

HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL COALITION NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2015 | STOCKTON BLVD PARTNERSHIP

OVERVIEW

The Healthy Food for All Coalition met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Stockton Blvd Partnership. A full list of participants can be found at the end of this document. The goals and objectives for the meeting included:

- **Utilize** Coalition time and space to move the conversation about collaboration forward;
- **Reflect** on how lessons learned from quarter III can inform work moving into the new fiscal year;
- **Clarify** the value and purpose of quarterly reflections; and
- **Explore** the possibility of developing a shared measurement system.

OCTOBER 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 November 17th.

Action Item Matrix

Description	Owner	Date Assigned/Due Date	Status
Existing/Ongoing Items			
Follow up with Sac Food Bank re new distribution sites ¹	Shawn	May 19/(See Status)	In Progress/Ongoing (<i>see below</i>)
Mapping Tool Development ²	Shawn + Team	April 21/ Fall 2015	In Progress/Ongoing (<i>see below</i>)
Research farmer incentives used in other farmers' markets	Sharon	August 18/ Dec 15	In Progress
Share opening date (once it exists) for Maple Elementary	Rangineh	Sept 15/ TBA	In Progress
New Items			
Follow up with Volunteers for Showcase Subcommittee	Rangineh	Oct 20/Nov 17	In Progress
Follow up with Erik @ SFBFS re fruit distribution in the community	Shawn	Nov 17/Dec 15	In Progress

¹ Sac Food Bank's New Distribution Sites

Sac Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) is now the official and sole provider for the Feeding America program in Sacramento. Shawn shared that he is working with food bank and mapping how to get donated fruit directly to food closets. Rosie Cerna, Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, shared that in 2016 they will be moving to a 3-tiered program that will feature large, medium, and small food pantries. To support this effort, schools with pantry programs have been leveraged and utilized. Schools have been a prime distribution point and most partner schools offer once a month distribution. SFBFS is currently looking for three different venues and partnering up with the different organizations to help support the 2016 launch of their programs that they hope will provide better food distribution access to the community and families they serve. Finally, Rosie shared that SFBFS hired a consultant to conduct an assessment of the food system in the Sacramento County. Once the assessment is complete, SFBFS will have concrete data, which it can leverage to build upon its current work. The final assessment report will be shared with the Coalition upon completion and review.

² Mapping Tool Development

During the April meeting, upon adding the Pathways Program as an official engagement criteria in the Neighborhood Roadmap [matrix], Coalition partners requested an enlarged school map to visually inform them about the schools that are connected to the Pathways Program. Partners also noted the need and interest in having additional maps that provided information about other engagement criteria including elected officials for each neighborhood, county vs. city boundaries, food access activities, etc. Rather than creating several separate maps, Shawn and Rangineh will be working with a small group of folks who they hope will help create one interactive, dynamic map that contains all of the aforementioned layers. Given the magnitude of the map in question, the map will likely take a few months to create. Shawn and Rangineh will keep the Coalition updated about what progress is being made.

