



**January 12, 2017 – 9:30 am**  
**United Way Suncoast**  
**5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Ste. 600, Tampa, FL 33609**

- **Introductions**
  - **Network Business**
    - **Membership Application and Survey – Sandy Cooper**
  - **Foundation for Sustainable Families - Ashley Rhodes-Courter**
    - **Farm in Pinellas Park**
  - **Transportation Survey – Kevin Salzer**
  - **New Food Desert Project – Allie Nguyen, DOH**
  - **Work Team Updates**
  - **Next Meeting – Matt Spence, CFTB, and Research Team Work Shop**
    - **Meeting to be extended to 1pm**
  - **Any additional info to share**
  - **Adjournment**
- 
- **Introductions**
    -
  - **Network Business**
    - **Membership Application and Survey – Sandy Cooper**
    - **Anyone who was not at the last meeting should sign up to be sent a membership application by email. Also, at the last meeting we asked members to fill out a survey on how well the Network is supporting our**

member organizations, so Sandy will send the survey along with the application as well.

- **Foundation for Sustainable Families - Ashley Rhodes-Courter**
  - **Farm in Pinellas Park**
  - Ashley gave her personal background on being a foster child placed with 14 different foster families before being adopted, and now having been a foster parent to 25 children with her husband, seeing that the problems she saw personally as a child still exist. So her foundation's goal is to bring community partners together to help close gaps for these foster children. As a foster parent she met her current clinical partner, Brandeis, and after a child she had fostered and Brandeis had been therapist for was reunited with her family despite warning signs and was murdered, she realized she wanted to get into the service side. Many of the children in the foster system are hungry, and they need help dealing with various types of abuse they have suffered, learning how to get through school and apply for jobs, and other needs. They have obtained an acre of land plus an old farmhouse in Pinellas Park that they are rehabbing for growing food on the land and providing services in the farmhouse. They also use animal-assisted therapy with therapy goats, kittens, and they also have a turkey. The farm has produce, bees producing honey, will have a butterfly sanctuary to honor children who lost their lives in the foster system, and other services in the farmhouse. Their goal is to provide wrap-around services for children to meet all their needs. The farm would like to partner with members of the Network to help serve children. The foundation is able to take children for therapy and social work within a day or two whereas most agencies in Tampa and St. Pete have waiting lists of up to a year. They will also have a meeting space that organizations can use for meetings and plan to be a summer feeding site this summer with an enrichment activity that may be therapeutic and keep an eye out as to whether the kids who come to eat may have other needs or are in high-risk families.
  - Cliff Smith mentioned that the boys and girls club in Pinellas Park is always looking for activities in the summer and that would be a good partnership opportunity for the farm.
  - Amanda Vasquez asked about billing for the social services. They are in the credentialing process to be able to bill for their services. They currently accept children's medical services which is a form of Medicaid, and they also accept Medicare. There is a large population of elderly people who have custody of young children. They also take a handful of insurance panels for referrals and have interns who can see clients pro bono.

- The address for the farm is 5695 78<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Pinellas Park.

- **Transportation Survey – Kevin Salzer**

- Kevin passed around a short questionnaire having to do with food access. He is working on a study to survey service providers about transportation to their facilities, and they have already surveyed providers at the TBNEH annual conference. There are two parts to the study: questionnaire of community stakeholders, and then quantitative analysis of transit access around the Tampa Bay Area. The intent is to bring these two pieces together into a final report.
- Some of the responses so far have shown that clients use personal cars, family or friends, bus, taxi, bicycle, walk or run, rideshare like Uber or Lyft, or a van service to get there. The highest share was 19 percent used family or a friend to get there, showing that no one mode of transportation dominates food access. Also, 71 percent of respondents said that their clients frequently complain about lack of access to their organization. About 33 percent said that the nearest bus stop is more than three-quarters of a mile away, which is considered the maximum distance for someone to walk to a bus stop in the transportation industry. 43 percent said their clients come to their organization frequently. Shaina Bent raised that “frequently” may mean different things to different providers and it may be better to ask the question more concretely, as in do your clients come once a week, once a month, etc.
- The quantitative section: one in three of food insecure in the Tampa Bay area had poor access to transit in 2012, meaning they would have to walk more than three-quarters of a mile to get to the food providers. They plan to update this data.
- The results of the study can be used in a grant application to show that there is a transportation or access problem in the applicant’s area. They will be available to TBNEH and anyone can use them for grants or in strategic planning for the transportation work group at TBNEH. The report should be out in the next few months.
- There is a survey tool available if anyone wants to distribute it to their clients at their sites, but for internal review board reasons, Kevin was not able to survey clients directly through this study.
- Caitlyn Peacock noted that the idea of using spare or idle church vans during the week with vetted volunteer drivers in that zip code to improve food access is related to this study. Sandy Cooper is updating the database tracking these vans’ availability and whether the churches are still interested in participating. Kevin’s research ties back to what are the exact needs and how we can best work on projects like the church vans.

