

July 14, 2016 – 9:30 am
United Way Suncoast
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**

- **Network Business**
 - **Board Retreat – Caitlyn P.**
 - New for this year: August 12. First half of day will be executive board discussing strategic plan and organizational issues for Network; second half of day will be governing council to help with that process.
 - **New Open Board Positions – Deborah Lekenta**
 - Executive board terms are two years and coming to an end at the end of this fiscal year. The open positions are treasurer (Pat Rogers will put her name in for that), secretary (currently Christine Long with Met Min; if no one puts their name in, she may stay); vice chair (Liz Rhodes), and chair (Deb Lekenta) will be stepping down but continuing as past chair. The idea is to get new people in and new ideas, to keep our momentum going. Would like to have someone from Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough, to represent the three counties with these positions. The names will be put out with ballots and the members present at the meeting will vote. If there are any questions about the positions, email or call Deb L. and she will probably have you talk to the person who has the position now. It would be ideal if the vice chair could move into the chair position, but Liz has taken a different position and isn't able to do it at this time.
 - **Facebook: Membership Highlights – Ace Padian / Caitlyn P.**
 - In the past, we've used our social networking to highlight members and it will be mutually beneficial to highlight a member and what they're doing. Will start with once a month and go to twice a month if it makes sense. Contact Ace if you are interested in having your organization highlighted.
 - **Annual Conference – Ace Padian / Caitlyn P.**
 - Craig Gundersen will be keynote; master economist, national Feeding America map the meal gap, and he focuses on food insecurity and SNAP benefits. It will be October 21 at the Patel College at USF in Tampa again.

- New idea this year for sponsorships: going to try to get sponsors at various levels, everything from speaking for a few minutes before or after the keynote, having a table in the lobby, banner, named sponsor, panelist at one of the breakouts, etc. Danielle and Jan expressed interest in having the sponsorship package to bring back to their organizations. We will finalize that package by the end of the month. We will also have the breakout panels finalized by next meeting and will solicit participation from members to be panelists or moderators in those. Metro Min is going to sponsor the breakfast; we are still looking for someone to sponsor the lunch. Last year we had Meals on Wheels provide the actual lunch they were giving to seniors that day, sponsored by Florida Hospital Carrollwood thanks to Jan Baskin. A second possibility is Metro Min's revenue generating service Inside the Box, and a third is that Andrew would cook lunch or breakfast with recovered food. Or we could have a combination in order to show all the different options. We will also be collecting food for a food pantry again this year – last year it was shelf-stable food, and this year we will probably donate to a pantry in Tampa – there is a student food pantry at USF called Feedable that could be an option.
- Lee Ann Carr: The conference has a lot of attendance from within TBNEH members, but not a lot from outside. So to best get sponsorships, we need to expand the attendance and capture demographics to show to potential sponsors. Lee Ann has reached out to Rotary group and there is some work that needs to be done in that area – they are willing to write an article promoting the conference. People have asked for a video as well in considering the sponsorship. Volunteer opportunities that people can sign up for at the conference itself would be helpful for future. Lee Ann needs volunteers to help her with her outreach efforts.
- Andrew Chouinard: Might be good to have a workshop for pantries to ensure they are following best food handling practices and also best practices as far as how to make sure people will actually use the food they're given instead of discarding it because they never wanted it.

- **Guest Speaker – Bonnie Watson**

- **WIC at farmers markets**

The state WIC office has a new program and would like local farmers who want to participate to apply. To qualify, the farmer's market must be in a fixed location; must have certain equipment (WIC will provide the EBT slide card machine) such as electricity and internet; and go through

Bonnie Watson or her WIC coordinator to be put in touch with someone at the state WIC office to get the equipment. They will come out and train you on it but you have to keep inventory on it because it is purchased with federal funding. The vendor manager will also have to come out periodically for a “vendor visit” to make sure everything is going okay, about once every two years.

WIC’s goal is to increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables. Most clients get \$10 a month. If you’ve heard of another program in other counties, where they get vouchers for fruits and vegetables, WIC will honor them on top of the EBT card.

This voucher program is only awarded to certain counties but they are phasing that out in hopes to take over the EBT card. So in the future it will be strictly only through the EBT card, and that will be state-wide as long as vendors sign up for it. There is not a coordinated effort to reach out to vendors in Hillsborough, and Bonnie is trying to do that through the Network (she will send information to be included in TBNEH weekly newsletter). The WIC cards are separate from the SNAP cards – separate accounts, and the machines are separate too although they are looking into being able to use the same machine for both. The WIC dollars do not currently double at a farmer’s market like they do for SNAP.

