



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

May 4th, 2022 @ 5:00 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
 Sabrina Steigelman, Cumberland County Schools Representative
 Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Local Government Representative
 Aaron Paplaczyk, 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
 Dr. Dana Kolbfleisch, Higher Education Representative*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Shella Korch, Public Health Representative*

STAFF PRESENT: *Hannah Darr, UNC Intern
 Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Cumberland County Grants Manager
 Dr. Jennifer Green, Cumberland County Health Director*

Item 1. Call to Order:

Sandy Ammons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 05:02 PM.

- a. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by *Hannah Darr*. Quorum was met.

- b. Approval of Agenda

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

SECOND: *Candace Scott*



VOTE: *Approved* (14 - 0)

- c. Approval of Minutes: *Regular Meeting April 6, 2022*

MOTION: *Dr. Kenjuana McCray* moved to approve the Minutes for April 6, 2022.

SECOND: *Candace Scott*

VOTE: *Unanimous* (14 - 0)

Item 2. Executive Reports:

- a. Co-chairs

LTC Tathetra Joseph & Sandy Ammons

No executive report.

- b. Secretary

Yaya Nadermann (Secretary) will be leaving the FPC in June 2022. A motion to elect a new secretary was presented, to which no one volunteered. Sandy Ammons informed the council that the by-laws require the FPC to have a secretary and that further conversations will be had with the council to fill the vacancy.

Item 3. Informational & Discussion Items:

- a. HCCC Grant Recap

Dr. Jennifer Green

The HCCC Grant started with a partnership between the Cumberland and Fort Bragg Health Department, UNC Greensboro, and UNC-Chapel Hill. For the last year, conversations about projects about healthy food access have been addressed, such as a WIC office on Fort Bragg. The team regularly joined throughout the year leading to the grant awarded in July 2020. The grant was a two-year, \$100,000 grant to advance health equity and improve access to foods that support healthy eating patterns. Uniquely, the food policy council encompasses county and military installation partnerships.

The first initial meetings commenced around September 2020 with an aim and approach as follows:

Aim: Leverage our multi-sector partnership to systematically address and overcome local barriers to healthy food access in Cumberland County and Fort Bragg.

Approach: Ground our strategies in equity-informed practices and co-create a tailored plan of action and sustainable solutions with residents through authentic community engagement.



The grant goals include establishing a Cumberland County-Fort Bragg Policy Council, completing a resident-led food system assessment that provides at least three policy recommendations, and implementing at least two policy, system, or environmental priorities.

The grant year one strategy included completing the food system assessment and establishing the joint county/installation food policy council.

The council can shift from providing food to "What policy do I need to change to improve food insecurities?" and investigate funding and policy changes to make a more significant impact. Likewise, the collective efforts of the council members provide a more prominent voice than an individual seeking changes/policy.

b. Review Big Policy & Little Policy

Hannah Darr

Little p policies are organizational policies that impact institutions, departments, and agencies that do not require elected official approval. For example, a local food bank provides 15% fresh, locally grown produce to its participants. Big p policies are public policies that require elected officials' approval, including policies such as tax incentives or county zoning ordinances.

Review of April Discussion presented by Sandy Ammons

1. Identify pathways and opportunity zones
 2. Facilitate the gathering and distribution of information
 3. Promote health information and opportunities (website and social media)
 4. Create partnerships
 5. Remove barriers to access for low-income families
 6. Educate citizens and those who produce food about access and opportunities.
- c. Presentation of Policy Ideas from the Council & Establish the Purpose of the Council
Open Discussion

Nathan Crew provided a resource adding to the discussion of goals and needs in the county (in Docs & Files)



Veronica Feliciano added that it would be beneficial to add policies from the state and federal levels, including programs. This information will help narrow down what policies are needed.

Dr. Kenjuana McCray added that it's essential to know what policy exists to provide feedback on the new policy.

Sandy Ammons asked if the policy council knew the status of the food tax. *Dr. Jennifer Green* notes that she can investigate the policy that currently exists.

Hannah Darr contributes that Indiana has no tax on food.

Veronica Feliciano adds that fried food is taxed higher than healthy food as incentives in some areas. She brings forth Walmart employee discounts when purchasing healthy food, and these are models that can be used to further the FPC agenda.

Sabrina Steigelman mentions that North Carolina has a 4.7% tax rate, and it's up to local counties to tax an additional 2% tax. Cumberland taxes an extra 1%.

