

**FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER
STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 23, 2023 2:30PM-4:00PM**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87013080956?pwd=aWhTMVlnOEU0eDBXV3MrU2xtWTZYQT09>

AGENDA

TOPIC	FACILITATOR	ACTION	TIME
1. Welcome & Check-in	Erin Summerlee	Discuss	5
2. Approve October Minutes	Erin Summerlee	Decision	5
3. 2022 SIF Recap	Randi Quackenbush	Discuss	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress to date• Successes and challenges			
4. 2023 Plan	Randi Quackenbush	Discuss	40
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Deep Dives• Evaluation timeline• Discussion			
5. Next Steps	Randi Quackenbush	Decide	5
6. Wrap-up / Adjourn	Erin Summerlee	Discussion	5

Next Meeting
April 24, 2023 2-4pm
RSVP

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2022 2:30-4:00pm

Member Name	In Attendance	Unable to Attend
Erin Summerlee (Chair)	X	
Andy Fagan	X	
Tess McKinley	X	
Jamila Michener	X	
Kathy Rasmussen	X	
<i>Ex-Officio</i>		
Natasha Thompson	X	
Joe Thomas	X	
<i>Staff</i>		
Randi Quackenbush	X	
Lyndsey Lyman	X	
Jackie Bogart	X	

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – Erin called the meeting to order at 2:33

2. **Approval of August 2022, Minutes**

Kathy Rasmussen made a motion to approve the August minutes.

Andy Fagan seconded. None opposed.

Minutes approved.

3. **Define Community Empowerment**

Randi reviewed the Food Bank’s Organizational Outcomes with the group and led a discussion to better define Community Empowerment. What is our role in this space? There is a tension between delivering the mission around food and realizing the goal of community empowerment. We definitely cannot do that work alone. The Food Bank is pushing boundaries right now in service to achieving food security either within a family or within a community e.g. diaper bank. The farther we go down that path, the more interaction with non-food agencies is required. Lyndsey shared that the work we’ve done with clients to help empower them in the food security space also served them in other aspects of their lives. Are there other frameworks to help guide the work e.g. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs? This could be helpful in describing the work and how it fits with everything we do. There are many different aspects of our food system that individuals don’t always understand and that should be part of community empowerment as well. How do we help individuals understand that they have both a voice and a choice? It was suggested that we create a visual comprised of concentric circles with clients in the center and each circle could be what impacts their ability to reach food security. “Feeding the line” and “shortening the line” are easy concepts to grasp. How do we maximize our ability to shorten the line by building capacity? How do we build capacity among the people we serve? In this way, empowerment is happening at the participant level, not the organizational level. Empowerment is about a process. Its about how we’re doing the work we’re doing. There are probably multiple pathways from empowerment to food security. Some are direct and others are indirect.

4. **Community Empowerment Outcomes**

Randi shared the draft community empowerment outcomes that were initially shared at the June BOD Strategy Session.

5. **Empowerment Activities**

Lyndsey reviewed her chart of empowerment activities with the group and explained how people progress through the various activities. A question was posed regarding whether the general public track and community advocates training (CAT) tracks were separate and target different groups. Another question was posed regarding how CAT participants are selected and how many people enroll annually. How regularly are we offering the different workshops? Some people may not have the capacity to participant in the CAT right away. How are we supporting CAT participants?

Lyndsey explained the various financial incentives we offer e.g. gas cards, gift cards, child-care stipend.

6. Community Empowerment Indicators

Randi reviewed the draft Community Empowerment baseline goals with the group. She then moved on to a brainstorming discussion around short term indicators. What is the role of pantry coordinators in this work? They can be multipliers. How do we build community capacity? Tess shared that she was positively impacted by her experience with the Food Bank and implemented many changes at her pantry when she was at Turning Point. Jamila asked if we are evaluating our trainings to understand the impact. Lyndsey shared that we could do a better job here. Ideally, it would be good to follow-up with people 6 or 12 months later to understand how the trainings impacted them (or didn't.) Since the Food Bank serves diverse clients with multiple needs, it would be helpful to determine what their basic knowledge is. Would it be possible to map our clients to better understand who is participating in various Food Bank engagement opportunities and who is not? Can we apply a public health lens to this work e.g. population level interventions in addition to individual level interventions? The group spent some time discussing ways to approach goal #3 which included learning from clients and sharing resources available to them.

7. Next Steps

- Randi, Erin, and Natasha will meet to discuss what the meeting frequency should be in 2023 and then send out a Doodle poll so we can confirm dates in advance.
- Lyndsey and Randi will create an elevator pitch to go along with our definition of Community Empowerment
- Randi will share out indicators for everyone to review and comment

8. Wrap-up/Adjourn -

The meeting adjourned at 4:02.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Natasha R. Thompson, President & CEO