

Hannah Darr stated that community members and organizations could be invited to the community forum, which would allow extend time to work through specific goals.

Veronica Felicano stated that she would prefer to stay away from a specific geographic zone to ensure that other community members/areas were not excluded. She wants to be sure that no one is excluded either intentionally or non-intentionally.

Sandy Ammons asked if Veronica thought the council should stay away from identifying opportunity zones.

Veronica Felicano replied that she thought the council should be careful not to exclude parts of the community, but efforts could still be focused in certain areas.

Sandy Ammons stated that education and communication initiatives could be county-wide but other efforts could be focused.

LTC Joseph stated that what she was hearing from the conversation was that opportunity zones could serve as a "pilot." Efforts could be expanded based on what has worked well.

Dr. McCray stated that she agreed with starting with opportunity zones, as those areas are lacking in available resources.

Sandy Ammons stated that the council should be watching the Murchison Choice Neighborhood Project. To summarize, she stated that the council seems to want to focus on opportunity zones, use the website/social media to connect with partners/farmers/citizens, and that education should be a focus in all of the efforts. Sandy stated that the council had previously talked about having a policy and an outreach subcommittee. She asked if the council thought they were big enough to have more than two subcommittees.



Hannah Darr stated that the project team had talked about having two or three ad-hoc committees, depending on what the council decides.

Sandy Ammons asked if there were other committee ideas the project team had thought about.

Hannah Darr stated that the project team had discussed the idea of committees organizing around a specific component of the sustainable food system. She said that it depends on whether the council wants to organize around a specific topic/project or in a more cross-sectional approach.

Sandy Ammons said that she would suggest the council start small with policy and outreach and consider adding more in the future. She asked council members to think about what committee they would like to be a part of and would like each council member to serve on one committee. She stated that during the May meeting the council could settle on goals/objectives for each committee and present these ideas to the public at the community forum. Sandy said she would work on writing up a description for these committees.

Sheena Butler asked if the council wanted to vote to finalize the ad-hoc committees or wait until the May meeting.

Dr. Cox asked the agriculture representatives where they would best see themselves fitting in with these two proposed committee ideas.

Lauren Tyler stated that she would see herself on the outreach committee.

Nathan Crew said that he could himself and Aaron on either committee. For him, the area of focus is more important.

LTC Joseph asked if Nate would see himself serving on one committee and Aaron serving on the other.

Nathan Crew replied that they could probably both go either way.



Lauren Tyler stated as a long-time Fayetteville native and a veteran that community outreach was important to her, especially since she has previously started outreach projects through petitions.

Sandy Ammons stated that she would write up priorities and share them with the council for comments.

c. Member Comments or Concerns

Sandy Ammons

There were no further member comments or concerns.

d. Setting Smart Goals

Sheena Butler

Sheena Butler shared that the purpose of the community forum is to gather thoughts from stakeholders about ideas. She stated that the goals the council makes should always be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. She said that some people use SMART to include inclusion and equity. The long-term goal would be to create an action plan for the council's future work.

Dr. Cox shared that she has been sharing all of the information from the council with her students. She said that her students created an infographic about the data that was presented to the council, and her students are working on a podcast on the topic of learning about food insecurity as young people.

Sheena Butler stated that the youth are a key part of the council's work. She said that she has seen schools and councils work together on campaigns.

e. Introduction of Visitors

Sandy Ammons

Sandy Ammons introduced Hannah Prentice-Dunn, who is a project manager at UNC.

Hannah Prentice-Dunn thanked the council for allowing her to listen in. She informed the council about the beacon demo at Fort Bragg on May 5th from 2-4pm. She stated that she works on a host of public health topics with UNC and Fort Bragg. She stated that the beacon project is about sending positive messages to encourage people to make healthy choices.



LTC Joseph stated that the beacon project could be an opportunity to spread messaging about the Food Policy Council.

Hannah Prentice-Dunn stated that it was helpful for her to listen in on the priorities the council was discussing and how they could potentially align with the other public health projects she is working on with Fort Bragg.

Sandy Ammons asked if Hannah had any recommendations for the council or if she thought they were on the right track.

Hannah Prentice-Dunn stated that the current health director, LTC Pearce, is very supportive of food insecurity work, as the Fort Bragg community survey identified food insecurity as a concern.

Sheena Butler shared about the North Post Commissary tour that her and Dr. Cox attended the previous week. She said that the commissary focuses on younger soldiers and providing healthy, easy to prepare options. Maureen McCarthy, the director, views the store as a classroom. The store provides a prep box option for grab and go meal options.

Dr. Cox stated that it was interesting to think about the intersections between distribution, access, and education.

LTC Joseph stated that the North Post Commissary does a wonderful job. She said that they have Facebook pop up cooking demonstrations. She thinks that the Food Policy Council should also focus on soldiers who do not live in the barracks.

Hannah Prentice-Dunn stated that she thinks the council is on track, especially with the ideas about piloting ideas with opportunity zones and thinking about how to best include everyone. She stated that she would help make sure that folks on Fort Bragg are aware of the Food Policy Council goals.

b. Public Comment

No public comment.

c. Announcements

Sheena Butler announced that the Community Resilience Event was this afternoon from 3:30-5pm. Nate will be the celebrity interviewer.



Sheena Butler announced that Shella and Lauren participated in a video with the health education department about health equity. The video is being promoted this week for National Public Health Week.

Sheena Butler announced that the project team was looking to submit an abstract about the food environment assessment to APHA.

Sheena Butler announced that the May council meeting will be focused on policy and looking at successful community policy examples. The community forum will be May 18th from 9am-2pm.

Hannah Darr stated that the agenda for the community forum would be available on BaseCamp soon for feedback. The agenda will be approved at the May council meeting.

Hannah Darr shared that she, Travis, and Sheena tabled at the North Post Commissary on Monday for 3 hours to spread the word about the Food Policy Council.

Sandy Ammons stated that everyone is welcome to come tour the FTCC food pantry with her after the meeting.

Hannah Darr announced that the Military Family Advisory Network would be hosting a drive through food distribution event at Manna Church on April 30th. They are looking to serve ~800 military/veteran families.

ADJOURN

MOTION: *Lauren Tyler* moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: *Nathan Crew*

VOTE: *Unanimous (9 - 0)*

The meeting was adjourned at *1:15 PM*.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: *Next Meeting May 4, 2022, 5:00 PM*