

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 1, 2023 @ 6:00-7:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: *LTC Tathetra Joseph, Past Fort Bragg Co-chair
Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative
Natasha Randall, Health Care Representative
Robert Elliott, Farming/Agriculture Representative
Clifton Johnson, Community Representative
Lauren Tyler, Community Representative*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Alexis McClain, Farming/Agriculture Representative
Shella Korch, Public Health Representative*

GUEST: *Shannon Gettings, Incoming Member
LTC Katina Foxworth, Incoming Fort Bragg Co-Chair
Kenny Bailey, Incoming Member
Kara Gagnon*

STAFF PRESENT: *Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Cumberland County Grants Manager
Callia Cox, FIRE Intern
CPT Ricky Benson, Fort Bragg Intern*

Item 1. Call to Order:

LTC Joseph welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Regular & Special Meeting - March 6 & 14th, 2023

MOTION: *LTC Joseph* moved to approve the Minutes from January 9th, 2023

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

Item 2. Executive Report

- a. Introduction of new applicants
 - i. Kenny Bailey is an Agriculture Extension Agent in Cumberland County representing NC Cooperative Extension. His duties include commercial horticulture, fruit and vegetables production and pesticide education. He leads training and licensing for farmers. Mr. Bailey is interested in joining the council because he has been passionate about fresh fruit and vegetables distribution to consumers since childhood.
 - ii. Council members are in support of Mr. Bailey joining the council
 - iii. LTC Joseph moves to request the Cumberland County Commissioners to Mr. Bailey's appointment to the food policy council

- iv. VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*
- v. Mr. Elliott asked a question about the commissioners oversight of the council. Martina Sconiers-Talbert explained the food policy council makes policy recommendations with assistance from the health department.
 - 1. Veronica Feliciano and Clifton Johnson note that they would like more interaction with the commissioners to develop rapport and track the council's process
 - 2. LTC Joseph explains that due to the limitations of COVID-19 it has been more difficult to coordinate facetime to deepen relationship building, however the council should look forward to these opportunities
 - 3. Majority of council members agree that they would like more involvement from the commissioners and notice that a particular commissioner is not assigned to the council, in contrast to other county councils
 - 4. Kara Gagnon adds that her planning grant is working to collaborate with the
 - 5. Robert Elliott moves to present a recommendation to Dr. Green for the council to make a presentation the commissioners or for the commissioners to be represented on the council
 - a. LTC Joseph second the motion
 - b. VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*
 - c. *Martina Sconiers-Talbert will present the recommendation to Dr. Green*
- b. Update Grant - [WIC CIAO](#)
 - i. Cumberland County Health Department received \$200,000 over 18 months to fund innovative WIC Outreach in the county and Fort Bragg that includes support from/with the Food Policy Council
 - ii. The grant writing team have not had an opportunity to discuss the first steps of the grant implementation because the announcement was made April 28th
 - 1. The first steps will include hiring and onboarding the full time and part time FTE positions to support Cumberland County and Fort Bragg WIC locations
 - a. LTC Joseph asked if council members will be eligible to apply for the positions
 - b. Martina Sconiers-Talbert explained that the grant funds will likely support bringing awareness to the council through outreach efforts
 - 2. Shannon Gettings explained that WIC office goal client numbers are based on staff capacity rather than WIC eligibility rates. Nationally, WIC offices are only seeing 50% of eligible people, although staff are meeting 80 of their capacity.
 - 3. LTC Katina Foxworth suggest the policy council have an introductory meeting with the WIC office staff who are coordinating WIC efforts on Fort Bragg specifically

- a. Robert Elliott agreed that this would be a productive meeting
- b. Martina Sconies-Talbert explained that the WIC director is interim and inviting WIC staff to the next council meeting will be an opportunity to collaborate
4. Clifton Johnson notes that the council will benefit from knowing the job descriptions for the 2 positions funded through the WIC CIAO grant so they can better understand how the positions will support the council and WIC
- c. Upcoming Community Engagement
 - i. CPT Ricky Benson introduced himself as MPH candidate who is completing his practicum with Fort Bragg Health Department to better understand the root causes related to the needs of military families
 - ii. Fun in the Sun Event - community event sponsored by the health department with food, games, and information vendors
 1. This would be an opportunity the council to spread awareness
 2. Date: September 16, 2023
- d. 2023 Goals & Objectives
 - i. Veronica Feliciano notes that it is important that council members are notified of events at least a month in advance
 - ii. Martina Sconiers-Talbert explains that the 2 positions funded through the grant will be responsible for outreach efforts and council members should also share auxiliary events with council staff
 - iii. Callia Cox explained that youth engagement through the council will be best organized as youth being encouraged to join the ad-hoc committees
- e. Ad-hoc committee assignments
 - i. [Council Member Assignments](#)
 1. WIC/EBT: Shella Korch, Robert Elliott, Alexis McClain
 - a. Chair and Secretary assignments need to be made internally
 2. Transportation: Veronica Feliciano, Chair; Natasha Randall, Secretary; Clifton Johnson
 3. Communications: Lauren Tyler, Chair; Clifton Johnson
 - ii. LTC Katina Foxworth and Shannon Gettings shared the council application with members of Fort Bragg Health Department and military-affiliated families because the council should be operating on-going recruitment and rolling on-boarding as positions become available

Item 3. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

- a. Communications

- i. Lauren Tyler reported that the PIO Request has been sent for the Community Food Strategies funded awareness campaign
 1. Martina Sconiers-Talbert will share the [digital flyers](#) and the previous used PSAs will be uploaded to the county health website for social media
- b. Transportation
 - i. Veronica Feliciano provided an overview of the committee and reinstated the goal to audit Cumberland County public transportation bus routes to make recommendations to County Advisory Committee for transportation
 - ii. Previously council members have road route to understand food system barriers related to transportation
 - iii. Upcoming routes: Route 12 and Route 3
- c. WIC/EBT
 - i. no updates
 - ii. meeting with Cumberland County WIC Office is forthcoming

Item 4. Conclusion

- a. LTC Joseph thanked council members and staff for their dedication to building an equitable food system in the county and Fort Bragg

ADJOURN

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

SECOND: Clifton Johnson second the motion

VOTE: *Unanimous (6-0)*

This meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.