

HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL COALITION MAY MEETING NOTES

MAY 19, 2015 | SENATOR DR. RICHARD PAN'S OFFICE

OVERVIEW

The Healthy Food for All Coalition met on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at Stockton Blvd Partnership. A full list of participants can be found at the end of this document. The goals and objectives for the meeting included:

- Participants reflect on the successes and challenges of Quarter II and determine how the lessons learned will inform their work moving into Quarter III;
- Participants have a clear sense of current partner activities, including successes and challenges;
- Participants utilize Open Space Technology to communicate and collaborate on key issues related to their work; and
- Participants feel connected and committed to the direction in which the Coalition is moving.

APRIL ACTION ITEM REVIEW

As part of the Coalition meeting structure, each meeting will begin by reviewing the previous month's action items. Please see below for the ongoing Action Item list and the status of each item as of May 19th.

Action Item Matrix

Description	Owner	Date Assigned/Due Date	Status
Existing Items			
Follow up with Sac Food Bank re new distribution sites ¹	Shawn	March 17/ May 19	In Progress (<i>see below</i>)
Follow up with Community Center re possible WIC store ²	Pastor Karen	March 17/ May 19	In Progress (<i>see below</i>)
New Items			
Enlarge school map to inform Pathways Program ³	Shannon/Rangineh	April 21/ May 19	In Progress (<i>see below</i>)
Set up Google Doc for matrix criteria	Rangineh	April 21/May 19	Complete

¹ Sac Food Bank's New Distribution Sites

Sac Food Bank and Family Services is now the official and sole provider for the Feeding America program in Sacramento. Questions about how it is working and how the Coalition will align its work still need to be determined. Locations are being mapped out and small food pantries will continue to be utilized to do the work. Ensuring that the proper infrastructure for the program is in place will be key as everything is new. Shawn will continue to keep the Coalition updated as the program unfolds.

² Louise Perez Community Center WIC Store

Pastor Karen shared that a meeting is in the works to determine the viability and feasibility of putting in a WIC store into the new community center. Should this development succeed, it could open the door to several different fruitful collaboration opportunities with the Coalition. Pastor Karen will attend the meeting and report back at the following Coalition meeting.

³ School Map for Pathways Program

During the April meeting, upon adding the Pathways Program as an official engagement criteria in the Neighborhood Roadmap [matrix], Coalition partners requested an enlarged school map to visually inform them about the schools that are connected to the Pathways Program. Partners also noted the need and interest in having additional maps that provided information about other engagement criteria including elected officials for each neighborhood, county vs. city boundaries, food access activities, etc. Rather than creating several separate maps, Shawn and Rangineh will be working with a small group of folks who they hope will help create one interactive, dynamic map that contains all of the aforementioned layers. Given the magnitude of the map in question, the map will likely take a few months to create. Shawn and Rangineh will keep the Coalition updated about what progress is being made. In the interim, Randy Stannard volunteered to send a link to a website that shows the schools divided by age of education.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES

Prior to commencing the content portion of the meeting, the Coalition members provided the following updates and announcements:

- **Honey Harvest** (*Yisrael Family Farms*): Save the date for May 31st – more info to come!
- **Garden Learning Presentation to School Board** (*Shannon Hardwicke*): A group of Coalition partners will attend the School Board meeting on Thursday, May 21st to present and show support for the garden program at the pilot schools located in the Sacramento Unified School District. The presentation will include how the gardens are being used as educational tools and showcase that awareness is being raised about the gardens.
- **44th Ave Improvement Project** (*Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang*): Sacramento County will be hosting a workshop on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 PM at the Louise Perez Community Resource Center for the 44th Ave Improvement Project, which aims to improve the overpass that students use to access Pacific Elementary School.

QUARTER II CHECK IN & REFLECTION

Following announcements, participants reflected on the successes and challenges of their activities during Quarter II. The purpose of the reflection was for participants to glean best practices and lessons learned from the previous quarter into their work in the current and future quarters. The activity was also meant to draw attention to any areas where the Coalition needs to be cautious and/or aware of new developments as they move forward. Below is a snapshot of the Coalition's reflections, including participants' comments.



Accomplishments

Where have we made progress?

