

# HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL COALITION MAY MEETING NOTES

MAY 17, 2016 | FRUITRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

## OVERVIEW

The Healthy Food for All Coalition met on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at the Fruitridge Community Collaborative. A full list of participants can be found at the end of this document. The goals and objectives for the meeting included:

- **Engage** in an honest, open discussion about partner expectations of the Coalition as a whole as well as the monthly meetings;
- **Explore** the space between the *want* of the group and the *capacity* of the group in order to determine it's will moving forward;
- **Examine** the roles, responsibility, and commitment level of partners in moving forward the will of the group;
- **Manage** and **align** expectations about the Coalition and move forward together on the same page.

## APRIL ACTION ITEM REVIEW

As part of the Coalition meeting structure, each meeting will begin by reviewing the previous month's action items. Please see below for the ongoing Action Item list and the status of each item as of May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Action Item Matrix

Description	Owner	Date Assigned/Due Date	Status
<b>Existing/Ongoing Items</b>			
Mapping Tool Development <sup>1</sup>	Shawn + Team	April 21/ Fall 2015	In Progress/Ongoing ( <i>see below</i> )
Share opening date (once it exists) for Maple Elementary <sup>2</sup>	Rangineh	Sept 15/ TBA	In Progress
Follow up with Erik @ SFBFS re fruit distribution in the community <sup>3</sup>	Shawn	Dec 15/Jan 19	In Progress
<b>New Items</b>			

No New Items

### <sup>1</sup> Mapping Tool Development

No update at the moment.

### <sup>2</sup> Maple Elementary Opening

916 Ink's Imaginarium is now open at Maple but the official grand opening for the rest of the site will likely take place in late 2016.

### <sup>3</sup> Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) Fruit Distribution

During harvest time, a few approaches are taken in distributing the fruit. SFBFS is tasked to take over 200 food closets and is beginning to target the partners in the area where the gleaning is mostly happening. The food is being packed and sent to the neighborhoods where the gleaning is happening. The distribution will include other food besides fruits. Residents can continue to go on their regular day of produce distribution.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, RESOURCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION**

Prior to commencing the content portion of the meeting, the Coalition members provided the following announcements, resources, and opportunities for collaboration:

### Announcements

- **Crocker Art Museum's Block by Block Initiative** (*Dea Montelongo*): The Initiative is a 2 year community arts engagement project focused on Districts 2, 5, and 8. The District 5 block party will be *Saturday, July 9th from 12 - 7 PM @ the Colonial Heights Library* (4799 Stockton Blvd) and will feature an Urban Farming area. To learn more or to get involved, please click [here](#) or contact Dea Montelongo at [dmontelongo@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:dmontelongo@cityofsacramento.org).

## Resources

- **Meeting Rooms Resources** (*Meeting space for Coalition partners has been offered at the following locations*):
  - Fruitridge Collaborative Meeting and Conference Rooms– To reserve space please contact BHC at [bhc@asianresources.org](mailto:bhc@asianresources.org).
  - Colonial Heights Library Conference Room (*Available free for non-commercial, non-profit, open to the public events, capacity of room is 90 people, but may increase or decrease after renovation*) – To reserve space please contact Alicia Doktor at [adoktor@saclibrary.org](mailto:adoktor@saclibrary.org).
- **Cropmobster** (*Online food resource program*): <http://sacramento.cropmobster.com/>.

## LPC INTERIM EVALUATION TRANSITION

Tiffany Wilson (LPC Consulting) shared that she will be going on maternity leave starting in the summer and returning in the late fall. In the interim, Michelle Darling and Kristina Karson will take on evaluation and data collection duties for LPC. Tiffany requested that partners do their best to submit their data logs and respond in a timely manner to requests by both Michelle and Kristina.

## DISCUSSION RE FUTURE OF COALITION

Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang (Solh Resolutions International) shared that the meeting would be a slight departure from regular meetings in that 1.) she would be solo facilitating for the day (while Shawn Harrison (Soil Born Farms) would fully participate as opposed to co-facilitate), 2.) the main focus of the meeting would be to have a meaningful discussion about how the group wants to move forward in years seven and eight of the BHC initiative, and 3.) with the group's permission, group guidelines would be used to help ensure the discussion can happen in a safe and honest space (to which the group agreed).

She went on to set additional context by sharing that the grant proposal for years seven and eight of the BHC Initiative is due at the end of the month and ideally, the proposal would reflect a shared vision for how the group wants to move the Coalition forward. However, over the last few months, feedback from the group has pointed to a potential misalignment of expectations and the outcomes with regards to the Coalition. As a result, a certain tension has surfaced, which is positive because it opens the door for the group to look closer at what is working and what is not working, and then to address it. As a clarifying point, the group has already agreed to move forward with the new meeting format of focusing on community-based activities for two months in a row and then on the third month (which end up being fall quarterly) bring in strategic partners (including other action teams) to help think about issues that are bubbling up at the community-level. To this extent, that *format* will not change since the group has already agreed to it and it doesn't make sense to go backwards. However, outcome of the discussion will determine the *content* of meetings moving forward.

