

**Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger
January 14, 2015
United Way Suncoast
Minutes**

Agenda

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**

 - **Network Business**
 - **Board of Directors Vote – Caitlyn Peacock**
 - **Open positions – Consumption, Environment, Student, Food Recycling and Composting – call for nominations**
 - **SNAP Gap Analysis – Caitlyn Peacock**

 - **Work Team Updates/Discussion – Team Chairs**

 - **Any additional info to share**

 - **Adjournment**
-

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Deborah Lekenta.

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**
 - Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves and their organization.
- **Network Business**
 - **Board of Directors Vote – Caitlyn Peacock**
- **Open positions – Consumption, Environment, Student, Food Recycling and Composting – call for nominations**
 - Deborah asked for Board of Directors nominations. Members voted by paper ballot and were counted by two volunteers and confirmed as follows:
 - Consumption – Tie between Tony Samuels and Tom Safko
 - Environment – Jennifer Webb
 - Student – Nicole Brand
 - Food Recycling and Composting – Eve Spengler

- **SNAP Gap Analysis – Caitlyn Peacock**
 - Caitlyn reported on how the gap was calculated.
 - Member discussion about availability of SNAP services. Caitlyn Joy’s (Pinellas Collective Impact) group is looking into this. Florida Impact, Sheriff’s Mobile Resource Bus (South St. Pete), Hillsborough County Area Agency on Aging provides information about SNAP.
 - Members discussed a mobile SNAP, the challenges of organizations providing a fully functioning comprehensive mobile SNAP.

- **Work Team Updates/Discussion – Team Chairs – Caitlyn Peacock**

- Transportation Work Team. Kevin Salzer reported that the focus will be on the findings based on a modified version of a survey used by the Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas. The modified survey will include transportation focused questions to further gain insight into how clients currently access emergency food sites. The food pantry/bank sites that are part of TBNTEH will help gather survey data from their client population. Kevin received a transportation research grant for this work through the National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) at Portland State. Next steps: - Help is needed to develop/format questions for the survey. Help is needed to pinpoint pantries (and their days of service) within and outside food deserts. Help is needed to survey clients. The goal is to document the need, identify the gaps and implement solutions. The entire process will take 1 year.
- Food Recycling Work Team. Eve Spengler reported on the December 17th Tampa City Council meeting to consider making an addition to the City Ordinance in favor of Food Recycling. Each City Council Member agreed and voted “Yes” unanimously in favor of changing the existing Ordinance. Unfortunately, later in the day, an unexpected rebuttal was made by a lawyer acting on behalf of the Tampa Solid Waste Department, saying that she felt they had the right to burn vegetative food waste (they get paid according to the amount burned). The City Council responded by delaying the final decision, and sending the topic to a City Council Working Group, which will meet Thursday, February 25, 9 a.m. to discuss it (the public is invited to attend). Eve informed the group that 26 states have a ban on putting food in landfills. Upcoming meetings: Saturday, February 13, (changed from previously scheduled Feb. 6th), 10am, Bay Mulch Organics, and Friday, February 26, 9am. See Community Calendar for details.
- Food Recovery Work Team. Shaina Bent reported that two donors have confirmed that they will participate in the Food Recovery App program. Asked members for recommendations of St Pete restaurants that might be interested. Contacted 6 volunteer recipients who are excited about the idea. The next step is getting them trained. Ace is meeting w/Shirley, HCC, to get a safety checklist for the charities. Goal is to launch program next month. Ace met with Darden Rice, PSTA board member, to discuss receiving bus passes for kids needing to get to Breakspot locations this summer. Caitlyn Peacock reported that 8 families were helped last summer.
- Healthy Eating Club. Ariel Landry reported that their team is working on a proposal to engage physicians, nutritionists, and insurance companies in the “Food is Medicine” philosophy.
- Mobile Food Pantries. Tony Samuels reported that 4 agencies who receive food from the Lighthouse are mobile pantries who distribute in Tampa, Plant City and other locations which have no other resources. Caitlyn asked for the names and locations of the 4 pantries, so that they can be included on the map.
- Research Work Team. Jennifer Webb reported that her team will provide assistance to the various TBNEH workgroups in their development of strategies for evaluation and measurement. They are meeting this Thursday at Panera.
- Pasco Work Team. Jennifer Parker reported that The Food Hub in Land o Lakes is closed and that the Pasco Food Advisory Council is looking into repurposing the site.

- 15 Acre Initiative Work Team. Will Carey reported that he was at the farm yesterday and found water sources. Waiting for MOU from Barbara Todd. Met with Suarez Farms and they are willing to loan a tractor to Will.
- Earthbox Initiative Work Team (formerly Garden2Go). Cliff reported that 41 boxes have been distributed to 7 sites in Pinellas and Hillsborough. He spoke to the research station in Ellenton, and they are willing to sell boxes for 10 dollars each. They are looking for someone to buy 400-500 boxes and soil and distribute statewide through IFAS. Eve will provide composting. Mark Trujillo (IFIS): will add 3 more sites in Pinellas...10 boxes at each site for the next round starting Feb 5th.
- Taste-It Community Program. Rosy Bailey reported that Senior Congregate sites have been given Garden2Go boxes which are cared for by the seniors. Taste-It presented a hands-on cooking class at Beth-El hosted by Hispanic Services Council.

- **Additional Information to Share**

- Friday, Mar 4, 2016 at 8:00 AM, Coming Home to Social Justice: OCEP Research that Matters Conference. Marshall Student Center, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- Mandy Cloninger announced that Trinity Café is opening a 2nd location in late March. Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday to serve the lunch meal.
- Robin Engels announced that Seniors in Service has funding and volunteers for food distribution events in Hillsborough County.
- Jane Walker brought tax assistance information. *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)* program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less.
- April 29, 2016, Human Trafficking Conference at BayCare. Patty Jackson will email details.

- **Adjournment at 11:00am**