- Food Literacy Center Cooking Classes: Completed an entire session at Pacific Elementary
- Soil Born Cooking Demos completed at all the pilot sites including Oak Ridge, Camellia, and Pacific Elementary School
- Yisrael Family Farm: Classes @ the Food Bank had an impact on the people that attended the classes and helped change perceptions; farm tours were also offered and had up to 40 volunteers on the farm
- Harvest Sac: Citrus Season included 700 volunteers and 4300 lbs. of gleaned citrus; event on MLK brought 150 volunteers and 125 people; neighborhood association are participating in the different events so that activities are able to expand to create non-stop events
- City Passage of Urban Ag Ordinance: This was a significant win for the Coalition - thanks to all who participated! County is up next and there is support; Farm Stand opened on April 24th to commemorate the passing of the ordinance
- School Garden Symposium
- Burbank Urban Garden
- Farmers Market on Florin Road
- Sac State Aquaponics: Building Relationships with Sac State in regards to internships and has enabled lots of students to participate
- USDA Expanding Farmers Markets in CA: Signing up more Farmers Markets to be approve for EBT (*Contact Pastor Karen for people that want to enroll on EBT to enroll in the program*)



Caution Points

What do we need to be cautious about next quarter?

- Change of administration to Pacific Elementary School and Ubuntu Green could weaken organizational work in the Avenues
- Organizations may be stepping into food access work without prior experience – may need support them but also provide feedback not to do it if it runs the risk of not being done well

Setbacks/Barriers

What have been setbacks, or barriers to progress?



- Alchemist CDC have not found a food advocate in South Colonial Village – hard to find someone from the neighborhood to fill the position
- Garden Build Program transitioned from Ubuntu to new team which has taken over the program and is now getting the program started
- New testing system in schools posed problem for getting students into the school gardens
- Main driver Urban Ag Ordinance at the County level (Chris Pahule) was reassigned to a different department – Ordinance has not yet been assigned to a new person within the County
- Change of administration to Pacific Elementary School and Ubuntu Green could weaken the organizational work done so far in the Avenues

Opportunities

What lessons learned or best practices can we integrate into the next quarter?




- Farm to School Grant
- Carbon Reduction Funding
- Promise Zone Boundary
- Patrick Kennedy
- Align with Green Pathways Initiative
- SCUSD → Resilience School Training
- As Urban Ag Ordinance gets into place, will pull in more partners
- Neighborhood clusters → Resident/community engagement; when we tell the story of the work, we connect people to the many resources already in their backyards
- Hunger & Farm to Fork Dialogues to increase awareness and interaction
- Cap Radio hired Reporter for Food & Sustainability
- Sac Regional Foundation Grant → Food system action plan with Valley Vision
- Paul Towers available for media and communication support

UPDATES & CALLS FOR COLLABORATION

Participants then shared current program and project updates for the purpose of having a shared understanding of the work currently underway, as well as to call out opportunities for collaboration. The following are the updates that were shared as well as the respective opportunities for action and collaboration:


- **Alchemist CDC**

- June 1st: Funding will increase for food and vegetables
- New market make-over grand opening, will include a market match

 **CALL TO COLLABORATE:** Will need canvassing support to spread the word about the grand opening for the new market (*For more info, please contact Bridgitte Rivers @ bridgitte@alchemistcdc.org*)

- **Edible Sac High**

- Integrating classes and academic learning
- Grateful that a partner will be donating aquaponics
- Due to leadership turnover, garden budget went to salary – working now to get grant funding

 **CALL TO COLLABORATE:** Help needed with grant writing and looking for partners this the summer who are interested in having high school youth participate in their programs/projects (*For more info, please contact Nick Anichich @ nanichich@sachigh.org*)

- **Randy Stannard**

- Main project is *Home Garden Program* (HGP), which ties into the work that is about creating neighborhood clusters – all of the internal work for the HGP is set up, including finding residents
- Target communities for garden builds include South and Central Oak Park; the Avenues, and North City Farms
- Aim is to do 25 garden builds from now to September (Randy will do 5 build in the Avenues)
- Sites have been identified and the new leadership team is ready to work
- The HGP also has youth stipends available = \$10 an hour for youth to participate
- *Oak Park Sol Community Garden* is working on a Junior League grant to create a kitchen and partner with Food literacy
- The goal of the community garden is to have it be a resource for the community, including offering nutrition classes → the first classes will be offered starting in June

 **CALL TO COLLABORATE:** Help needed to outreach for OPS classes (which start in June) as well as getting people to attend classes (*For more info, please contact Randy Stannard @ randy.stannard@gmail.com*)

- **Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services**
 - Garden classes are set, including new garden e-newsletter of events that aims to capture all garden[ing] related events
 - Challenges include poor class attendance in classes, not sure why
 - Kate will be leaving her position in August ☹️

- **Food Literacy Center**
 - Wrapping up school year and looking ahead to the fall schedule to engage the teachers and volunteers
 - Excited about Food Literacy Month and having a community fair Sept. 12 at Oak Park Farmers Market
 - Hiring a Vegetable Logistics Coordinator
 - 📣 **CALL TO ACTION:** Please help spread the word about the new position for hire! *(For more info, please contact Elaine Lander @ Elaine@foodliteracycenter.org)*

