

# Food Access and Security Coalition

07.17.2023



## Minutes

### Attendees

- ☒ **Honor Crawford**, Benton-Franklin Health District
- ☒ **Tony Cook**, Second Harvest
- ☒ **Carla Martinez**, Mid-Colombia Meals on Wheels
- ☒ **Leslie Stahlnecker**, ESD 123
- ☒ **Marisa Hansen**, Kennewick Housing Authority
- ☒ **Diana Henning**, Kadlec Community Health
- ☒ **Eric Williams**, Second Harvest
- ☒ **Eunice Aguilar**, Benton-Franklin Health District
- ☒ **Joyce Newsom**, People for People, 2-1-1

**Facilitator:** Honor Crawford

- ☒ **VJ Meadows**, Tri-City Food bank
- ☒ **Zachary Shileika**, TC Futures
- ☒ **Daphne Gallegos**, Benton-Franklin Health District
- ☒ **Karen Diaz**, Housing Authority of the city of Pasco and Franklin County
- ☒ **Amy Lindholm**, Benton Benton-Franklin Health District, WIC
- ☒ **Rebekah Tuno**, Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

**Recorder:** Honor Crawford

**July Meeting Recording:** [Click here to watch the July meeting!](#)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

☒ **Prompt:** Name, agency, title, icebreaker.

Below are points that arose in the icebreaker discussion and may be worth looking into further or beginning our first project together as a coalition.

**VJ Meadows:** "People come in and they don't know how to use the food we provide; we have **cultural** and **language barriers**"

**Honor Crawford:** **Community cooking/nutrition classes** with culturally relevant/appropriate foods or ways to utilize the foods we do have.

**Becky Van Pelt:** Mentioned that Second Harvest offers **cooking classes** in Spokane and wishes we could bring that to Tri-Cities to teach families.

**Joyce Newsom:** Mentioned the challenges with shopping for **medically tailored meals** in grocery stores if you require a tailored diet such as low sodium. Joyce gave a comparison of stores in the UK being set up to easily find appropriate foods.

**Carla Marti** mentioned **nutrition education** for youth as a priority.

**Honor Crawford:** Replying to Carla mentioned **school community gardens** where students grow and learn about the produce and the food is harvested in the summer months and used to supplement summer meals.

**Leslie Stahlnecker:** Mentioned meal delivery service models and the idea of people putting together a sample of foods available at food banks and what you can make (recipes) with it. So, clients leave the food bank with a food plan.

**Diana Henning:** Mentioned **nutrition education** as a need in the area.

### II. Old Business

- **Gratitude!** Lizann Powers-Hammond referred Rachael Dove the new WSU Extension Master Gardener

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program coordinator, thank you! Eric Williams connected Honor with Tony Cook and Kathleen Hedgcock the Senior Vice President of Philanthropy at 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest, thank you!

- **Member Spotlights:** Our coalition survey indicated a desire to bring back member spotlights. You should have received an email with a Sign-Up Genius to select a month for your own member spotlight! [Sign-Up Here!](#)
- **Community Spotlight:** Community Spotlights are intended to feature other members within our regional food system for educational purposes and opportunities to see where we can get involved. **Send me your suggestions/recommendations from whom you'd like to hear!**
- **Membership:** Invite a friend and invite decision-makers! Honor will send out the **distribution list, please give it a look and send me recommendations for missing representation or feel free to invite them yourselves!**

### III. New Business

- **Cooling Centers:** **Distribute PDF and inform businesses or community centers/partners that they can join the list as a cooling center!**
- **FASC Documentation:** The BFHD FASC webpage will store all agendas, minutes, the charter, and **recordings (linked within the minutes).**
- **Meeting Format:** **Our first hybrid/in-person meeting will be on August 21, 2023 contingent on space. If your agency can bring food, please let Honor know.** If we don't have anyone step up, we can try a potluck but Honor will need assistance coordinating. Come and get to know each other better and develop deeper relationships as coalition partners!
- **Distribution List:** Will be sent out with the minutes for the July meeting. Feel free to glance at it and let Honor know who is missing!
- **Comprehensive, up-to-date food resource list:**

VJ mentioned having a single-page resource list or map would be great for clients to take with them.

**Joyce:** Be sure to refer clients to 2-1-1 where clients can check eligibility for SNAP

**Daisy:** Be sure to include the date on any resource guide we create.

### IV. Member Spotlight

- **Karen Diaz:** Self-sufficiency coordinator for the City of Pasco and Franklin County, Pasco, and Kennewick Housing Authority.

5-year family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

**What:** FSS has two main features: case management and financial coaching services and a financial incentive. Program participants work with an FSS service coordinator to identify their financial and employment-related goals, including education or training, and can access a range of support services, such as childcare or credit repair, that offer assistance in achieving their goals. Under the financial incentive, a family that makes increased earnings and pays higher rent also receives higher payments in an escrow account, enabling them to build assets.

