

## Food Security Coalition Quarterly Meeting Minutes March 3rd, 2020

### Coalition Members Present:

**Kristen Slatt**, North County Public Health  
**Mina Craig**, North County Public Health - WIC  
**Buck Jones**, Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission  
**Sarah Sullivan**, Gorge Grown Food Network  
**Hannah Brause**, WSU Extension  
**Carys Fritz**, North County Public Health  
**Hannah Fuller**, OSU Extension  
**Eva Kahn**, Columbia Gorge Food Bank  
**Anna Osborn**, The Next Door Inc.  
**Sharon Thornberry**, Columbia Gorge Food Bank  
**Suzanne Cross**, Columbia Gorge Health Council  
**Janeal Booren**, WGAP, The Dalles Farmers Market  
**Lauren Kraemer**, OSU Extension Services  
**Kiara Kashuba**, Gorge Grown Food Network  
**Jordan Haas**, Gorge Grown Food Network  
**Nadja McConville**, DHS Self-Sufficiency Office  
**Dez Ramirez**, Columbia Land Trust  
**Mayra Rosales**, The Next Door Inc.  
**Joel Pelayo**, The Next Door Inc  
**Marianne Durkan**, FISH Food Bank  
**Leann Knapp**, Oregon Food Bank  
**Kara Smith**, Food for Lane County  
**Sandy Galvez**, Oregon Child Development Coalition

**Rachel Suits**, White Salmon School District  
**Liz Oberhausen**, Community Member  
**Silvan Shawe**, Thrive Hood River  
**Stephanie Grutzmacher**, Oregon State University  
**Bridget Hinton**, Oregon State University Extension  
**Toña Sanchez**, The Next Door Inc.  
**Judy Bankman**, Healthy Gorge Initiative  
**Paul Moyer**, Community Member  
**Zoe Watson**, Oregon Health Sciences University  
**Aera Atkins**, Rockford Grange/Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
**Mike Hendricks**, Community Member  
**Lisa Perry**, Community Member  
**Todd Dierker**, The Next Door Inc.  
Nate Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust  
**Joanna Turner**, Health Hands Against Domestic Violence  
**Darla Johnsten**, Community Enrichment for Klickitat and Skamania County  
**Edwina King**, Community Member/Gorge Grown Board Member  
**Kate Karlson**, PacificSource

### Meeting Minutes:

Welcome & Orientation

Delicious eats from producers all around the Gorge; thank you Kiara Kashuba for sourcing a delicious spread! The Food Security Coalition Orientation slideshow [attached] was playing through the beginning of the meeting.

As an introduction to the topic of food security in the Latinx farmworker population, Toña Sanchez from The Next Door Inc. led the group through two *dinamicas*, or icebreakers, using the model of educación popular, or Popular Education. *To learn more about this philosophy of teaching and community organizing, you could start here:*

<https://multco.us/health/community-health/popular-education-workshops>. This portion of the meeting was conducted in Spanish with simultaneous English-language translation provided by Mayra Rosales of The Next Door Inc.

Next, Dr Stephanie Grutzmacher of Oregon State University and Anna Osborn of The Next Door Inc. share findings and stories from their research ***Experiences of Food Security Among Latinx Food Systems Workers in Oregon***. Through interviews with Latinx farmworkers in Hood River County, they found that numerous structural and cultural barriers may contribute to food insecurity in the Latinx farmworker population including, documentation status, unfamiliar food environments, exclusion from SNAP, job and economic insecurity (low wages, temporary work, piece-rate pay systems), exclusion from labor protections, and social networks comprised of other vulnerable people. The Latinx farmworker population may also have unique strengths or protective factors, including relatively good health upon U.S. arrival, strong family and social ties, interdependence and cooperation, resilience to hardship, and religious faith and involvement.

**The group then brainstormed community organizations could better serve this population:**

- Outreach messaging should emphasize that food assistance is available to anyone who needs it.
- Food provided should be culturally relevant.
- Food security screening questions should ask about skipping meals so others in your household may eat or eating the same types of food, like rice, for multiple consecutive meals, in addition to asking about running out of food entirely.
- Providers should clearly state the types of documentation required to access services.

**[Handouts and slides from this presentation are attached.]**

Next, the Coalition received a presentation from Leann Knapp of the Oregon Food Bank on **2020 Census Promotion and Outreach**. Leann shared the importance of a complete and representative census count - census data determines federal and state funding for the next ten years. The data that you report to the census is not released publically for 75 years.

**[Handouts and slides from this presentation are attached.]**

Jordan Haas invited the group to share “**Mission Moments**” as a chance to think about the mission of this coalition, the connections that you’ve made with each other, and stories that show this mission in action. Coalition members were invited to share their mission moments.

*We cultivate partnerships, build understanding and take action to create an equitable local food system in which all people have access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.*

- Lauren Kraemer: 14 new volunteers were trained as Food Hero educators through Oregon State University Extension

- Buck Jones: Buck has been sitting on a national advisory council for the Food Safety Modernization Act and has been working on additions to make the act more responsive to native food processing.
- Sharon Thornberry: Senator Wyden recently visited the Columbia Gorge Food Bank and heard about issues around food security in rural Oregon.

Other resources available at the meeting:

**Updated copy of the Columbia Gorge Food Resource Guide [attached]**