Dr. Jennifer Green adds the potential to advocate for food codes concerning USDA.

Hannah Darr expresses that resources are available titled Food Systems Cross Talk that help create a framework for the discussion. It covers the Sustainable Food System, where subcategories are identified: production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and surplus/waste.

Veronica Feliciano references last month's discussion where opportunity zones and production/distribution/process were going to be established in the subcommittees.

Hannah Darr says that by the end of May 18th, the subcommittees will be established.

Aaron Paplaczky adds how he developed the ideas and courses of action presented earlier. The goal is to make it last after the committee is "gone." Big emphasis on education and finances is the number one driver. He analyzes the factors we face now with inflation and housing costs going up.

Detailed Courses of Action:

1. Partner with local institutions to proctor financial education classes.
2. Work with Cumberland County School District to implement the Foundation in Personal Finance in Middle School and High School
3. Work with CCS and Ft. Bragg Schools to develop classes or curriculum to expose and teach children about subjects such as gardening, farming, and composting.
4. Work with Fayetteville Parks and Recreation and the NC Agriculture Extension to develop classes to teach adults, families, and kids about gardening.



5. Develop plan to purchase and provide healthy locally sourced food to individuals and families who are on a fixed income due to chronic health issues and disabilities.

Dr. Anicca Cox remarks on promoting or incentive funding, setting standards, and prohibiting. "What is the zoning around land use discouraging agriculture for farmers, and are there existing incentives?"

Dr. Jennifer Green comments that people are more likely to respond when we provide incentives. Therefore, how do we incentivize, and how do we make that sustainable through policy change?

Dr. Anicca Cox asks if there are any community kitchens in the area and zoning.

Nathan Crew answers *Dr. Green* on the incentives for farming. He adds on the potential of a waste management container with wood chippings (mulch).

Veronica Feliciano provides input on the potential of a seed sharing program to start your garden that can cultivate a four-seasons approach and incorporate the agencies that *Aaron* consolidated.

Nathan Crew adds that access to local resources to enrich our soil is relevant to growing the idea of local gardens and helping local farmers. The state controls the woodchips at the Waste Management facilities. (Wilkes County)

Sandy Ammons indicates that providing support for situations like *Nathan's* is something that the policy can address. Local carbon enriches local soil to help local systems.

Sandy Ammons expresses an interest in incentives for homegrown gardens.

Lauren Tyler mentions that there are opportunities to educate people on how to grow gardens.

Sandy Ammons asks *Sabrina Steigelman* what steps the Cumberland County School is taking to educate students.



Sabrina Steigelman mentions that students must take financial literacy to graduate, which helps connect healthy living and financial stability. Tying gardening to the school curriculum has not been established, but some schools have greenhouse gardens.

Aaron Paplaczuk references the middle school in Hoke County that has established a garden and how we can utilize their framework to successfully implemented it in other schools.

Sabrina Steigelman comments on a Master Gardening Class offered through the botanical gardens.

Veronica Feliciano adds on encouraging students' programs through sponsorship.

Sabrina Steigelman shares her experience visiting a green school in Wake County. The magnet elementary school had garden towers in every classroom and learned gardening concepts.

Dr. Kenjuana McCray shifts the conversation on what is available for people with disabilities. There are local government programs as addressed by *Hannah Darr*.

Dr. Annica Cox emphasizes how community gardens are not year-round and the importance of education.

Martina Sconiers-Talbert remarks on the importance of creating a green school on Fort Bragg.

LTC Joseph adds that she will communicate with the DODEA school system to push the idea of a green school.

Stephanie White shares her experiences visiting the Fort Bragg food pantry and the current barriers. Making it more accessible and having more than one location will help the food insecurity issues at Fort Bragg.

LTC Joseph adds that getting the right people on the table to educate on what the food deserts look like will help facilitate the assistance to the Food Pantry.



Sabrina Steigelman comments on the importance of communication and potentially including the services available to soldiers through in-processing.

Veronica Feliciano comments on the obstacles for the Food Pantry, including transportation and help. She emphasizes the army values and selfless services through the Fort Bragg schools and assisting the food pantry.

Sandy Ammons points out the importance of communication to bring traffic into the pantries both for need and donation.

LTC Joseph mentions that chaplains and in-processing offer the resources available on Fort Bragg. Therefore, getting in touch with these different avenues can help update the resources available.

Dr. Green explains how we are going to prioritize topics into subcommittees.