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

- **California Small Farmers Conference** (*Joanie Titherington*): The Small Farmers Conference will be held on March 6th, 7th, and 8th in 2016. For more information, please contact Joanie at farmersmarket@nwsac.org.
- **USDA Grant** (*Joanie Titherington*) NeighborWorks was awarded a USDA grant for Market Promotion. They will be hosting a workshop and are looking for participants who use EBT, but do not go to farmer's market. For more information, please contact Joanie at farmersmarket@nwsac.org.
- **New Feeding America Site** (*Rosie Cerna*): The Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services was designated as a Feeding America site which will lead to bringing in higher quality food, as well as has already increased the number of food pantries from 70 to 219.
- **Hub @ Fruitridge Collaborative** (*Christine Tien*): The Sac Hub staff have officially moved their offices to the Fruitridge Collaborative. Free meeting space is available for grantees. To reserve a room, please contact Diane Truong at bhc@asianresources.org.
- **USDA Grant Award** (*Elaine Lander*): A USDA collaborative grant was awarded to Sacramento Unified School District, the Food Literacy Center, Soil Born Farms, and Growing Together.
- **Holiday Produce Distribution** (*Elaine Lander*): The Food Literacy Center will be doing a holiday produce distribution and will be collecting produce at the Whole Foods in Arden and Roseville on Saturday, December 13th. Partners are welcome and encouraged to stop by and donate produce on that day at either location. Prior to December 13th, FLC will collect the produce at their office. After the food has been collected, it will be packaged and sent home with children. For more information about the holiday produce distribution or how to donate, please contact Elaine Lander at elaine@foodliteracycenter.org.
- **Burbank Urban Garden** [BUG] (*Todd McPherson*): The October work day went really well and had over 100 people who participated as well as youth run workshops. Edward McKeebie (Slow Food Sacramento President) was on a slow food tour and paid a visit to the garden and spoke with the youth, which the youth really enjoyed.
- **School Garden Symposium** (*Shawn Harrison*): Partners were reminded that the School Garden Symposium will take place February 27-28, 2016 at Luther Burbank.
- **Farmer Training Program** (*Shawn Harrison*): The California Dept. of Food and Ag in partnership with Center for Land-Based Learning and Soil Born Farms received a grant to support a Farmer Training Program. From an educational standpoint, the program is for beginner farmers or home gardeners. Participants may take an individual class or be in a more formal training program class. There will be scholarships available for individuals who would like to take classes for free so long as they assist in finding others who would benefit from

the program as well. Classes will be offered in different areas for those with limited transportation. Program graduates will also receive a certification. For more information, please contact Shawn Harrison at sharrison@soilborn.org.

- **Harvest Sacramento** (*Dominic Allamano*): Harvest Leader trainings will be held at Fruitridge Elementary on Saturday, December 5th - volunteers are still needed! After the New Year, the first citrus events will start and run every week, including a big activity on MLK Day. Looking to highlight research of Jonathan London at the event. For more information or to sign up to volunteer at any of these events, please contact Dominic Allamano at dallamano@soilborn.org.
- **School Orchard Vandalized** (*Shannon Hardwicke*): The morning of the Coalition meeting, Pacific Elementary School staff discovered that their orchard had been completely destroyed to the point of needing to be replanted. The staff and partners are trying to stay positive but any support that can be offered will be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Shannon Hardwicke at sacgardenchica@gmail.com.

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 Diane Truong at 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.

Opportunities for Collaboration

New Opportunities	Ongoing Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Garden Symposium – Contact Shannon Hardwicke at sacgardenchica@gmail.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Market Partnerships – Contact Todd McPherson at todd@sccsc.org • Fruit Harvest/Gleaning & MLK Event – Contact Dominic Allamano at dallamano@soilborn.org • Food Literacy (e.g. Nutrition, education, and cooking) & Garden Work (<i>Activities involving food literacy and garden work have several natural tie ins with each other and partners who are working on these activities should consider collaborating.</i>) – Contact Todd McPherson at todd@sccsc.org • Promise Zone Initiative: Collaborative Fundraising – Contact Pastor Karen Abrego at karen.abrego@sen.ca.gov

COALITION SHOWCASE CHECK IN & SUBCOMMITTEE FORMATION

A few months ago, the Coalition was presented with the idea of doing an event to showcase the work of Coalition partners over the last five years with external stakeholders and partners. Originally, it was thought to host the showcase as a stand-alone event; however an opportunity to host the showcase on the evening prior to the School Garden Symposium emerged, which the Coalition discussed in October. The discussion concluded with the majority of the Coalition members expressing a neutral position about connecting the two events; essentially they were neither for nor against the idea. As a result, the group was re-approached this month about their capacity to rally around a showcase in general, regardless of timing. Co-facilitators Shawn Harrison and Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang shared that in order for the showcase to happen, it will be incumbent upon the Coalition to create a subcommittee that could significantly help move the showcase forward. To date, only one person had volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. However, after some enthusiastic encouragement, six additional partners volunteered creating a **Showcase Subcommittee** made up of the following partners: Bridgitte Rivers, Joany Titherington, Dominic Allamano, Rosie Cerna, Todd McPherson, Isaac Gonzalez, and Judith Yisrael. Thanks to these wonderful volunteers for stepping up! Rangineh will follow up with the newly formed subcommittee to schedule the first meeting.

