

Food & Farm Council of Riley County & City of Manhattan

February 17th, 2020 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Riley County Seniors Services Center, 301 N 4th St, Manhattan KS

In Attendance: Vickie James (FFC Coordinator) FFC members - Jaden Castinado, Michael Wilson, Andrea DeJesus, Stephanie Smith, , Kirsten Spear, Jacquie Mack, John Green, Josh Brewer, Adrian Self, Julie Gibbs (County Liaison) Friends of the Council – Ann Smit, Teresa Sanborn Ariana Achakzai

Unable to attend: Sharolyn Jackson, David Procter, Carol Barta, Maureen Olewnik, Gregg Eyestone, Jennifer Morris.

1. For the sake of time - If anyone has recently been to any events or conferences, please email them to Kirsten to put in the minutes. Please forward along any information that the group would benefit from knowing about.
2. Greater Manhattan Community Foundation - grant application is due 2/21, and Vickie will apply. It's for \$10,000. She will work with Adm. Council on this.
3. Flint Hills Wellness Coalition is applying for a Pathways grant through Blue Cross Blue Shield.
 - a. Letters of commitment are needed for each “pathway”, one of which is nutrition.
 - i. Does anyone have an idea for groups that we should seek a letter of commitment from? Suggestions from the Council included:
 1. Common Table, USD 383, Via Christi, Extension, our CAT groups
4. CAT work session report-out. Vickie notes that some people were not at the meetings. Do we know why? Were they not engaged or just busy with other commitments? We need to keep track of this for future works.
 - b. Waste CAT
 - i. Andrea noted that she wasn't sure who was missing because she doesn't have a roster. The communications person in each CAT has this information. Vickie will ask the 3 CAT communication leads to send out rosters and committee member contact info.
 - ii. They were light on people attending this one, but Josh notes that they had good discussion anyway. They needed members with more technical backgrounds in this field to move forward with the discussion.
 - c. Food insecurity CAT
 - i. Format and location were great. One hour was a good amount of time. If a project needs more time, an additional meeting could be scheduled.
 - ii. Content - lots of discussions, but not a lot of decisions. Andrea noted that they have projects and research that they're doing before the next meeting to further the conversation.
 - iii. Blessing box discussion and action have been great. This one is moving quickly.

- d. Food Education
 - i. Has not met yet. Meeting will be at the FCRC conference room on February 24th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.
- e. Reminder from Vickie - the CATs are an extension of the FFC, which is a city/county appointed Council. Please make sure that we're getting permission for projects. Member cannot purchase supplies and be reimbursed. Funds are held by by the health department for the CATs and our FFC and we must purchase through them.
- 5. Activity lead by Josh Brewer - identifying who we are as a FFC, what we want to accomplish, and what is the difference we hope to make.
 - f. Visioning exercise - think long term
 - i. What do we hope to achieve in five years?
 1. An efficient system with less overlap of services/resources.
 2. Effective communication between all aspects of the food system.
 3. The FFC is still operational.
 4. We have completed projects.
 - ii. What accomplishments will you be celebrating?
 1. FFC/CATs have a strong foundation of work - longevity and progress.
 2. Projects completed.
 3. Serving less people in food recovery/insecurity sites because more people have had education and access to healthy food.
 - iii. What will the community look like after you've been successful?
 1. More knowledge and community involvement with food system.
 2. Less people in need of emergency food supplies.
 - iv. What do we hope to achieve in ten years?
 1. Same as in 5 years, but even stronger. Solid foundation/platform for good projects to get off the ground.
 2. Other communities come to us for advice and knowledge
 - a. What do they see?
 - i. That we can feed the people in our community, but that we can also identify and help the root of the issue.
 3. Self-supporting
 4. FFC is the go-to for any questions/projects in the food system that arise.
 5. HiAP - sustainability in all processes.
 6. Improvement that can be measured with hard data.
 - v. Notes from above questions: If we're going from celebrating our continued existence in 5 years, how to we go from this to doing so well that other communities come to us in 10 years?
 1. Money. We'll need money to complete some of our projects
 - b. There's a lot of competition for funds.

- c. Relationships are required for trust. The 1:1 interviews were effective at beginning the building of relationships.
 - 2. We need to have a few projects under our belts to prove ourselves as able to make effective and positive change.
- g. Brand Focus Exercise: The Golden Circle
 - i. What: What does your organization do?
 - 1. Food education CAT
 - a. BG club after school program.
 - b. Programing for targeted audiences.
 - c. Programming for one-off events.
 - d. Kitchen Restore
 - 2. Food insecurity CAT
 - a. Buses carry food to people or people to food
 - b. Blessing boxes.
 - c. Expanding Common Table communal meal sites
 - 3. Waste CAT
 - d. Utilizing restaurants/institution as champions for reducing food waste.
 - e. Household education for waste reduction.
 - ii. How: How do you do it?
 - 1. CATs are teaching people, connecting people to food, reducing waste.
 - iii. Why: Why do you do what you do?
 - 1. Make a better community
 - 2. Economic and environmental impact
 - 3. Every person in our community can be active participants in the food system.
 - 4. People should be empowered to make good choices.
- h. Homework - think about core values to lead you to believe in the “why” from the previous question. We will continue our discussion and exercise at our next Food and Farm Council meeting, March 16th meeting (11:30am-1:00pm), Family and Child Resource Center.