If families successfully complete the program they receive all the remaining funds credited to their escrow account. They can use these funds for any purpose. The average savings of more than \$6,000[20] can enable families to create an emergency fund for the future; to pay off debts, thereby reducing monthly expenses and improving their credit scores; or to invest in a small business, a home, or their children's education. Such savings opportunities are otherwise very rare for lower-income families.

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- **Tony Cook:** Second Harvest **3** areas of focus:

#### 1. Feeding People:

- a) Distribute food to partner agencies.
- b) Mobile markets: full-size trucks that can deliver food to around 250 families at a time complimentary to the host partner agency.
- c) **Bite-to-go Program:** Distribution to children in schools during the school year to provide food for the weekends.

**2. Nourishing:** Education on how to cook foods (raw or fresh foods). Second Harvest is working to **expand its teaching kitchen model to the Tri-Cities region and has a curriculum** and other materials, however, the largest barrier right now is space. **Be on the lookout for space to operate this great opportunity. Teach folks how to use what they have and stretch the foodstuff available in warehouse of SH.**

**3. Building:** Building relationships that source food and the infrastructure to supply food. Tony works extensively with the shipping side of food which is complementary work to their grocery rescue. Grocery rescue sources ~12 million pounds of food a year and represents the largest amount of variety of foods. SH also works with distribution centers and picks up unsaleable food donations.

**Don't Dump Donate:** A large problem that occurs at the distribution stage is that of rejected shipments. Rejected perishable shipments can be dumped if another buyer cannot be found in time. If these perishables do make it to a store, they have a shorter shelf life by the time they get there. Sometimes they are brought to food banks if the food banks have the capacity to take them. Tony's work at Second Harvest involves outreach to dispatchers and truckers to ensure rejected loads of perishable and dry/canned goods can get dropped off at second harvest distribution centers which are easy to access off the highway in Pasco and Spokane.

**Zac S.** suggested posting cards at weigh stations.

**Tony's email:** [Tony.Cook@2-harvest.org](mailto:Tony.Cook@2-harvest.org)

Spread the word:

- Hotline for truckers – 509-252-6299
- Web donation form Food Industry Donation Offer ([airtable.com](https://airtable.com))
- **Don't Dump, Donate Cards** for truckers and dispatchers available from Tony upon request.

### V. Updates on Current Activities

- **Produce Rx, Diana Henning, Kadlec:** Food vouchers called "Produce Power," program will have an educational component. Diana mentioned the **kitchen at the Kadlec Healthplex and the potential to link with Second Harvest for space and nutrition curriculum sharing**. The Produce Rx Program is in the process of applying for a grant and looking to start in February.

**Diana is looking to partner with Spanish speakers who may be able to teach nutrition classes with culturally relevant foods in Spanish.**

- **Instacart** is expanding EBT SNAP and launching Fresh Funds as a new payment option. Kadlec could put money on clients' Instacart accounts so the client can choose their produce online and it will be delivered to them. They deliver to most areas in B-F counties.

### VI. Partnership Building

- **Identification of potential partners and stakeholders not present:** We want to recruit the right individuals to see what we have to offer, reach out and invite someone or send your recommendations to Honor.
- **Feel free to share opportunities to collaborate.**

## VII. Open Floor (Who, what, notes)

**Amy Lindholm:** WIC now offers appointments in person and remotely. 15-20% of clients do want to come in where the child can be weighed, measured, and iron tested. WIC caseload is increasing each month and hired two new staff. Tri-Cities Community Health also has WIC and both BFHD WIC and TCCH WIC clients may use QR code benefits at farmers markets.

**Carla Martinez:** Farmers Market for seniors, cards issued through Aging and Long-Term Care issues over 1,100 cards this season. Can be used at Pasco, Richland, and Process Farmer's Market but vendors had trouble signing up so there may be limited availability in eligible vendors.

**Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program:** Application, age, and income criteria, \$84 voucher value

## VIII. Action Items and Next Steps

- Honor to investigate embedding 2-1-1 food resource map on FASC webpage.
- Tony Cook to connect Second Harvest nutrition team with Diana Henning, Honor Crawford and Daisy Parra-Padilla to discuss nutrition education opportunities for Tri-Cities.
- Honor will connect Zac and Tony regarding speaking opportunities
- Honor to send out a member distribution list along with minutes.

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## Other Information

### Guests:

N/A

### Resources:

### Special notes:

**The 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan is published and on the BFHD website! [Click here to view it!](#)**

### Upcoming Dates:

- Next meeting is August 21, 2023, IN PERSON!

**\*\*Send Honor your events, resources, and other information and we'll be sure to include it here.**