Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge Meeting Minutes

November 19th 12-1:30 PM

GoToMeeting

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Jennifer Green

Ashley Curtice

Jared McGuirt

Gwendolyn McNeill

COL Sheryl Bedno

**ATTENDEES PRESENT:** Adam Svolto

Amber Ray

Beth Beasley

Candace Scott

Chris Jacobs

Claudia Perez

CPT Courtney Thornton

Cynthia Wilson

Dr. Rita Gunter

Laressa Witt

Lindsey Carver

Martina Sconiers-Talbert

Patricia Hammonds

Robert Elliot

Sharon Batten

Sharon Glover

Willie Williams

**INTRODUCTIONS & ICEBREAKER:**

Dr. Jennifer Green welcomed all guests and started the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Introductions were given by Dr. Green and Ms. Gwendolyn McNeill. Guests were asked to place their name, organization, and post-pandemic plans in the chat box.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Overarching Aims & Goals

Dr. Green discussed the purpose of the grant: to improve access to foods that support healthy eating habits. By April 2021, a joint Cumberland County-Fort Bragg Food Policy Council will be established, along with the completion of a resident-led food system assessment and three policy recommendations. By April 2022, implementation of at least two policy, system, or environmental priorities will be identified by food policy council.

1. Website Review and Feedback/Input

Ms. Gwendolyn McNeill led discussion about the current HCCC website layout and opened the floor for comments and suggestions at 12:10 p.m. Comments were made to include more local resources that may be useful such as Noon Day Kitchen and <https://epass.nc.gov/>. A shared drive link to drop data in will also be included on the webpage.

1. NC Community Food Strategies

Ms. McNeill discussed her meeting with the NC Community Food Strategies representative, Ms. Lindsey Carver. Ms. Carver provided information about establishing a food policy council and various councils in the state who may be helpful in the process. Ms. McNeill stated she will be contacting McDowell County’s council and give an update at December’s meeting.

1. Community Engagement-Food Environment Assessment

Mr. Jared McGuirt discussed how GIS technology will be used to conduct the food environment assessment. Accessibility and reliability to grocery stores, farmers markers, food pantries, and food banks will be included in assessment. All data will be placed in shared Google Drive once collected. Mr. McGuirt opened the floor for suggestions on programs to dump data into at 12:25. It was concluded that a Google Drive would be the best program to use. The floor was closed for comments/suggestions at 12:28. Mr. McGuirt also discussed how residents will be able to utilize Google My Maps to contribute to data collection. There was discussion on who would be participating in the food environment assessment. Suggestions were made to include special populations such as: families with children, childcare providers, and high school students. COL Sheryl Bedno discussed Fort Bragg’s community needs assessment that is projected to be distributed early 2021 once agreement is settled with UNC.

1. Project Subcommittees
   1. Formation of the Joint Food Policy Council

Dr. Green discussed the duties of the Joint Food Policy Council. Once planning subcommittee is established, they will create the purpose, goals, scope, and governance structure of the Food Policy Council by February 2021. Duties and responsibilities will be established by March 2021, and by July 2021, the subcommittee will recruit members to be on the Food Policy Council. There was discussion about creating policies regarding the involvement of government/county employees. Sherry Kenney, CPT Courtney Thornton, and Candy Scott expressed interest in being on the Food Policy Council Subcommittee.

* 1. Completion of Food Assessment

Dr. Green discussed the responsibilities the Food Assessment Subcommittee has in compiling primary and secondary data. The ability to conduct the Food Assessment would be dependent on COVID but is projected to be completed Late Spring of 2021. Candy Scott, CPT Courtney Thornton, and Claudia Perez expressed interest in being on the Food Assessment Subcommittee.

Both the Joint Food Policy Council and the Food Assessment subcommittees will be projected to meet monthly with some homework in between meetings. After the overview of both subcommittees, three people expressed interest the Food Assessment Subcommittee and three people expressed interest in the Food Policy Council Subcommittee.

1. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Dr. Green gave final remarks to send secondary data to Ms. McNeill and closed meeting at 1:01 p.m. Subcommittees will be having first meeting in either December or January.

**As a reminder, the next meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.**