

Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger
March 14, 2013
United Way Suncoast
Minutes

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Feb minutes
3. Farmer's Markets – EBT Access issues – Rosie Bailey
4. Review of updated hunger assessment map – Pat Rogers/Caitlyn Peacock

Addition of Pasco school free meals – by where students live
Correction of Pinellas school free meals to by where students live
Addition of WIC meals, summer feeding sites
Addition of layer of SNAP retailers, locations of open supermarkets
Updates of Pasco hunger charities and other ongoing updates

5. "Gap" teams reports on progress to date

Michael Herrera – N. Pinellas
Beth Houghton – S. Pinellas
Caitlyn Peacock – SE. Hillsborough
Pat Rogers – NE Hillsborough

6. Trends in grocery store donations/access and distribution of produce
-Sylvia Kapous

7. Plans for May information annual session
8. Any other team updates
9. Any information to share
10. Next meeting April 11, 9:30am
11. Adjournment

Meeting was called to order at 9:35am by Pat Rogers

Introductions

Approval of February minutes

Rosie Bailey – Farmer's Markets – EBT Access issues

- currently working on grant to increase access to healthy food and exercise
- also to increase access to EBT at produce stands, farmers markets
- goal is to increase EBT in markets stands by 20%
- now have brochure with farmers markets, produce stands
- awareness IS critical to program being successful

Barriers to getting ebt/snap accepted at farmer's markets

- farmers markets use to accept ebt/snap when food stamps were paper, now technology can be issue; need phone line and electricity
- devices to process ebt card cost money; can, apply for grant w/USDA
- charge per transaction incurred to market (like credit card machine)
- grant provides free machine, still responsible for monthly fees, etc.
- markets can have single vendor accept snap/ebt or marketwide
 - need someone to swipe card if market wide
 - therefore, need staff which increases labor cost
 - a lot of bookkeeping required
- problems with produce vendors
 - new IRS requirements
 - 3rd party vendor has to record how much sold; if can't produce tax id must keep records to show IRS; a lot of vendors backed out as result

Benefit of EBT access at farmer's markets

- increase vendors sales due to allowing ebt/snap
- Largo market is in needy area
- St. Pete market one of most successful in FL
- EBT coordinator handles EBT machine
- St. Pete market went to foundation for grant money to allow "double dollars" -\$10 of ebt = \$20 at market
- Clearwater Farmer's Markets, took 1 year to implement
 - a lot of work still needed to be done w/ Hispanic community in that area
 - able to implement "double dollars" March 23
 - CPPW provides technical assistance to market; increase awareness of EBT acceptance
 - a lot of grant money out there from USDA, can access through USDA website
 - FL received \$78,000, still some \$\$ left
 - grant money from organic fl farmers w/ Wholesome Wave to provide \$ for double dollars
 - can buy seeds with EBT/SNAP

Hunger Gap Map update

- map link will be sent out with monthly minutes
- updated
 - addition of Pasco school free meals by where students live
 - correction of Pinellas school free meals by where students live
 - addition of WIC meals, summer feeding sites
 - addition of layer of SNAP retailers, locations of open supermarkets
 - updates of Pasco hunger charities and other ongoing updates
 - Pat – info session on how to get and use map
 - Pinellas – JWB
 - Hillsborough – YMCA

Team updates

- Michael Herrera – N. Pinellas
 - primary members of efforts are faith-based community
 - sharing map and data with those orgs
 - want to develop strong program partnerships which have never done
 - identify population in need and develop programs and partnerships with orgs that already provide those services
- Beth – waiting for updated map
- Caitlyn, Will – lighthouse now does Saturday drop to Southshore Community Center as result of meeting
 - organizing March meeting after orgs have chance to look at updated map
- Pat – N E Hillsborough – only two charities to get on team, part of the problem in meeting gap in needs, will involve business, others in researching what programs might work
- Discussion on “green areas in map”
 - surplus in those areas but need to consider surrounding areas
 - Awareness by those in area
- Gap Teams goal to role out programs by May 2013

Grocery store donations/access – Sylvia Kapous – Feeding America TB

- Mostly perishable items, refrigerated, deli type/prepared meals
- if anyone wants to expand refrigeration capacity; own mobile pantries to move out fresh perishables
- getting large watermelon bins of various produce, e.g. sweet potatoes/ cabbage, need fork lifts, to move that amount of product
- Jerry – limited by truck capacity
 - working on telephone tree to take extras
- Sylvia – mobile pantries
 - load up truck with pallets of items and pack boxes onsite
 - going to start “drops” instead of staying there the entire time if charity is experienced with mobile pantry model
 - thinking about pre-pack mobile pantry boxes for places that do not have space to unload 11+ pallets... just drop-off pre-packed boxes
 - FATB flexible in mobile pantry model
 - resource guides and educate people as they receive their food from mobile pantries

Other info to share

- Jane – working to remove fee for reduced school meals in Pinellas like Hillsborough has done

- Caitlyn is working on childhood hunger map for children's programs in order to know what programs are avail in your area without having to call
- May TBNEH public info session – think of possible speakers
- Joe – community gardens
 - home solution for garden in the box
 - putting together a pilot program; turn key package
 - give to qualified individuals or food banks
 - 4x4 or 5x5 box with all supplies, box, soil, etc.
 - self sustaining
 - get USF engineers to develop lightweight material so all self contained
 - St. Pete free clinic to find people to receive pilot garden
- Will - April 22 grand opening of sustainable life project
 - includes buildings to educate community about companion gardening, etc.
 - getting corporate sponsors of boxes
 - David Whitwam is working to get fixed prices
 - David trying get 501c3 to teach sustainable living projects
 - how to evolve project? year 1 - garden, then year 2- tilapia tanks, etc
 - project is growing... community wants to be involved and haven't done hard roll out yet
- Sheri BOA grants – Community Development affordable housing
 - one for hunger purposes
 - grant deadline June?
 - Rosie – received funding to educate people on gardening at farmers market
- Sheri – EFSP – funding received
 - mandatory April 24 meeting need confirmation of attendees

Meeting adjourned 11:15am