

Food Security Coalition Quarterly Meeting Minutes November 4th, 2019

Coalition Members Present:

Kristen Slatt, North County Public Health
Mina Craig, North County Public Health - WIC
Justin Withem, Office of Rep. Anna Williams
Ava Ellis, 211 Info
Diana Rojas, 211 Info
Fay Hurtado, Conf. Tribes of Warm Springs
Buck Jones, Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission
Kay Alton, Cultureseed
Sarah Sullivan, Gorge Grown Food Network
Jody O'Connor Colibri Consulting
Hannah Brause, WSU Extension
Carys Fritz, North County Public Health
Hannah Fuller, OSU Extension
Eva Kahn, Columbia Gorge Food Bank
Hannah Ladwig, Gorge Grown Food Network
Anna Osborn, The Next Door Inc.
Michelle Sager, OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

Sharon Thornberry, Columbia Gorge Food Bank
Bruce Bolme, Washington Gorge Action Programs
Suzanne Cross, Columbia Gorge Health Council
Paul Lindberg, Providence/United Way
Jane Palmer, Hood River/Wasco SRCH Grant Contractor
Bette Lou Yenne, FISH Food Bank
Janeal Booren, WGAP, The Dalles Farmers Market
Jenny Twohig, Gorge Grown Food Network
Lauren Kraemer, OSU Extension Services
Kiara Kashuba, Gorge Grown Food Network
Jordan Bryant, Gorge Grown Food Network
Nadja McConville, DHS Self-Sufficiency Office
Mark Thomas, Providence

Announcements/Updates:

- FISH Food Bank will be opening a school-based pantry at Mid Valley Elementary in Odell on Dec. 10th
- Columbia Gorge Food Bank will be hosting a Challenging Hunger event on December 9th from 1:00-4:30pm at the Hood River Valley Adult Center
- OSU Master Gardeners are recruiting for the 2020 Master Gardener cohort
- Blue Zones The Dalles has a position open for an Engagement Lead:
https://recruiting.adp.com/srccar/public/RTI.home?c=2176007&d=ExternalCareerSite&r=5000549970906&_fromPublish=true#
- Hood River County is hosting a Shelter Field Guide class on November 19th from 9:00-5:00pm at FISH Food Bank. Contact Barb Ayers (barbara.ayers@co.hood-river.or.us) to register

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome & Orientation

Delicious eats from farms all around the Gorge; thank you Kiara Kashuba for sourcing a delicious spread!

Jordan Haas started the meeting by providing an orientation to the Food Security Coalition. This presentation was updated to reflect the new structure of the Food Security Coalition. Briefly, in 2015 a Gorge-wide survey showed that 1 in 3 residents worried about running out of food and 1 in 5 had run out of food. As a result, the Food Security Coalition was formed. The **five focus areas of the Coalition are now Food Access, Farmer Support, Policy, Supporting Tribal Food Sovereignty, and Farmland Preservation**. Additionally, **two standing process committees, Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Funding**, will support and advise the work of the group. Working groups are forming around specific, time-bound projects in each of the focus areas. Members of each of the working groups shared updates on their projects.

The **DEI Process Committee** meets quarterly and the **next meeting** of the group is **November 19th** in The Dalles. All coalition members are invited to join in this work, please contact Sarah Sullivan (sullivan@gorgegrown.com) if you would like more details about the upcoming meeting.

From the (Food Access) **FEAST project**, Anna Osborn shared that FEAST projects area community conversations around food systems. Partners hosted a FEAST in Odell, identified interest in food focused projects in the community. Potential projects identified were a community garden in Odell, community crop exchange, and community cold storage. Focus groups are ongoing this final to identify community leaders.

The **Tribal Food Sovereignty** group met in mid-October. Buck Jones shared that there is a need to get tribal committee members from Celilo, in lieu sites, and other places involved to address historical trauma and wellness. Another project is securing land access to gather traditional foods.

Sarah Sullivan will be leading a **Farmland Preservation** working group. Next meeting date is TBA.

A **Policy working group** is forming right now! Suzanne Cross shared that Columbia Gorge Health Council will be seeking input from an **advisory group for the Community Health Improvement Plan**. Please contact Jordan Haas (jordan@gorgegrown.com) to get connected with the group.

Hannah Brause will be leading a **Farmer Support** working group. Priorities will be informed by the people in the collective group.

As **emergent needs** are identified, Jordan Haas will continue to check in with the group to see if there is interest in new working groups or priority areas. There has been an expressed need for work on **summer meal access for youth, FDNP Participation, and food security screening** in the area. If you are interested in joining a work group on one of these topics, please reach out to Jordan Haas at (jordan@gorgegrown.com)

Sarah Sullivan shared the idea of "**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.

- Hannah Brause: Buyer-Seller Matchmaker Event shared this at a conference in Montana and lots of interest in creating a similar event back in their home communities
- Anna Osborn: Getting voices at the table who aren't always heard; woman who went to Mercado all the time, participated in FEAST, now working in a food systems position
- Lauren Kraemer: Value Added Rental Program now hosted at the library, increased access to the rental equipment many hundreds of percent!
- Jenny Twohig: Gleaning Coordinator; connected with Fay Huratdo and was able to share a lot of the excess pears and apples
- Buck Jones: appreciate that the coalition has looked at Latino community and tribal community and elevated their voices; was powerful to have an Oregon Solutions meeting at Celilo; connect with the Columbia Gorge Food Bank
- Nadja McConville: everyone at DHS 'front line' now has the "Where to Find Free and Low-Cost Food in the Gorge" guide to help connect their clients to the food; now doing Harvest Share in both the DHS offices
- Sharon Thornberry: needed a food pantry at the Community College in The Dalles; most food insecure group of people in the country; Chinook Campus Pantry will open this week!