QUARTER III REFLECTION

Following the check in, participants were given an opportunity to review and reflect on the activities that took place during the final quarter of the fiscal year. The purpose of the reflection was for participants to glean best practices and lessons learned from the previous quarter into their work in the current and future quarters. The activity was also meant to draw attention to any areas where the Coalition needs to be cautious and/or aware of new developments as they move forward. Participants were asked to *self-select* into one of three activity themes (Production, Education, or Distribution) based on the *primary intent* of their main activity or activities. The idea of conducting the reflection by themes was for participants to identify best practices/lessons learned that were specific to their type of activity and would therefore serve in a more relevant and applicable way than a broader, general large group reflection. Please see the following page for a snapshot of the Coalition's reflections, including groups' key take aways.

QUARTER III REFLECTION CONTINUED

Education		Distribution		Production
<i>Grantees: Colonial Heights Library, BUG/SCCSC, Soil Born Farms, Food Literacy Center</i>		<i>Grantees: Harvest Sac, Yisrael Family Farm, Food Bank, Alchemist, Oak Park Farmers Market, NeighborWorks</i>		
Accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher training Resident outreach FLC @ Colonial Heights library Mack Road Farmers Market 2 New Schools – FLC BUG! advancement 	Setbacks/Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism @ schools, libraries, community centers Funding for programs Change in leadership Cultural barriers & socioeconomic barriers 	Accomplishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market match increased customers Becoming Feed for America partner increased access Moving gardening program to SBF increased access Farm stand increased access with market match 	Setbacks/Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over saturation of farmers markets: Lost customers from 12 – 1 PM, lost farmers to other markets Community engagement – In understanding why to have programs: demand of product, store owners don't see value, supply & demand Organizational silos: No #1 org to bring together, competition for same \$ Drought – water rights 	<i>*No participants self-selected into this group</i>
Caution Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural sensitivity Engaging other communities for partnership Community/stakeholder input Investing in and leveraging existing resources, not recreating 	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in leadership Collaborative programming (K-12 pathways) Culturally relevant programs Tapping community knowledge (leadership, etc.) Connecting to regional context/ awareness of local production ag 	Caution Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redundancy of programming (education) Capacity Dependency on EBT customers 	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments Collaboration → creating efficiency Outreach 	
<p>*Key Take Away(s): <i>“The relationship of our setbacks/barriers to opportunity. A lot of set back and barriers are opportunities. Being strategic about where we are going and how we are doing it and how we are leveraging some of the existing resources and how to bring in more resources.”</i></p>		<p>*Key Take Away(s): <i>“Our caution points and what we would be more cautious about next time. Over saturations of farmer markets. Customer loss from time and distance. Loss of farmers, unable to retain farmers because some were leaving. Community engagement, actual participants understanding of programs, demand of products, store owners do not see the value of supply and demand. Competition for the same pool of dollars. Drought. A big takeaway is assessing what we done. Collaboration on what is meaningful and successful.”</i></p>		

CLOSING REMARKS & REMINDERS

In conclusion of the meeting, the Share Measurement System Exploration item will be tabled to next meeting. It was noted that the 2015-2016 work plans updated draft is out and available for feedback, comments, and questions. Participants were advised to reply via email to Rangineh upon receipt of email. Finally, the **next Coalition meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, December 15, 2015 from 10 AM – 12 PM at Stockton Blvd Partnership** (5625 Stockton Blvd).

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation/Organization
Rangineh Azimzadeh Tosang	Solh Resolutions International
Diane Truong	Sac BHC
Tiffany Wilson	LPC Consulting
Shawn Harrison	Soil Born Farms
Isaac Gonzalez	Access Sacramento
Elaine Lander	Food Literacy Center
Michael Myers	Alchemist CDC
Judith Yisrael	Yisrael Family Farms
Christine Tien	The California Endowment
Todd McPherson	SCCSC
Ali Yarbrough	NeighborWorks Sac
Rosie Cerna	Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services
Dominic Allamano	Soil Born Farms
Joany Titherington	Oak Park Farmers Market
Shannon Hardwicke	Soil Born Farms
Alicia Doktor	Colonial Heights Library