- **Guest Speaker – Nichelle “Nikki” Foster, Mosaic**

- **Six Sigma / Weekend Bag Program**

Mosaic supports Thomas Promise which does a weekend bag program and were trying to expand the program. They speculated about why it was working in some places but not others, and thought it might be because middle school students are too cool to bring backpacks home, or maybe Spanish-speaking was an obstacle, but they did not have resources to find out for certain. A professor who gave Six Sigma certification at USF connected students who needed the project for their certification with this project. Six Sigma certification trains people to be able to look at a process at every level and analyze what the problem is at each level – from assembly lines to customer service, business processes, to maximize efficiency. There are several levels of Six Sigma certification all the way up to a Black Belt. The professor oversaw the students in analyzing the Thomas Promise program. They conducted several surveys at the schools with administrators and parents, and looked at the various benefits from the program (including health) and identified what they thought the main barriers were. In some schools, the problem was that only one or two people were administering the program in addition to their full-time job and they couldn’t devote enough time to it. Overall communication of the program was another problem (not related to Spanish or English speaking).

Thomas Promise is now looking at those issues the students identified as possible barriers to expanding the program, and will try to come up with ways to address them.

- **Work Team Updates**

- Eve Spengler, Food Recycling: One of the team's main focuses is trying to change public policy so that food is a recoverable material no matter how rotten it is. Recycle Florida Today conference last month is a non-political group and Eve attended; they referred her to the Florida Food Policy Advisory Council which she has joined and is having a meeting this Saturday. We should not be landfilling or burning food; we should make soil out of it and grow more food. Another focus is urban gardening and the right to grow your own food no matter how your land is zoned, where you live, whether you are a renter or an owner, and the right to share it with others. July 31 at 1:00 will be the next team meeting at Sunken Gardens in St Pete (Eve can get members in for free, so do not worry about the attendance cost). Eckerd College, USF of St Pete, USF of Tampa, and other schools are on board with learning to recycle their food, as are Hillsborough County elementary schools (not until the fall, of course).
- Andrew Chouinard, Food Hub: They did receive the grant for the fish hub project, which is mostly intended for people in Lealman so that Andrew can talk to them to get them to work collectively. Andrew will be meeting with Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete soon to show them how he will be spending the money. Andrew is putting together an evaluation team, and the work team will be a part of this, to focus on the community component of the food hub – not just collecting data but coming up with best practices to share with the community and how the community will benefit and grow from this work. There will also be educational components to work with children and their parents so they can learn not only about food but also health (including physical exercise). The food incubator will try to get start-up businesses to do a Saturday market at Clearview. Looking for someone to fill a director's position for the Hub – taking applications right now to be filled right away. There are four early childhood centers through JWB and they will be taking over as caterers of their own centers, using seasonal food.
- Jan, Healthy Corner Stores – next meeting will be August 3rd at 10:00 at Florida Hospital Carrollwood. Goal is to have at least one and up to three healthy corner stores in Hillsborough by the end of the year.
- Danielle, Childhood Hunger Initiative (Pinellas) – would be glad to share information with other counties if anyone is interested. In the summer, we look at gaps for children when they're not in school and increasing

BreakSpots, backpack program, JWB food distribution of shelf-stable meals with 15 community contracts where kids are hungry beyond the meals they can get at BreakSpots. One of those contracts is with Pathways Community Church – other churches can come and get food from them. Breakspot participation is up this year from where it was last year based on mid-summer numbers. So the outreach of targeted flyers, news media, etc. is working. The other piece of the summer is the faith-based pilot, which started at United Methodist St Pete, and is now expanded with a toolkit that other churches can follow – showing a flyer template, volunteer scheduling, activities to have at the site, etc. and this has led to five new spots. St Pete Public Library has a BreakSpot this summer, which is new for Pinellas – and they have 50 kids coming to the library for story time and food.

- Need to start marketing and the plan for next summer now. It is too late to wait until March. We need to partner with places like Winn-Dixie, Save-A-Lot, Dollar General to get them to promote the sites. We also need to identify the places where kids are hungry but are too far from current sites so we can add in a mobile site or maybe a site at a local church where the parents will be comfortable having their kids walk. If a site is identified but needs clean up, contact Keep Pinellas Beautiful or Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful to come and clear the site so it's safe for kids to use.

- **Additional Info to Share**

- Jessica from BayCare Behavioral Health – working on a new non-profit to help therapy through service, here and abroad. Community garden is a focus; one site in Tampa at an assisted living facility and one in St. Pete so far. They will hold workshops on how to garden so the people who live there can use the land and donate the food to distributors – need help from the Network to maximize their efforts and looking for volunteers to help with the gardens.

- **Adjournment**