- **New Food Desert Project – Allie Nguyen, DOH-Hillsborough**
  - DOH has been working on Health and All Policies to get a strategy for local government agencies and officials to consider health in making decisions about transportation, education, and other issues. One of the projects with the Planning Commission is a grant they received from the Department of Economic Opportunity to look at the city of Tampa's comprehensive land use plan and work in the University Square / Terrace Park area, south of USF, which has a long-term plan to gauge food access, interest in community gardens or other food suppliers in the area, and determine ways to mitigate policies for land use to support those types of food providers. The primary focus is community gardens, and there often can be administrative hoops to jump through that prevent those from being easily started. The grant is to look at the policies around land use – retail, housing, mixed use – so that as developers' proposals come in, the planning commission can say whether the community decided that the proposed use is or is not appropriate for the space. The project will wrap up by June, and it started in the fall. Surveys are going live tomorrow, and the community outreach will be tomorrow and Saturday to engage people to take that survey. The community meeting will be in February.
  - Results will be determined based on community response. What the DOH and Planning Commission think are best for improving food access may not be what the community wants or can sustain. It does not make sense to put in a community garden if no one wants it or will tend it. So they will have to see the results before they can come up with a plan or recommendations. But it is part of Allie's job to work with policy-makers so the research will be pushed at the appropriate level, likely City Council, not just set aside.
  - David Whitwam suggested expanding the scope from community gardens to urban agriculture. Allie said the survey will also ask people if they want to have a garden in their own home, citrus trees in their neighborhood, a CSA, etc.
  
- **Work Team Updates**
  - Policy team, Caitlyn Peacock for Arianne Corbett: new goal of the Hunger Network is to help educate our local leaders and effect policy change as needed to help the food insecure. Arianne Corbett is leading the team and we had our first meeting yesterday with a great turnout. Right now the two issues we're looking at the child nutrition reauthorization act, reaching out to Ellen Vollinger of FRAC to see how we can help; and adequate feeding time for kids in schools (Mary Kate has data on adequate feeding time she will give to Arianne) so that they can actually eat the food they're provided. Anyone with information on or a contact at

an organization that might be helpful to our efforts to push policy change should contact Sandy Cooper, as should anyone with a policy issue they want to address (such as David Whitwam on zoning for community gardens).

- Alternative Breakfast, Caitlyn Peacock: Working with Pinellas to try to increase breakfast participation (Hillsborough is much higher). The Florida Dairy Council just gave us \$10,000 to purchase the alternative breakfast carts for schools with high FRE rates and low breakfast participation as compared to lunch participation.
- Research team, Allie Nguyen: will be having a training next month on setting up an evaluation, having goals for the work teams and an annual plan to evaluate how your team is meeting your goals. It will be at the end of the next monthly meeting, which will be extended to 1 pm.
- School gardens, David Whitwam: This will be a new work team with suggested goals to assess current school gardens, build community network, share information and resources, identify successful school garden models, implement methods to keep volunteers engaged, provide resources for the classroom curricula, and eventually tie them in at a district level. The state is supporting this work team through TBNEH. They will be meeting at least monthly so if you did not already sign up at December's TBNEH meeting and want to be on the team, please email David.

- **Next Meeting – Matt Spence, CFTB, and Research Team Work Shop**

- **Meeting to be extended to 1pm**

- **Any additional info to share**

- Will Carey's VA garden – Grand Opening Feb. 16 and multiple veterans' groups will be there. There will be many volunteer opportunities before then.
- Lauren Vance: Meals on Wheels of Tampa developed a Produce on Wheels monthly program and now want to increase this program to daily, though currently they are three times a week. They have a grant application due tomorrow. They are looking for partners to obtain donated or discounted produce.
- Scarlett: Monday, January 30 from 4-6:30 is the grand opening of the UMCM FISH Hub at 4530 39<sup>th</sup> Ave N in Lealman and everyone is welcome. It is the very back building at Clearview United Methodist Church.
- Mark Trujillo: CASA food drive soup-er bowl. They are looking for sites between now and February 9 to host a box to collect food and also want to encourage people to drop off food at the existing sites.

- **Adjournment**
-