

Healthy Food for All Work Group meeting

February 7, 2014 8-10 AM

Attendance (see attached)

LiveWell Funding

Charlie Bryan spoke about funding available through LiveWell (approximately \$5,000 per LiveWell Work Group, though that is not firm. Open all year during 2014; no deadline). Grant application available from Charlie in Word doc.

Media

Christina reviewed recent media coverage (included in packet). There have been several LJW news articles lately covering issues related our work group's efforts.

Discussion of public transportation impact on grocery shopping

There are limits to the number of bags you can "control" (plus kids) on a bus. Bus schedule may need to be adjusted to best serve residents. Jeremy Farmer reported that out of 650 Just Food clients who took a recent survey, only 83% reported having dependable transportation to get to Just Food (and 27% reported taking a friend's vehicle to get to the pantry).

SNAP

A continuation of our discussion of increased SNAP enrolment. Shelly explained how Harvesters is working to break down barriers to enrollment and dealing with misinformation. Eligibility is based on income and assets (130% of poverty level) which is about \$31,000 for a family of four with no assets.

Need for staff to help clients navigate the enrollment process. Brochures are available throughout the community.

Downtown Grocery Options

City and county plan to make a local grocery store feasible (possibility: the former Borders building).

Christina Holt and Chris Tilden met with group interested in a small market in North Lawrence (produce, café). They have purchased land and hope to start in 2015.

Does our work group want to weigh in on a local low cost grocery store? Grocery industry says Lawrence is "saturated." Do we want to suggest a type of grocery, e.g.- affordable, but profitable for store? Jeremy wondered whether the Borders building is too large for the grocery site, and encouraged the group to be open-minded to possible locations in North Lawrence and East Lawrence. Jeremy suggested the work group consider submitting a general letter of support to both the city and county commission and possibly sponsor a community forum.

The group noted that there is a bus hub at 9th and New Hampshire, which would be helpful for transportation to/ from the downtown grocery.

Eileen Horn suggested perhaps a market study should be done to determine what the market will support.

Eileen agreed to plan community meeting/ listening session, communicate with stakeholders (e.g., neighborhood associations, local PTAs, Edgewood Homes, city and county commissioners, representatives

of the grocery industry.) Event could be convened by LiveWell & the Douglas County Food Policy Council, perhaps hosted at New York Elementary.

Future meetings

Friday, April 4, and Friday June 6, both commencing at 8 AM

Adjourn Work Group Meeting

Enhancing SNAP participation subcommittee meeting

(nota bene: Everyone chose to continue to participate in subcommittee discussion)

Christina passed out participation rate data. According to Harvesters' data, approximately 12,000 Douglas County residents were eligible but do not participate in SNAP. Douglas county is relatively low (27.3%) and there was discussion about how the data was obtained and what it means.

Raven will contact USD 497 to ask what we can ask for regarding eligibility information in a letter that is already sent to families re: free and reduced lunch.

Harvesters is piloting mass mailings to increase SNAP enrollment and said perhaps Douglas County could be targeted for the mass mailings.

SNAP outreach sites and events completeness check.

Host sites have at minimum information available about SNAP but at best staff available to assist clients with process. Harvesters has five people covering 16 counties but Douglas County is a priority for them. WIC clinic doesn't yet provide assistance but is looking into it. Seniors are underserved; contact DC Senior Services and Meals on Wheels. Need to train counselors at the Lawrence Community Shelter in outreach. Jeremy will meet with the new Haskell president to consider a food pantry there.

Connie Detweiller of K-State Research and Extension will begin putting the Harvesters' SNAP Enrollment Hotline number on the SNAP materials that she distributes.

Next steps/ announcements

Eileen reported on a SNAP match for area farmers markets, in process of getting data to start projections for match program. There is a stigma in using farmers markets; need to publicize dollar for dollar match program. Use \$5,000 grant for marketing and local government for funding.

Just Food is partnering with KU School of Social Welfare for a research grant and asks for a letter of support from this group. What is the perception of SNAP users in Douglas County? Among food bank users what is the presence of fraud and abuse?

"The Hidden Hungry: Ending Senior Hunger" with Enid Borden at the Dole Institute on April 23 at 7:30pm

Next SNAP meeting:

Does this group want to meet again? Yes. We will meet following the scheduled Healthy Food for All April 4 meeting