Rangineh went on to share that, historically, the group has held the space to share and exchange info about BHC food-related work, build trust and relationships among food access partners, and think through the evolution of the work together. As specific issue areas popped up (e.g. the chicken ordinance, urban ag ordinance) – groups formed to focus on those issues as a sort of *extension* of the Coalition, meaning the conversation often started internally and continued in a more focused way externally. Over the last few months, by virtue of the word “Coalition”, there seems to be an expectation among some that the Coalition will/should focus on a specific issue and drive it forward while others seem to be ok with the way the group has been functioning historically. Additionally, over the last two years, when the group was presented with a specific item to work on together, there seemed to be a certain reticence related to lack of capacity to move the event/topic forward (e.g. showcase, presentation, SMS survey results). Therefore, on the one hand there seems to be a desire to coalesce around something specific, on the other hand there’s seems to be a lack of capacity to be able to do it. Such a misalignment of expectations appears to be leading to some partners leaving every month feeling frustrated that the group is not working on something more tangible together. The goal of the May discussion is to get to the core of the will of the group moving forward so that it can enter in years seven and eight on the same page and manage expectations around what this group is willing and able to do.

To open up the discussion, each partner was asked to weigh in with their expectations of, and experience with, the Coalition thus far. The following are common themes that surfaced as a result of their answers:

- ❖ Positive relationship building
- ❖ Communication with community is key (electronically and in person)
- ❖ Coalition legacy: Consider which opportunities for collaboration are being capitalized on and which ones are being missed
- ❖ Suggestions: Increase energy via new leadership, decrease structure

Due to limitations of time, partners were then asked to share in pairs their thoughts on how they would like to see the Coalition move forward (given what they had just heard about the capacity of the group) as well as what they would specifically be willing to commit to doing to create the space they want to see. The following are highlights from their responses:

### Moving forward, I want to see the Coalition....

- Continue to evolve the discussion about its function/purpose
- Share opportunities for collaboration (and calendar them), raise funds, and build up community leadership (e.g. hire and organizer)
- Simplify what the group will be focused on in the last few years – bring a holistic expression to the community and figure out what the group needs to do to have the capacity to do it
- Find strategic opportunities to collaborate in meetings – focus on *layering* on activities as opposed to simply coming up with new activities or more work
- Leverage capacity and build on what already exists to create a collective project/event
- Increase resident attendance and engagement at meetings
- Work on policy issues – consider creating a policy committee
- Regularly communicate Coalition vision and look at relevancy of how food plays a role in the target communities
- Create more space for networking

### What I am personally committed to doing to create the space I want....

- ✓ Stay engaged in the dialogue (*Rosie*)
- ✓ Write the grant for a community organizer (*Matt & Amber*)
- ✓ Provide time and energy to support activities that can be layered on to existing activities and have value (*Shannon*)
- ✓ Time and space to help plan project/event (*Joany & Alicia*)
- ✓ Attending meetings with specific ideas and leadership (*Randy*)

In conclusion of the discussion, Rangineh shared that she is hopeful the new meeting format will work to meet most of the needs and suggestions that folks expressed. And, if the new format does not fully meet the group's expectations, then the group can explore a new direction that does.

### CLOSING REMARKS & REMINDERS

The **next Coalition meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, June 21, 2016 from 10 AM – 12 PM at Fruitridge Collaborative (4625 44<sup>th</sup> Street), Room 11.**

## PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Affiliation/Organization
1.	Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang	Solh Resolutions International
2.	Diane Truong	Sac BHC Hub
3.	Tiffany Wilson	LPC Consulting
4.	Shawn Harrison	Soil Born Farms
5.	Joany Titherington	NeighborWorks/Oak Park Farmers Market
6.	Susan Vitulli	Food Literacy Center
7.	David Douglas	Alchemist CDC
8.	Dea Montelongo	Crocker Museum's Block by Block Initiative
9.	Rosie Cerna	Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services
10.	Todd McPherson	SCCSC
11.	Amber Stott	Food Literacy Center
12.	Michelle Darling	LPC Consulting
13.	Dominic Allamano	Soil Born Farms
14.	Kristina Karson	LPC Consulting
15.	Shannon Hardwicke	Soil Born Farms
16.	Alicia Doktor	Colonial Heights Library
17.	Hillary Hansen	Legal Services of Northern California
18.	Matt Read	Sacramento Urban Ag Coalition
19.	Jacob Sacks	Alchemist CDC
20.	Randy Stannard	Oak Park Sol
21.	Simeon Gant	Green Tech
22.	Chanowk Yisrael	Yisrael Family Farm