

Agency Advisory Board

3/9/2018 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Kerm Bossard; TOI-Spencer Van Etten Community Food Cupboard, Kathy Greene; Addison Community Food Pantry, Anne Haus; Trumansburg Food Pantry, Alycia Anthony; Tioga County Rural Ministry, Jack Seman; CHOW-Broome Council of Churches, Mary Cermak; CHOW- St. Paul's Episcopal Church Pantry, Vickie Steck; FBST, Matt Griffin; FBST, Amanda Stuart; FBST, David Russell; FBST, Randi Quackenbush; FBST, Katie Strawser; FBST, Bobbi Burstein-Markel; HPNAP Contract Manager.

Meeting called to order at 11:15am

- **Reflections:** "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, *what are you doing for others?*" – Martin Luther King, Jr. and allowing us to allow others to do for us. (Matt)
- **Introductions:** Welcome to Mary Cermak, new Broome County representative. Welcome to Amanda and Dave, new FBST staff.
- **Working Agreements Review:** (on 2nd page of agenda) Honor your time.
- **Review & approval of October meeting minutes:** Kerm B. motion to approve, Kathy G. second; all in favor

Review & Updates:

- Advocacy & Education (Randi)
 - FBST spent two days advocating in Washington, D.C. at the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Focused on SNAP benefits, TEFAP & Speakers Bureau.
 - FBST will be going to Albany, Jack S. will also take part, focusing on state level food recovery & recycling. Large food waste generators will be mandated to donate excess by 2021; some hotels and larger restaurants.
 - Governor Cuomo's 'No Student Goes Hungry' proposal
 - Mandates to eliminate lunch shaming
 - NY Ag & Food reimbursement
 - Mandatory in all SUNY & CUNY schools to have a food pantry
 - Breakfast After the Bell
 - Lyndsey L. is working closely with Ithaca College sociology class (3rd year) and 5 Speakers Bureau grads are working with students to build Hunger 101 workshops at pantries.
 - "Big Hunger" by Andy Fisher- March 20th in Ithaca, following the presentation on this controversial topic, he doesn't feel food banks do enough to end the need for pantries, a panel of local leaders in hunger and poverty will respond.
 - Anne Haus is featured on the current edition of our newsletter, The Harvester.
- Agency Feedback
 - Jack S- Switched to online ordering. How do agencies like it? Vickie- Really well, agencies love it. Best thing is it's live. Bobbi M. - All Food recovered is available online? Jack S. - Yes, there's a live list. Vickie- It's the same as FBST. Bobbi M. - Seems like a challenge.

- Kerm B. – When is the PantryTrak going to be rolled out? Matt- It will be talked about at the Agency Celebration. Ryan (FBST) will stop in later to talk more. (Ryan was not able to join, however.)Kerm B. – Looking forward to it.
- Warehouse (Matt)
 - Weekly loads of produce are on the menu.
 - There are 2-5 different varieties of fruits & veggies on these loads.
 - Anne H. – They were there the last time she checked the menu.
 - If any agency is piggy-backing on another agency, please communicate that an order has been placed with the host agency.
 - Kerm B. – Has it ever been discussed combining and putting an agency’s order on an MFP truck? Matt- The goal is to pack those MFP’s full. Sometimes a retail truck will deliver to agencies then bring back a load of retail.
- Food Acquisition (Matt)
 - Missy is looking into frozen veggies. What would be the most desired/popular?
 - Anne H. – Mixed veggies, green veggies would be good too. Mary C. - Corn, green beans, all age groups like corn. Matt- JSY requests ‘please no starchy veggies’, might try a pallet or two, anyone interested in blends?, Maybe some stir fry, broccoli, spinach & squash. Kerm B. - smaller packages. Jack S. – really popular blends, cubed butternut squash- actually helped push fresh butternut squash.
 - Beets- everyone likes beets.
- Agency Services & Nutrition, Other FBST News
 - Seed Grants (Dave) - New HPNAP grant. Seed Grants are start-up grants intended to be used as a “seed” to begin a new or enhanced service to an agency or Emergency Food Relief Organization (EFRO). Seed Grants encourage the development of projects that support innovative ways of confronting emergency food and/or nutrition needs of low income people. Posted on website under Agency Zone-Agency Forms. Due date is 4/1/18. Matt- We apologize for the late distribution. Kerm B. – The timing is short makes it challenging to be able to spend it by September. So another one will be coming up next year. Bobbi M. – It’s the state’s fault for not getting this out timely but you’ll have a larger window next year. Matt- This is completely an elective grant.
 - Peer Group Update (Amanda) – Both Peas and Carrots have met this year. Radishes are set to meet at the J-T Food Pantry in the beginning of May, the Tomatoes have been asked to join with the Radishes as they are a very small group. Zucchini’s have been contacted to set up a meeting date, as it has been a while since they’ve met. Alycia A. - It is very difficult to get the Zucchini’s to get together.

Discussion & Decisions

- Food Bank Annual Agency Celebration
 - Projected Agenda

Friday, April 27, 2018

8:30 am- Registration- Matt-Breakfast? Thoughts on food? More of a continental breakfast provided this year? Kerm B. - Sounds good, Mary C. - Goes well at food meetings, Anne H.- Good for those traveling. Matt- We will experiment with that, may raise cost from \$15-\$20.

