

Food Security Council

September 28th 2023

9:00am

Notes and Next Steps

I. Welcome Dr. Edward Simmer

II. Definition of Food Security All

-Review of definitions of food security and nutrition security as defined by the USDA and CDC

-Cost/Benefit of getting quality food to people as opposed to just food.

-Part of food Security should be access to quality foods.

III. Clemson Extension, Rural Health and Nutrition Weatherly Thomas and
Michelle Altman

-Clemson cooperative extension, rural health and nutrition is found under Division of Health and Youth. Almost every county in SC has local agent assigned to county office.

-Overview of what agents do. Outcome focused on actions.

-Extend SNAP/EBT benefits to food share points. Agents assist with set up and updating to allow for benefits. Provide training to pantries and stores on food safety.

-Provide trailers and assistance for food distribution and operation of food pantries.

-Make connections to build/maintain community gardens

-School gardens for educator program

-Interact with community, assisting with grants and policy for healthier church, etc.

ASK: keep supporting Clemson Extension

-How to determine who gets a food box? Think about what people will eat, how it will culturally reflect the people receiving the box? CE sent out postcards to let people know it is available.

IV. Clemson/DHEC Statewide Food Map Keisha Long

-EJ Strong, provides space for communities to come together to discuss disaster risk reduction, including food insecurity. A food access map was created out of this project. Initial map came out of need to have access during Covid shutdown. Clemson joined with DHEC to create a map with multiple search options and information on groups that are providing food bank services.

-Outcome, to increase food access and food security as well as using as a research tool to identify food deserts.

-Review of United Way help resource.

-Review of map resources

-How is this being promoted? There are links on DHEC website and on campus at Clemson. Looking for future improvements on availability to public.

V. SC Food Policy Council

Allisa Duncan, Vice Chair

-Michael Brown, Food policy council definition and mission, building a food system. History of FPC. Sectors that area affected by FPC. CSNAP. Food is medicine. Planning and transportation.

-Ashley Page, local food policy council development and expansion, connection with partners to ensure coordination and understanding of local work.

-Susan Frantz, Policy recommendations: expanding program eligibility and enrollment, food and transportation (access to ways to get to food).

-Zack King, Food and health care, integrating food is medicine into existing state collaboratives and nutrition programs. Food retail and infrastructure.

VI. SC State Nutrition Action Coalition

Kate Gerweck

-Genine Hodges, SNAP-ED program manager: history and purpose of SNAC, partnerships and key recommendations on what type of obesity prevention programs, goals for FY2023 bring awareness to clients about eligibility and access. Centralized access for clients. Increasing food access in underserved areas.

VII. Proviso 1.68 (Student Meals)

All

-Review proviso (included below)

VIII. Next steps

All

-Next meeting scheduled week of 16th-20th

-Continue to send in inventory items before the next meeting

-Please look at the discussion questions slide in the DHEC presentation and be ready to discuss these at the next meeting.

1.7668. (SDE: Student Meals) For the current fiscal year, all school districts shall **conduct an updated analysis** identify students in poverty according to the provisions in Proviso 1.3 of this act and increase access to free school meals for these students. School districts shall use the criteria to directly certify pupils eligible for free and reduced-price school meals to the extent permitted under federal law. The local board of trustees of a district in which all schools are eligible to receive the free federal reimbursement rate for all reimbursable school breakfasts and lunches served, pursuant to the Community Eligibility Provision in Section 1759(a) of Title 42 of the United States Code, shall adopt a resolution indicating participation. If a district is unable to participate **because participation causes a**

financial hardship, the local board of trustees shall adopt a resolution stating that it is unable to participate in CEP and demonstrate the ~~reasons why~~ **financial hardship**. The resolution shall be published on a public meeting agenda concurrently with the proposed district budget as an action item and shall be approved by a majority of the board. School districts shall ensure that the parents or guardians of students eligible for free and reduced lunch receive the necessary applications and instructions and upon request are provided with assistance in completing the paperwork. Schools shall not publicly identify **or penalize** a student who is unable to pay for a meal **or accrues meal debt** for any reason **including, but not limited to, denying meals, serving alternative meals, discarding meals after serving them to a student, requiring chores or work in exchange for meals, prohibiting participation in extracurricular activities, denying participation in graduation, withholding diplomas, or refusing transcript requests**. Communications from the district regarding any meal debt owed must only be directed to the parent or guardian and may be sent home through the student.