

Description of organization of Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger (TBNTEH)

TBNTEH was formed through the work of a committee that investigated various ongoing councils to see what structures were already working and might work well for Tampa Bay area. The group presented their findings and the structure that fit best was selected.

The TBNEH has a board of directors that are nominated and elected based on the information provided below. There is also an executive committee that facilitates the running of TBNTEH. Any interested party can participate and be a “member” of the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger. There is no application process or fee. Attendance at monthly meetings or participation in various work teams is welcome by any “member.”

First of all, here is the reasoning for different representations on TBNTEH:

- a. One of the purposes of a Food Council is to encourage conversation and exchange of ideas among Food System sectors and Food Domains
- b. Another purpose to promote coordination and/or partnerships - different groups are needed for this to happen
- c. The hunger problem is complex and requires input and perspectives from many different groups
- d. A governing group should be a “representative” group

The terms Food Sectors and Food Domains are used. The categories overlap in many ways. The terms are not meant to be limiting, but rather to insure that a diverse group representing a variety of interests are involved and to provide opportunities for involvement. This distribution also helps to insure that a monopoly of one type of group will not dominate, but rather a wide variety of representatives bring their problem solving skills to the table.

Food Sectors include:

1. Production/Processing

Representatives from growers, manufacturers, food safety experts

2. Distribution

Representatives from food banks, community kitchens, farmer’s markets,

Wholesalers, food pantries

3. Marketing/Retail

Representatives from grocery stores large and small, food marketing groups,
Farmer' Markets, communication companies

4. Consumption

Representatives from restaurants, neighborhood groups, food stamp users,
Food stamp administrators, representative from underserved geographic areas
Or representative from underserved demographic areas

5. Waste Management

Representatives from disposal companies, recycling groups, reuse groups

Food Domains include:

1. Health

Representatives from Health departments, health organizations, hospitals, clinics,
Universities health policy analysts

2. Food Access

Representatives from food banks, food pantries, Meals on Wheels, transportation
Officials or representatives

3. Environment

Representatives from local/regional planning groups, land use and zoning
Groups, policy analysts

4. Economics

Representatives from SNAP , economic research groups, professor of economics,
Poverty or research

5. Education

Representatives from schools, extension services, parks

6. Social Justice

Representatives from non-profit groups, faith-based groups, poverty policy experts

Also and very important:

Ex-Officio

Representatives from government, funder

At-Large Directors

Representatives from any of the food sector or food domain groups

Student Directors

Representative high school or college students interested in the topic

It should be noted that these designations are an election procedure for establishing a diverse council, to insure that there is wide representation of those involved in solving the hunger issue. It does not mean that a representative from a sector or domain only works on that perspective, but rather that that specific point of view has the opportunity to be heard or considered as various issues and projects arise.

The group as a whole will decide on the priority of goals and work groups. Members of the council will participate in those work groups as their interests direct them – not just on the basis of how they were elected.

In other words, a person elected to “fill a position” is agreeing to “represent that specific voice and perspective” but is not, by the vote, agreeing to chair a work group of a specific nature. The work groups will be decided by the whole council and members will participate as they wish and bring their specific expertise to the discussion.

Hopefully, those “representing” a certain voice will communicate with others they know and invite involvement at the appropriate level.