



Bridges Project Workgroup

Meeting Notes

January 9, 2014

Work Group Members

Scott Bedrosian/Christine Long

Jerry Coleman

Michael Herrera

Christine Miller

Kara Moore

Pat Rogers

Cliff Smith

Jane Walker

1. Update on Goal 1: Conduct a survey to determine types of services most needed by the people we serve. Surveys to be conducted at selected food pantries/food banks and soup kitchens.
 - There are a number of studies on hunger/food insecurity currently being conducted in Tampa Bay. These studies include:
 - Feeding America is finishing up their food insecurity study. It should be published in May 2014. Check with Sylvia Kapous to see if she knows when it will be available.
 - Lindsey Grove (USF Grad Student) is currently conducting a food insecurity study in south St. Petersburg. Need to check with her to see when these results will be available.
 - USDA has a survey on food insecurity. The survey has 14 or 15 standard questions we may be able to use if we decide to conduct our own survey.
 - Check with 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares to see if they have a report on requests for food. **Note:** Cliff did this following the meeting and was told they no

longer produce a report on types of requests for assistance. We can request a special report but there may be a cost associated with this.

- Need to check with Jane Walker for an update on the study her student intern, Nora is conducting.
- Could check with agencies receiving Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding to see what trends they are seeing.
- Work group decided to first see if the studies currently being conducted on hunger/ food insecurity will suffice for our needs. If so, we will not need to conduct our own survey.

2. Update on Goal 2: Research best practices from around the country and work with agencies to develop plan for implementation.

- Caitlyn is going to a National Hunger Coalition conference in March and may be able to share with us what she has learned from other communities about innovative practices for addressing hunger and food insecurity.
- Should look at SNAP enrollment in Tampa Bay-is it going up or down? Are there areas in the Pasco, Pinellas or Hillsborough Counties seeing an increase in enrollment?
- Kara Moore is doing research on areas having success in addressing childhood hunger. She will share her findings with us.