

Nutrition Advisory Committee of Dutchess County

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, July 21, 2011

In Attendance: Christine Sergent, Shayna Russo, Rebecca Lull, Lacie Schmidt, Nancy Cimbrello (CCEDC), Jacky Cooper (DSS), Kathy Bell (Astor), Diane Ruffin (Beulah Baptist Church), Pat Brown (DOA), Ozie Williams (Dept of Health), Amy Baum (DC Healthy Families), Tara Callas (WIC), Gertrude O'Sullivan (Foundation for Community Health), Kaye Surman (Town of Dover), Alan Surman (DC Legislator #24)

Program Sharing and Announcements:

-Christine mentioned about CCE's Centennial Kickoff event at Vassar College campus from 5:00-6:00 tonight. The event is kicking off our celebration of CCE being around for 100 years. The event is free and will be serving wine and appetizers. Chamber of Commerce will be there with a ribbon cutting.

-Amy mentioned that Healthy Families is sponsoring a Breastfeeding Walk on August 3. The walk will start at the FPC and end at the Civic Center. After the event, there will be activities for families at the Civic Center. Amy has flyers in English and Spanish.

-Lacie spoke about the annual RAPP picnic that was held yesterday (7/20). About 40-50 participants attended. There was music therapy, arts/crafts, kickball game and much more.

Follow-up actions:

-Summer Feeding updates, goals and outreach:

In our last meeting, the committee had set goals for summer feeding: Our goal was to have 4 open in Poughkeepsie – we have 6 open sites. In Beacon, we had 2 closed and pending 1 open. We now have 2 open sites and 2 closed. First day at Beacon site, served 39, second day, 73 meals served. Beacon has been hosting about 75 kids since then. Al Muhlnickel estimated that he will serve about 1,000 meals per day. Another goal was to have some type of nutrition education at 6 out of the 8 sessions at Poughkeepsie and Beacon. Shayna reported that all the days are filled up by organizations to volunteer to do an activity with the kids. FPC is the site in Poughkeepsie and Community Resource Center is the one in Beacon. Poughkeepsie Farm Project is taking some days to educate. Big congratulations to the committee that we have succeeded our goals-besides the education part since that is ongoing.

Shayna talked about the kickoff events at both FPC and Beacon. The kickoff was a huge success. She passed around the "passport" that the kids used as they went around to the different stations to get them stamped in order to get a prize. All

prizes were donated by local organizations and businesses. Poughkeepsie Farm Project did a taste testing with cucumber and peppers. Diane mentioned that Beulah started with more people this year.

New Business

Future planning in regards to Summer Feeding:

Suggestions for improvement from an outreach standpoint:

- Shayna was greatly impressed with the interfaith communities in the Beacon area.
- Kathy Bell suggested getting the flyers out sooner – maybe in May. It would help families to know that this will be coming ahead so that they can plan.
- Community Boards are a great way to do outreach but manpower is needed to put them up. Summer parks are a great place to do outreach.
- Jackie Bucelot-Mills mentioned to Shayna that she had read an article stating that there was a mobile bus for library books. Wherever the books are going, they also had a mobile food. Shayne will talk with Jackie and find article to share
- Ozie said that you can write your own article to put in the newspaper and possibly look in the Penny Saver.
- Other areas to do outreach: Time Warner Channel, John Flowers (radio interviews), and Felicia Watson (radio station). A suggestion was made to run through all the community event programs and start booking yourself so that come May we have a start in the process.

Interest in the Northeast Corridor

- Webutuck and Dover can potentially get a site in 2012. Shayna, Marilyn Serino, Gertrude O'Sullivan and Kaye Surman will be meeting on Monday (7/25) to brainstorm on how to get Summer Feeding up and running in the northeast for next year. According to Marilyn for years Dover has had the numbers to qualify for summer feeding but the transportation has been a problem. Wingdale Elementary and Dover Elementary Schools are nearby to provide the meals. There is a camp at Wingdale that has 92 participants. Astor is also nearby but, during the summer, Astor only has 2 infant rooms open. Kathy Bell mentioned that many of the Astor families do have transportation and many of those infants have siblings that may be able to participate. Pawling School District was also questioned and we do not believe that it is eligible to receive funding, but we will investigate. A suggestion was made in utilizing the faith based community and NAC agencies to get the word out. Kaye said that the Lion's Club is very involved in the schools and may be able to assist.

Building Bridges Community Food Assessment:

- A Community Forum in June helped with the discussions as to what we want to achieve with this project. The Food Assessment is a collaborative grant with Dutchess Outreach, CCE, and POK Farm Project to conduct a food assessment in the city of Poughkeepsie and to form a strategic plan to try to deal with food insecurities. One of the parts of the assessment is to do a food

survey of a random sampling of the city of Poughkeepsie residents where food hunger is taking place. The forum consists of unique group of people who have different roles in the food system and brainstorming about the gaps, the needs and actions. The first community forum was opened to the community who can come and discuss their views on the food system. It was a packed room of interested citizens who want to see a healthy Poughkeepsie. Christine mentioned that we are still recruiting survey takers. They have learned that you do need to vary the times that you go. Vacant homes are the greatest barrier. Kaye mentioned that the Board of Elections data is pretty accurate with addresses.

- Nancy mentioned that there is finally a supermarket, Associated, on Main St. They offer lots of ethnic foods.

Updates:

- Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program: Christine submitted our FSNEP plan for next year. The plan reports that we will be serving ½ of our residents, including the youth in schools, as we have done in the previous years because of budget cuts. The proposal is at the federal level right now, it did make it through the state. Christine wanted to mention the new location of Poughkeepsie Farmer's Market by Pulaski Park is doing exceptionally well. There are many events on the Walkway. Arlington Farm Market is doing wonderfully also. WIC gives out farm market coupons. Pat Brown reported that the DOA handed out 900 coupons to seniors. Farmer's Markets need to be on the list to accept the coupons and to get the credit.
- Fish Advisory: CCE was renewed for another year which started in June and goes through May of next year. The Fish Advisory will be hosting a fish summit in the spring celebrating the Hudson River.

Next Meeting: August 18

Schedule for 2011:

September 15

October 20

November 17