Humboldt Food Policy Council
Humboldt Area Foundation, 5:30 – 7:45 pm
June 7, 2011

NOTES

Participants: Angela Glore, Michael Waddle, Suzanne Simpson, Deborah Giraud, Anne Holcomb, Donna Wheeler, Debbie Perticara, Danielle Newman, Simona Carini, Sara Mosser, Christina Huff, Jennifer Bell, Linda Prescott, Isaiah Webb, Kelley Kyle, Jason Hervin, Barbara Howe, Babette Bach

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Report Back on National Food Policy Conference
   On May 19 – 21 I (Danielle) was at the first national Food Policy conference, held in Portland, OR hosted by the Community Food Security Coalition. It was inspiring, with over 600 people in attendance! I attended workshops on Farm to School, the role of planners in creating healthy food environments, ‘saving the rural grocery store’ and conducting community food assessments. Of greatest benefit was networking with other food policy council leaders from around the country to discuss shared concerns and solutions.

   Major take away lessons:
   1. Elected officials who are pioneering policies in food systems didn’t start with a passion for these issues – they were taught by their constituents why it was important, for example, to preserve urban gardens or require public transit to consider food access in their route planning. We need to take the opportunity to reach out to our policy makers and educate them along the way.
   2. Planners can be a major ally in improving our food systems and help pinpoint where policy changes need to be made. Until recent years, however, food systems have not been on the planning radar so examples from around the country (to provide a precedent) may need to be shared with them.
   3. Diversity in representation has been an issue across the board. I learned several different ways groups have improved their diversity. Angela Glore from Del Norte also went to the conference and contributed that her take away lesson in this regard is that Councils which have limited, defined membership and require diversity in those seats have better success. Since it is codified from the start, they then make the extra effort to provide childcare, transportation reimbursement, etc.

Food Policy Council listserv and communication tools: A new webpage is up (https://www.humboldt.edu/ccrp/humboldt-food-policy-council) where I will start to post more links, including upcoming meeting agendas and past meeting notes. There have been several messages sent my way for sharing with the Food Council, so I asked the group’s input on how best for us to share communications. The majority of participants were in favor of a Base Camp / Google Groups style of listserv, where individuals can select settings to receive message-by-message, or as a daily or weekly ‘digest’. CCRP will set that up in the coming weeks.
3. **The Policy Cycle**

Connie provided a power point and discussion on how policies are made and how to evaluate the ‘breakdown’ when a policy isn’t doing what it was intended to do. Her overall take home message was that as we develop our Policy Action Plans on our various topics, it is important to understand at what point in the policy process we are targeting them. Very rarely do we need new policy creation. Is there a problem in interpretation? In enforcement? Is someone standing in the way of letting a policy do its job? It was a very helpful discussion that made us all more comfortable with tackling ‘policy’! I encourage those of you who weren’t there to look at her attached power point presentation.

4. **Continue work on Policy Topics**

**Topics:** Below are the topics that small groups worked on. Some similar topics have been combined:

- Agricultural Production (incl Community Based Agriculture and Farmer Support)
- Farm-to-Institution (incl Distribution and Institutional Food Service)
- Food Insecurity
- Food Processing
- Healthy Food Access & Education (incl Workplace Food)

Saved for next session:

- Outreach
- Planning / Land Use
- Food Waste
- Healthcare & Food

Meeting participants divided up by interest according to policy topics and read through the sticky notes brainstormed from February’s session, or reviewed Policy Action Plans started at April’s session. They continued work on the Policy Action Plans or developed new ones. This process was designed to take the ‘Opportunities’ and ‘Challenges’ identified for that topic and translate them into objectives and tasks that can be carried out to reach a specific policy goal.

5. **Hubba Hubba’s Report Back**

After working at their tables, an individual from each group reported on their Policy Action Plan(s):

- **Processing**
  Problem: Lack of knowledge regarding ‘certifiable’ kitchens
  Plan: Tasks and objectives associated with making a directort; developing a survey to do at Humboldt Made fair.

- **Food Insecurity**
  Goal: Increase CalFresh participation
  Plan: Implement screening policies at medical provider level (UIHS does this in Humboldt)
  Plan: More individual farmers certified to take CalFresh EBT (can use for CSAs)
  Plan: CalFresh summit?

