

# Wisconsin Food Security Consortium

January 17, 2007

## Meeting Notes from the Full Consortium Meeting

Madison, WI

9:00 – Noon

**Welcome & Introductions.** In attendance: Kadi Row, Amy Ramsey, Katie Eyes, Amy Meinen, Robin Soileau, Amy Kolano, Tia Hodges, JP Ploetz, Jane Voichick, Dawn Burgardt, Judi Bartfeld, Pat Ludeman, Mike McKenzie, Jonathan Bader, Mark Bauman, Kim Cates, Mike Skaer, Peter Bakken. Also in attendance were representatives from Dane County area farmers' markets, and via teleconference numerous representatives from local hunger coalitions across the state. Judy Allen presented via teleconference.

### Consortium Business

- Kadi Row announced that the FSC's proposal to the WI Partnership Fund for a \$50,000 planning grant was not approved despite very high marks among the initial reviewers. The FSC is pursuing two other funding sources to support the Hunger Summit.
- Since Patti Herrick was unable to attend, FSC approval of a governance structure was tabled for a later meeting.
- Kadi announced the location of the FSC's new website. Interested persons can visit the site at its temporary web address: [www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/wfsc/index.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/wfsc/index.cfm). The FSC's future permanent web address will be [www.wisconsinfoodsecurityconsortium.org](http://www.wisconsinfoodsecurityconsortium.org). Please email any comments or suggestions on the website to Kadi at [kadi.row@uwex.edu](mailto:kadi.row@uwex.edu).

### Hunger Summit

- The Hunger Summit is set for Thursday, October 4, 2007 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn.
- Although the WI Partnership proposal was not funded, the Roundys Foundation has expressed interest in the project and encouraged us to apply. Kadi prepared a circulated a draft proposal which could be submitted in April. Roundys has confirmed the applicant agency must be a community non-profit, not a government agency (which makes DPH and Extension ineligible). The steering committee will explore possible options for an applicant agency. Judi Bartfeld is pursuing additional funding from an internal UW grant source.
- Participants suggested the Summit be promoted to: local hunger councils, UW Extension, Community Action Agencies, food pantries, legislators, state agency administrators, United Way, and other agencies. SAVE THE DATE emails should be sent to as many people in these networks as possible.
- There was discussion about holding a policy session for federal legislators on the Farm Bill and FSC objectives. Possibly an orientation to food programs for state legislators. There

was mention of the Healthy Leadership Institute that is working on policy related to public health issues.

- The importance of media coverage was discussed. It was suggested we try to get interviews with key participants on public radio or possibly simulcast a show from the conference.
- The role and structure of the Issue Papers was reviewed including an overview of the four categories: (1) federal nutrition programs; (2) community-based programs (including food banks & food pantries; (3) access to healthy food (including grocery stores, farmers markets and gardens; (4) family economic security. Initial drafts of papers will be reviewed by the steering committee then circulated to FSC members for their input, comments, and feedback. The papers will serve to focus discussion at the Hunger Summit on priorities and possible next steps. Robin Soileau has already solicited and received draft papers from DHFS staff on 8 key federal programs: FoodShare, School Lunch, School Breakfast, Summer Food, Child & Adult Care Food Program, Elderly Nutrition Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The Steering Committee is reviewing these drafts now.

**Farmers Markets Program Focus** – Judy Allen at DPH (608-261-8867; email: allenjl@dhfs.state.wi.us) gave an overview of these 2 programs.

- **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program.** DPH mails \$15 vouchers to all interested WIC households (about 70,000 HHs total in WIC program are eligible). Recipients can redeem them at certified markets. Although the redemption rate is only 51% DPH still spent 95% of the funds (\$520,000). There was discussion on ways to target the vouchers such as having households apply (like SFMNP). That might also allow DPH to increase the voucher to \$20 which could also improve redemption rates. There was discussion about insufficient access to certified markets, especially in rural areas. Betty (Ashland/Bayfield) described how their regional coalition operates a mobile farmers market to serve rural communities that otherwise would not have access to farmers markets.
- **Senior Farmers Market.** SFMNP is available in 37 counties. The program is managed locally without any administrative funds by a variety of agencies. In 2006 9,700 seniors received \$30 vouchers. The redemption rate was 89%. Grant funds totaled \$262,000, of which Wisconsin has spent 96%. There is insufficient federal funding to serve all counties. There was discussion as to whether vouchers could be targeted to Food Share seniors (as some other states already do) as it might increase their participation in FoodShare. Issues for the Farm Bill reauthorization could include increasing general funding to reach more counties and seniors and providing some level of administrative funding.

**Networking.** Jonathan Bader (WISCAP) announced their recently completed *Guide to Resources for Wisconsin Food Pantries* has been mailed to 800 food pantries statewide and can be downloaded free as a PDF file from [www.wiscap.org](http://www.wiscap.org). The Guide describes strategies and sources that food pantries utilize to obtain food and funding locally, as well as federal resources for families, hunger organizations and internet resources.

Mike McKenzie (DHFS FoodShare) gave an overview of DHFS' recommendations on improving FoodShare in the Farm Bill reauthorization. He also discussed the WISSNAP Outreach program and outlined the department's CAP Project to enroll more of the 18,000 one-person SSI households in Wisconsin in FoodShare. All are automatically eligible for FoodShare but only 4,000 currently participate. DHFS can obtain almost all the information they need to complete a FoodShare application from the Social Security Administration. DHFS plans to mail a one-page FoodShare application to the 14,000 eligible households inviting them to apply for FoodShare and requesting only shelter expenses. Households that sign and return the form will automatically qualify for either \$20 or \$40 per month in benefits without having to visit the county social services office. Outreach to 2-person households will follow.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Steering Committee: March 16, 9am – noon**

**Full Consortium meeting: April 25, 9am – noon**

**Steering Committee: April 25, noon – 3pm**