**Healthy Food for all Work Group meeting**

February 7, 2014 8-10 AM

**Attendance** (see attached)

**LiveWell Funding**

Charlie spoke about funding opportunities. Grant application available from him in Word doc.

**Media**

Christina reviewed recent media coverage (included in packet).

**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 is more a barrier than an asset. Jeremy said only 6% take a bus.

**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 suggested the work group submit a letter of support and possibly sponsor a community forum.

Eileen will help plan event, communicate with neighborhood associations, and invite city and county commissioners and representatives of the grocery industry.

**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 continued to participate in subcommittee discussion)**

Christina passed out participation rate data. 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 to families.

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 provess. 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.

**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?

**Next SNAP meeting:**

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