



FORT LIBERTY
DEPARTMENT
OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT LIBERTY & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2023 @ 6:00-7:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

*LTC Katina Foxworth, Fort Bragg Co-Chair
Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative
Natasha Randall, Health Care Representative
Robert Elliott, Farming/Agriculture Representative
Shannon Gettings, Healthcare Representative
Clifton Johnson, Community Representative
Sheila Korch, Public Health Representative*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

*Kenny Bailey, Local Government Representative
Alexis McClain, Farming/Agriculture Representative*

STAFF PRESENT:

*Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Cumberland County Grants Manager
Callia Cox, FIRE Intern*

GUEST:

Davon Goodwin, Director, Sandhills Ag Innovations

Item 1. Call to Order:

LTC Foxworth welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: *Sheila Korch*

SECOND: *Clifton Johnson*

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

Approval of July 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes:

MOTION: *Veronica Feliciano*

SECOND: *Clifton Johnson*

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

Item 2. Action Items

- a. *Reminder of CPT Ricky Benson's practicum project requiring the council members to complete a combination of interviews and surveys to evaluate the council and create an annual report template.*
 - i. *Council members should follow up with CPT Benson directly to complete task and can find the survey in Basecamp.*
- b. *Sandhills Ag Innovation Presentation by Davon Goodwin*
 - i. *The organization started in 2017 in Richmond County with funds and partnerships with the county government to create a food hub that initially supported farmers*

- and has expanded the mission to supporting food security throughout the sandhills region. They have 20-30 partnering farms throughout the state that they collaborate with to aggregate produce into Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes that hold 8-10 items (13-15 lbs). Since COVID, they produced 60,000 CSA boxes through mini grants. They have a network of community partners (government, civic, non-profits) that help redistribute the produce.
- ii. Food Box Content: Sandhills Ag Innovation takes pride in distributing pre-surveys to communities and partners to determine the produce that should be included in CSA boxes based on culture preferences, demographics, mobility of the community, and partner/funder requirements. This strategy promotes recipients having agency and reduces food waste. The pre-surveys are distributed by the community partners.
 - iii. Annual Growth: This year 17,000 CSA boxes will be packaged and provided to 13 different counties. The local produce season is from April-November based on the NC harvest.
 - iv. Fayetteville Partners: AME Zion Church, Noon Day Kitchen, Fort Liberty YMCA. Sandhills Ag Innovation needs at least a 72-hour notice to produce and deliver boxes once the pre-survey is completed. The organization does not take back left-over boxes after a distribution.
 - v. Funding: philanthropic, Council of Aging, state, local, federal grants (Local Food Promotion Program)
 - vi. Senior Center Partnership Project: provided juices for centers to reduce the physical skills necessary to chop, cut, prep produce. This project is being adapted to kids at the Fort Liberty YMCA.
 - vii. Provided recipe cards in CSA boxes and tips for storage (freezing, canning, dehydration). The food hub is interested in doing more in-house processing to make “ready to eat meals” or “lightly prepared meals” to distribute.

Item 3. Council Debrief of Presentation

- a. Plan to tour the Sandhills Ag Innovation food hub facility in place of the September regular meeting.
 - i. the tour will be during business hours
 - ii. Date: TBA
- b. Potential Community Partner: AlmsHouse (Hope Mills) - *Veronica Feliciano*
 - i. Charitable organization located in a food desert that provides food, clothes, and resources to those in need. The organization is always open to food donations and has an annual Thanksgiving Dinner.
- c. Mobile Farmers’ Market - *Robert Elliott*
 - i. Partnering with Sandhills Ag Innovations, and similar food hubs, to create a mobile market equipped with accepting SNAP/WIC that delivers in food desert neighborhoods that have reduced transportation access. Mobile Markets also reduce administrative barriers for small farmers because the food hubs lead the selling and distribution.
- d. Coordinating Food Drops in partnership with Sandhills Ag Innovation - *Veronica Feliciano*

- i. Goal: create awareness and building trust within the community by coordinating two-three food drops in the designated communities (below) by November 2023
 1. MOTION: *LTC Foxworth*
 2. SECOND: *Veronica Feliciano*
 3. VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*
 - ii. Food Deserts identified from Food Environment Assessment
 1. Hope Mills (AlmsHouse), Murchison Rd (Sinai Missionary Baptist Church), West Fayetteville (Council on Older Adults)
 - iii. New Working Groups: Working via Basecamp and WebEx meetings as necessary
 1. Creating Pre-Survey: *LTC Foxworth, Shella Korch*
 2. Identifying Community Partner Point of Contacts: *Clifton Johnson, Shannon Gettngs, NaTasha Randall*
- Each member has been invited to a new Basecamp project that reflects their working group assignment**

Item 4. Former Workgroup Reports

- a. Transportation
 - i. Reschedule BUS ROUTE 12 (Murchison Rd Route) for the future
- b. WIC/EBT (WIC CIAO Grant Update)
 - i. *Martina Sconiers-Talbert* explained that the interview process is continuing, and the application is still available.

Item 5. Conclusion

- a. Introduction of Visitors
- b. Public Comment
- c. Announcements
 - a. *Clifton Johnson* asked if the Food Policy Council posters/flyers that are located in the Special Forces Center will be updated to represent the council's name change. *Shannon Gettings and LTC Johnson* will follow-up.
- d. Dismissal of Visitors

ADJOURN

MOTION: *Veronica Feliciano*

SECOND: *Shannon Gettings*

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

This meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2023 @ 6:00-7:30pm