- **City Urban Ag Ordinance**
 - The Urban Ag Coalition is looking at dates (June 22, 23, 26, or 27) to get organizations together for an information session (limited childcare will be provided) and the goal is to finalize a date for the session as soon as possible
 - The session will provide legal services on limited topics including employment law, formation, tax questions, and land use
 - 📣 **CALL TO ACTION:** Please share any outreach opportunities to support getting the word out among organizations *(For more info, please contact Matt Read @ matthewevanread@gmail.com)*

- **Legal Services of Northern California**
 - Legal Services-Medical legal partnerships: LSNC is putting effort into helping the legal clinics that currently exist

- **School Gardens**
 - The focus right now is to develop a vision for the next year as well as develop partnerships with teachers/parents to equip people to use the gardens
 - We are also working at the district level to make sure the district can see the main focus of the group
 - 📣 **CALL TO COLLABORATION:** There will be two teacher trainings (each a week long) at Soil Born for any one who wants to teach on the school gardens *(For more info, please contact Shannon Hardwick @ sacgardenchica@gmail.com)*

- **Harvest Sacramento**

- Gleaning has been great and now the focus will be on neighborhoods/smaller groups where the neighborhood activity can drive it
- We are looking to do a harvesting event on a week day evening that would include two to four houses
- The garden program will begin its preliminary work in Colonial Heights and as part of the process, the garden team has access to good tools



CALL TO ACTION: Please send anyone our way that you think would want to help with gleaning coordination and/or may be in need of tools for a project – we can lend them tools

- **Yisrael Farms**

- YFF officially launched the 'We Diggit' Home Garden Program website
- So far, the group has 11 applicants for garden builds
- The goal of this new group is to expose residents to real gardening scenarios and weed out people who do not have a true commitment to gardening
- UC Davis will serve as a partner offering free lead testing
- The program will offer training for people to become food handlers upon graduating the program
- There will also be a stipend for youth

- **Senator Dr. Richard Pan's Office**

- Senator Dr. Richard Pan's Office is sponsoring an event on May 30th
- Spaces are available for any organizations that want to be present
- The event will also include open slots for residents and community members who want/need to get a free eye exam from Vision Service Provider (*For more info, please contact Pastor Karen @ karebro5@yahoo.com*)

- **Soil Born Farms**

- Submitted a grant to plant fruit trees
- SBF wants to partner with agencies to do cluster plantings with demonstrations
- If Coalition members have or know of partners organizations that would be interested, SBF will be getting in touch with them to get them engaged
- Some examples in BHC area already exist



CALL TO ACTION: Please send the names of any organizations that would be interested in participating in the cluster planting to Dominic Allamano @ dallamano@soilborn.org

CLOSING REMARKS

Due to time constraints, the group was not able to complete the Open Space Technology (OST) activity; however, the group identified several topics that they would like to discuss as part of the activity, which included:

- Building Vol. Capacity [Lead: Matt Read]
- Next Steps: Cooking from the Garden [Lead: Elaine Lander]
- Student Interns [Lead: Nick Anicich]
- Neighborhood “Food Networks” [Lead: Randy Stannard]
- Food Access Workgroup Collab Project or Action (Quarterly garden build, gleaning, etc.) [Lead: Dominic Allamano]

The OST activity will be used to kick start the next meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, June 16, 2015 from 10 AM – 12 PM at Stockton Blvd Partnership** (located at 5625 Stockton Blvd).

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation/Organization
Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang	Solh Resolutions International
Shawn Harrison	Soil Born Farms
Alberto Mercado	Sac BHC
Tiffany Wilson	LPC Consulting
Randy Stannard	Soil Born Farms
Chanowk Yisrael	Yisrael Family Farm
Bridgitte Rivers	Alchemist CDC
Elaine Lander	Food Literacy Center
Kate Wilkins	Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services
Mhong Thao	Sac BHC
Christine Tien	The California Endowment
Nick Anicich	Edible Sac High
Isaac Gonzalez	Access Sacramento
Shannon Hardwicke	Soil Born Farms
Hillary Hansen	Legal Services of Northern California
Jacqueline Rodriguez	Sacramento Unified School District
Aaron Soto-Karin	Soil Born Farms/Harvest Sacramento
Matt Read	Sac Urban Ag Coalition
Dominic Allamano	Soil Born Farms
Pastor Karen Abrego	Senator Dr. Richard Pan's Office/Ebenezer Christian Center