9:00 am- Welcome, Prayer, Intros

9:15 am- Opening Remarks- (Matt) Natasha Thompson is slated to speak; had thoughts on remarks from an agency rep. and Speakers Bureau, but looking at the timeline it would push it back too far to include all three. We still want to keep in mind client, agency, Food Bank impacts of our work.

9:25 am- Divide Ballroom for workshops –Break. (Matt) They need about 20 minutes to close the partition. Dave came up with the idea to do blind tastings during this time. Anne H. - I like it. It's different. It's a good idea but you'd have to have enough stations. Mary C. - Yes, enough stations that everyone can move about. Matt- An interactive activity. Jack S. - The stations would be good to help counties mesh and network. Anne H. – Would it be possible to space it out and give direction for flow? Vickie- It'll have to be in the hallway. Kerm B. – Is it possible to identify table topics to be done in the main room during this time? It could pull people away from the tastings so it's not so crowded. Jack S. – In the center of the table there could be conversation starters. Mary C. - Is the reluctance an age factor or is there a large range of age? Matt- The ages are representative of pantries, roughly 50-70 years. Jack S. – Incentivize a way to get people to mingle and talk to other county agencies. Kathy G. – It's been easier the last couple of years because there has been a limit of the number of people attending from each agency. Matt- the limit has been lifted for this year. Vickie- At the Feeding America conference I attending we had to gather signatures from other agencies.

9:45 am- Workshop Session #1- A. Community Food Centres Canada Trip B. PantryTrak

10:45 am- Break

11:00 am- Workshop Session #2- A. Community Food Centres Canada Trip B. PantryTrak

Community Foods Centres Trip

Kerm b. – I've seen this report; not interested in hearing it again. I'm interested in "So what?" What can we do to look at information we got and act on it a little bit? How do we deliver an action plan that will be aimed at this? Alycia A. – Sister Mary brought back, "This is what I would like to do based on what I saw..." Kerm B. – I would like to see- there's a big difference between paid versus all volunteer. How do we develop a plan to implement? Jack S. – Guided Q & A panel for this. A five minute action and guided Q & A and include nudges for programs. Kerm B. – How do we move from a food giveaway handout to focusing on poverty and breaking the cycle? Jack S. – Volunteer peer counselors. Mary C. - One small change, put together a small info box gathered from community agencies, fill the box with copies of information. A clearly labeled point to engage clients, if a client indicates something is not going right for them then offer the info provided in the box. They do not have to take it. Anne H. – How do you go from a pantry

with a distribution every other week to something like this? Matt- Structural things you can change. Have a meal, it brings people in. Other things to do, build a program and dedicate volunteers to engage people. Matt- Jack's proposal to 5 minute action and guided Q&A? How do people feel? Perhaps Randi or Lyndsey to moderate this. Mary C. – CFCC trip photos at registration tables. Alycia A. – Provide handouts and or the report in folders.

PantryTrak

Matt- Q&A- there's a lot of information. What would be the important aspects you'd like to see talked about? Jack S. – Make it abundantly clear the intentions and benefits. Kerm B. – I'd talk about privacy issues. Anne H. – Equipment. Matt- Agency expectations. Cost, timing, training, and agency rewards. Question-Does this affect stats reports to FBST? Bobbi M. – I have a PowerPoint showing the rewards. Kerm B. – The 85 year old woman could lose her job (intake volunteer) Amanda- The position or task could just be transformed. Jack S. – The personal and connection implications are vast.

Matt-Thoughts on pushing back lunch to allow for more time for the workshops and any questions.

12:00 pm – Open up Ballroom

12:15 (30) pm – Lunch, Announcements

1:15 (30) pm – Keynote w/ Q&A- Deacon Tom Ruda, Community Table, Watkins Glen

Matt-Deacon Tom Ruda focuses on hospitality and engagement. Adamant that it is not an agency but is a community table. With Q&A we're looking at about 45 minutes.

2:00 (15) pm – Agency Recognition & Closing Jack S. – Have you ever done a combined photo? This led to discussion about a large group photo with agency representatives. Photos by county or all combined. Sharing with media sources and getting some publicity about this being only a fraction of those volunteering in our counties.

▪ **2018 Agency Workshop Plan**

- PantryTrak
- Healthy Pantry Initiative/ Food Marketing- Matt- MFP Primer. We had a meeting with the MFP team, Mark Lisi, looking to get a something going in July or October. For Steuben county there is a July Coalition meeting. Thoughts on two regional meetings for the express purpose of going over HPNAP grants and MFP Primer? Kerm B. I would like to see it. Matt- We'll keep you posted on that. Kerm B. – A list of staff and what they do would be nice. Vickie- How would you expect us to better our relationships with you as agencies? Mary C. – Does everyone understand your job description? Kerm B. – When you have a new coordinator coming into a food cupboard, have them plan to spend a lot of time going over the stuff. It has taken me a long time to figure everything out.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm. Motion by Anne H., seconded by Jack S., unanimous.

- **Agency Advisory Board Meeting Dates (2nd Friday, 11 am-1pm) with Key Focus Topics:**

June 8th: HPNAP Grants, Hunger Action Month Ideas

September 14th: Innovative Network Ideas, Plans for Next Year

December 14th: to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm

Submitted by A. Stuart