- **Healthy Food Access**
  Problem: Prepared food donations to food pantries/banks are still far short of what they could be.
Plan: Increase use of Good Samaritan policy. Pilot (possibly at HAF) a program of prepared food donations after meetings and events. (Wild Rivers is doing this in Del Norte)

- **Farm to Institution**
  Problem: Institutions have internal policies that are obstacles to local food procurement
  Discussion: Reflect laws, or just fear? Gardens -> school cafeterias? One obstacle to establishing a local procurement goal (e.g. 20% of foods) is $, but examples of incentives are out there (i.e. 2011 Oregon Farm to School legislation allots funds to increase school meal reimbursement rate, Sierra Cascade has small school co-op, a joint purchasing agreement could be made w/ HCOE). Another obstacle can be food service directors.

- **Agricultural Production**
  Problems discussed: Equipment access for farmers; marketing. Community Based Agriculture:
  Zoning positives and negatives, private land liability questions (eg church), the value of an educational campaign.

6. **Next Steps and Evaluation**
   We will meet again in August, date TBA! We appreciate the feedback we got through the evaluation forms.

7. **Announcements:**
   Announcements were made around the room and have come in over e-mail regarding upcoming events in our area that relate to farms and food!

- **Thrill of the Grill:** This Friday, June 17 from 11:30 – 2:00pm come buy a $5 BBQ lunch (vegetarian option) at the Eureka Co-op to raise funds for Food for People’s Child Nutrition Programs.

- **Online orchard contest for two local community gardens:** Please vote for Rio Dell Community Garden and Kin-tah-te Community Demonstration & Botanical Garden in Hoopa at [www.communitiestakeroot.com](http://www.communitiestakeroot.com) so that each can win a fruit tree orchard!

- **GMO Labeling Petition:** Organic Consumers Association has new information about how GMOs impact our health and has a petition for labeling GMO products. See more at [http://organicconsumers.org/monsanto/action.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/monsanto/action.cfm) or contact Suzanne Simpson, suzanne.simpson.litzky@gmail.com.

- **Farmers’ Market Match for EBT Users:** Starting this month at NCGA markets, Food for People is beginning a market incentive program for CalFresh participants: for every $10 swiped on their EBT cards, individuals will receive $15 worth of farmers’ market tokens. This is great! Contact Michael Canning at Food for People if you want more details, 445-3166.

- **Children’s Summer Lunch Programs:** Food for People is partnering with a more than sites than ever (22!) to provide summer lunch to kids who would normally get free and reduced meals at school. Contact Food for People if you have any questions 445-3166.

- **Redwood Acres Fair:** Humboldt Made at Redwood Acres Fair Thursday, June 23 - Sunday, June 26.
This year the fair will have a Made in Humboldt theme highlighting all things Humboldt with the main hall showcasing locally made products and food. 30,000 attend annually! Deborah Giraud is signing up folks for food / cooking demonstrations or any related ‘education’ topics. See signupgenius.com (enter Deborah’s e-mail after clicking the ‘find a sign-up’ tab) or contact her at ddgiraud@ucdavis.edu or 445-7351.

- **Free Produce Markets:** Food for People kicks off its 2011 season of free farmers' market style produce distributions this June. Distributions will be held at four different locations including Food for People in Eureka, Fortuna Community Services, the Garberville Presbyterian Church and the Redway Baptist Church. In addition to fresh produce, some of the markets will also feature live music, free fruit and vegetable samples, cooking tips and CalFresh (formerly food stamps) application assistance to individuals. Participants are asked to please bring their own bags to the event. The schedule:
  - **Eureka:** 12 – 2:00, June 16 & July 21; **Fortuna** 11:30 – 1:30, June 15 & July 20; **Garberville** 10 – 12:00, June 14 & July 12; **Redway** 12:30 – 1:30, June 14 & July 12.

- **Mark Winne, Food Policy Council guru, is coming to Del Norte:** After his March visit was delayed by the tsunami, Mark has re-scheduled his presentation and book signing in Crescent City for July 8th and 9th. Please go see him! It’s a great book, and he has a lot to teach us! Further details will be coming, or contact Angela Glore at 464-9190.

- **Collaborating to Access New Markets workshop,** June 29th in Woodland, CA (Yolo County). This is a topic that comes up when we discuss local food systems and distribution. If any of you are interested and able to go, please let me know! Here’s the link for more information: [http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/sfcnews/?article=109](http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/sfcnews/?article=109).