Hannah Darr asks what the FPC needs from the project team now and the work sessions? What are some of the next steps?

Dr. Green answers that it would be helpful to do a work session before the public work session. We need to make a prioritization list that aligns with the subcommittees and obtain some answers to the questions asked during the meeting.

Sandy Ammons advised dividing some of the tasks to report back on questions asked during the meeting. The work session is on May 18th at the DSS across from the Health Department on Ramsey Street.

Dr. Annica Cox asks about community kitchen rentals where meals and education could be provided for the community.

The FPC briefly assures that these rentals exist, and it's a matter of reaching out to utilize them for further projects.

Martina Sconiers-Talbert reminds everyone of Sheena's email on Data Base for the Healthy Food Policy and to find a policy to share with the group.

Dr. Annica Cox states that she will share that before the work sessions with the group.



Sandy Ammons asks if there are any comments on the work session or policy ideas.

No more comments or questions.

d. Introduction of Visitors

Sandy Ammons

Sandy Ammons introduces *Delia Johnson* from MFAN

The Military Family Advisory Network is an organization of research and data. In the last several years, food insecurities have come up repeatedly in their data in military families, and Fort Bragg stands out with a high food insecurity rate. Partners like Manna Church allow MFAN to serve 800 military families and veterans.

MFAN targeted 600-800 pre-registered families for the event through Eventbrite, which allowed MFAN to track data. MFAN worked with Colonel Pence, chaplains, and other organizations like Yaya at the ASYMCA to spread the word about the event. When someone needs help, we want to encourage help-seeking behaviors and not stigmatize them. Generous partners allowed 20-40lbs of frozen protein from Tyson, 20-40 lbs. of donated nonperishables from major local suppliers of the commissary, and 10-25lbs of fresh produce. Additionally, the event provided information connecting them to resources such as WIC offices and food pantries.

Veronica Feliciano acknowledges the success of the event.

Delia Johnson appreciated the feedback and added that they strive to make these events welcoming to all, especially since many fear going out to obtain the resources they need. MFAN has hosted events in Fort Hood, Virginia, and Fort Lewis, where the data has shown great food insecurities.

MFAN will be releasing data on June 1st that will be released to Hannah Darr to share with the FPC. The data will show you the persona of a family that maps out what led the family to not being able to put healthy food on the table.

LTC Joseph thanks MFAN for creating that gateway with Colonel Pence. She mentions how the military is working on reviewing pay charts and bringing in resources on base to help soldiers and their families.

e. Public Comment

No Public Comment



f. Announcements

Lauren Tyler announces an event on May 28th from 3-7 pm at the VFW through Leaf of Life. They will be planting seeds and communing with the community. The event will provide seeds for those in attendance, information about the FPC, and local farmers and vendors will promote their products.

Dr. Annica Cox shares that her students created a podcast that will be shared with the FPC, where they share information on the data we have collected.

Hannah Darr shares that Travis Greer has taken a new position and has left the project team. She will share a highlight video from the MFAN/Manna Church Event through Basecamp.

There is a Beacon Technology Demonstration on Fort Bragg from 2 pm-4 pm on Thursday, 5/5, which shares the messaging app that allows soldiers to receive healthier options notifications.

There is also a meeting on Thursday, 5/5, from the Healthy Food Access Coalition from North Carolina from 12:30-1:30. More information can be provided by contacting Sheena Butler.

Lastly, *Sheena* will be sharing a link to choose your lunch for the May 18th event.

g. Introduction to Work Session Tools and Resources *Martina Sconiers-Talbert*

Under the tools section of the Introduction to Work Sessions Tools and Resources for the work session on May 18th, a further breakdown was provided by Martina. (Links in May 4th Agenda)

Martina asks everyone to look at the SWOT Analysis example from Johnston County in Iowa that demonstrates strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Data from the SWOT Analysis

Strengths: food bank in the community, food pantry, school gardens, healthy restaurants

Weakness: access to land, lack of community kitchens and zoning

Opportunity: have a bread garden, and implement a sales system to recognize local purchases, partnership with the Iowa public health association

Threats: many Farmers in their community were retiring, the eroded soil, lack of medical insurance for farmers



Martina Sconiers-Talbert mentions that the National Food Policy Networks has online events to provide further resources and information.

ADJOURN

MOTION: *Sandy Ammons* moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: *Hannah Darr*

VOTE: *Unanimous* (14 - 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 06:54 *PM*.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: *Next Meeting June 8, 2022, 12:00 PM*