

**Wisconsin Food Security Consortium  
Meeting**

**October 10, 2006**

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**NOTES**

**Attending:** Robin Soileau, Jane Voichick, Peter Bakken, Jonathan Bader, Tia Hodges, JP Ploetz, Heather Harvey, Kadi Row, Pat Ludeman, Helene Pesche, Amy Kolano, Patti Herrick, Amy Meinen, Mary Krisco, Sherrie Tussler, Vivien Kammerud

**Welcome and Introduction:** Welcome to new member Mary Krisco from Rock County, and Vivien Kammerud from Southwest CAP

**Brief Overview of Steering Committee Progress**

The last meeting of the full Consortium was in June. At that time, we decided on a modified structure schedule, to include a Steering Committee (SC) that would meet more frequently and carry out the work of the Consortium. The SC has been meeting monthly since then and been very busy, primarily with the writing of a Partnership (Blue Cross Blue Shield) proposal for \$49,000 over two years to plan and conduct a statewide summit/gathering and write a state plan to end hunger. We should hear if that was funded sometime in December. The SC also plans to compose Issue Papers (more details on that later). The full Consortium will continue to meet quarterly with email communications in between.

**Discussion of Issue Papers**

Jonathan Bader is taking lead on coordinating the writing of several issue papers to help get a sense of “where we are” with regard to food insecurity. The papers would include things like an overview, incidence, consequences, causes, etc. Papers would be written by the appropriate state program and/or committee representatives, then routed to others (i.e., local representatives) for their input prior to the statewide gathering. The papers will likely continue to be a work in progress, building on the papers during and after the gathering. The papers should be concise, perhaps one page/two sides.

**Action Items: Identify authors and potential reviewers. Check the format of other issue papers, including the Briefs from Population Health (to be forwarded by Amy Meinen).**

**Discussion of Governance Structure/By-Laws**

The draft that was sent to the Consortium members in September was reviewed and a few suggestions made. Changes have been incorporated in the attached document. Members should review and be ready to vote in January.

**Update on Phone Interviews**

A UW Intern conducted almost 20 phone interviews with local coalitions regarding what works and what doesn't. About 8 stories were shared and compiled.

**Review Objectives and Audience for 2007 Statewide Hunger Gathering**

Feedback from earlier meetings and local consortiums included a statewide “gathering” of some sort to share experiences, ideas, and be able to meet with one another. The Steering Committee has begun working on this (included as the focus of the Partnership Proposal for funding). The proposed goal of a gathering would be: Bring together Consortium members, representatives from state and local coalitions and organizations, public health professionals, policy makers, and others, to take the

next step in developing Wisconsin's Action Plan to Reduce Hunger. Proposed objectives boil down to connecting, learning, action planning and communication:

- Expand participants' understanding of the issue
- Engage stakeholders from local coalitions and statewide organizations
- Learn from each other and build relationships
- Learn more from Oregon about their model and outcomes
- Contribute to next steps in an action plan
- Develop key messages and talking points
- Raise awareness of hunger
- Attract the media

### **World Café: Planning an Effective Statewide Hunger Gathering**

The group split in to four tables (world café style) and brainstormed on ideas for the statewide hunger gathering. Messages were compiled in a separate document. The group felt this was a good process for planning and might consider a similar process during parts of the gathering.

### **Sharing**

J.P. – 17,000 pounds of food were donated to the Eagle River food pantry from Roundy's. Alterra coffee (available at Pick & Save) donates \$1 to feed the hungry when their coffee is purchased.

Jane – Roundy's is very interested in working with local stores to increase connections with food pantries.

Mary Krisco – redemption rate for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is down. She suspects participants don't know the markets exist. FSNE conducted an activity for fruits/vegetables with a tour to the market.

Pat L – The Hunger Prevention Council Board community meetings will focus on the upcoming Farm Bill. One meeting is October 18 from 2-4 at the River Pantry.

Jonathan – Shared the PAI (Program Access Index) for FoodShare. Some interesting stats include: "Am I Eligible" Screener (AIE)

- \* About 6,000 people per month complete the screener (out of 7,500 monthly visits)
- \* 96% of those completing screener are found potentially eligible for 1 or more programs
- \* 63% of those completing the screener are potentially eligible for FoodShare; 50% for MA/BadgerCare
- \* Over 20,000 applicants at County Human Services report using the screener.
- \* Average FoodShare benefit is \$160 per month.

"Apply For Benefits" (AFB) as of 9/1/06.

- \* 5,753 applications submitted
- \* Of the submitted applications: FS (70%); MA (70%); FPW (24%); FS +other programs (47%)
- \* Of these submitted application: Some just set the file date (13%); Others finish application (87%).

\* Of the FoodShare applications.

- 26% appear eligible for expedited service
- 54% requested phone interviews

- \* Of those applications (2,695) for which eligibility has been determined.
  - 26% were found eligible for FoodShare (average benefit is \$176/month)
  - 33% were found eligible for Family Medicaid
  - 10% were found eligible for Family Planning Services

"Check My Benefits" (CMB)

Over 15,000 MyACCESS accounts have been created

Amy – WIPAN (Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition) Environment Committee is working on NEMS (Nutrition Environment ...) to evaluate access to nutritious, affordable and quality food. Present results at next meeting.

- "14 Carrot Gold" Awards were presented for innovative ways to increase fruit and vegetable consumption
- Provide potted vegetables (tomatoes and peppers) to food pantry recipients
- Wrote a pantry gifting guide, that isn't quite ready yet.

Sherrie – Milwaukee Public Schools received \$1 million for universal school breakfast; 27 schools so far. Shared information on the Hunger Activists Conference to be held 10/21, 8-noon at the South Division High School in Milwaukee.

**Further discussion on the papers**

The group discussed an outline of sorts for what topics to include in the series of issue papers. There may be several "layers" of topics, from general to more specific. For example, a general "food table" paper, other general overviews of Food Assistance Programs, Emergency/Crisis/Community Based, Family Economic Security, and Environmental access to Healthy Foods (grocery stores, gardens). Then under each of those would be papers for specific programs and services. Just a thought!

**Next Meeting:**

Steering Committee: November 17, 9-12

Consortium Meeting: January 2007 (date to be determined)