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:
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 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]**