Next, Suzanne Cross with the Columbia Gorge Health Council shared **preliminary results from 2019 Community Health Assessment**. The Consumer Survey is only one part of a number of different data pieces. There were two ways consumer survey was administered, hand-fielded and mailed. The hand fielded surveys are meant to capture data from populations that may have additional barriers receiving and returning a mailed survey, and their demographic data showed much higher poverty level, higher unemployment rate, greater number of respondents representing communities of color.

Data from the Community Health Assessment will be presented under three "themes" Sense of Community, Built Environment (including food, transportation, housing) and Access.

The group then broke into smaller teams to dive into the data. The following notes are from one small group discussion:

Anna, Hannah, Michelle, Sharon, Jenny, Lauren, Kiara:

People are reporting that they are more food secure, but eating fewer fruits and vegetables—considering amount of fruits and veggies going out through the emergency food system tells me we have work to do getting people to eat the produce being provided.

Hand-fielded surveys (higher percentage lower income folks) appear to be consuming slightly more fruits and veggies (though not statistically significant)

The info-graphic showing "10% went without food" isn't particularly helpful; too subjective; skipped meals? Ate smaller meals?

Question: how was food security assessed in the questionnaire?

- Question 35: Most days, how many serving of fruit do you eat? A serving is one piece of fruit or about a cup of cut-up fruit. Do not count fruit juices. _____ servings per day
- Question 36: Most days, how many servings of veggies do you eat? A serving is about a cup of veggies like green beans, salad, or potatoes. Do not include fried foods like French fries. _____ servings per day
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- Question 46: In the past 12 months, have you worried that your food would run out before you had the money to buy more? (Often, Sometimes, Never)
- Question 47: in the past 12 months, have you or someone in your household had to go without any of these because you did not have the money? Food or meals (Yes, No)
- Question 48: in the past 12 months, have you or someone in your household had to go without any of these because of no transportation or the distance was too far? Food or meals (Yes, No)

Other places to look for data:

- Free and Reduced Meal rates for local schools
- Map the Meal Gap (county by county)
- SNAP Participation by county
- Food Pantry usage
- Have someone at partners for hunger free Oregon look at the data and give feedback
- Mark Edwards' report on Food Security in Oregon

[Handouts from this presentation are attached.]

Next, the Coalition received presentations on an **overview of the Oregon and Washington Food Banking Systems** from Sharon Thornberry representing the Columbia Gorge Food Bank and Janeal Booren representing Washington Gorge Action programs.

From Sharon Thornberry, the **Columbia Gorge Food Bank** is a Regional Food Bank of the Oregon Food Bank. CGFB works in the following areas coordination, disaster preparedness, leadership and education on issues of hunger and poverty, advocacy, creating personal and regional food security.

CGFB receives food locally from grocery stores, local orchards, farmers, food drives, and food processors, and through the Oregon Food Bank and Feeding America networks for USDA commodities and donations from the food industry. Additional commodity sources include bonus commodities, when the ag commodities are purchased by the federal government to stabilize market conditions, and tariff commodities(\$1.3 billion in 2019), which are a result of the break down in China trade deal and loss of revenue for farmers.

The CGFB has moved 1.15 million pounds of food; more than doubled amount of food distributed from prior years; serving 5,000 people per month (nearly double prior years), and serving 25 partners at 34 sites.

To partner with CGFB as a pantry, the partner site must meet the following requirements:

- 501c3 or sponsored by one, or a church
- Food Safety Training & Protocols
- Civil Rights Training for all staff and volunteers
- Recordkeeping, Financially responsible
- Meet an unmet need (new day, time, etc.)

From Janeal Booren, **Washington Gorge Action Programs** are both a regional food bank and local food pantry through their direct to consumer distribution at site in Bingen. There are an additional three pantry sites at under WGAP 501(c)3 in Stevenson, Goldendale, and Klickitat.

Food for the WGAP pantries comes through three USDA commodities regular, bonus, and tariff commodities. Lots of the tariff commodities are coming fresh so have to work harder to distribute the fresh produce in a faster manner.

WGAP currently serves about 800 households each month between the 4 locations and has been growing about 15% per year.

We wrapped up the meeting with a **fall seasonal updates**. Lauren Kraemer shared the following **OSU Extension** fall updates:

- Final Canning class of the year—Pressure Canning—week of the 18th
- Follow the County Instagram Pages: @HoodRiverCountyExtension and @WascoCountyExtension

Hannah Ladwig shared the following seasonal **farmers market** updates:

- \$1.5 SNAP Match program via WA state legislature; will benefit Stevenson, White Salmon, and Goldendale farmers markets
- Hood River indoor winter farmers market, 10am-1pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at May Street Elementary

Lastly, Jordan Haas shared a few notes about the **bi-monthly FSC Newsletter**:

- Looking for content submissions on:
 - Working Group Updates
 - Members in Action
 - Good Reads and Events
 - Jobs postings
- Please provide: Headline, short description, contact information, link to more information
- For job postings, please include only the position title and a link to more information