

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

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**

 - **Network Business**
 - **Research Work Team Workshop – Jennifer Webb**
 - **EFSP – what is it? – Caitlyn P.**
 - **Annual Conference – Caitlyn P.**
 - **A big thank you**

 - **Work Team Updates**
 - **Healthy Corner Store**
 - **Transportation**
 - **ABAWD**

 - **PAL Farm – Neil Brickfield**

 - **Additional Info to Share**

 - **Adjournment**
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- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**

 - **Network Business**
 - **Research Work Team Workshop – Jennifer Webb**
 - Workshop was held on May 31st with goal to show how to evaluate working group projects, expanded to include people who work at partner agencies even if they are not work team leaders at TBNEH. Everyone left with a plan for evaluation and understanding how their work group fit into the larger effort to actually end hunger and learning how to measure and evaluate short-, medium- and long-term effects. The feedback was universally positive and another workshop will be held, probably in the fall. An email will be sent to participants to inform them about more indicators and evaluation tools.

- Handouts from the workshop will be available on the TBNEH website under the Research Work Team update.
- **EFSP – what is it? – Caitlyn P.**
 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program: recently discovered that funds from EFSP grants can be used to buy refrigerators. This could be very significant, especially for smaller charities who are looking to build infrastructure. Phase 33 funding has not been announced yet, but it should be in the next couple of weeks. An ad will go in the paper and anyone with questions can reach out to Caitlyn P.
 - Every county is allocated a certain amount of money based on several factors including poverty, employment, etc. This year, Pinellas was not awarded any direct funds, but will be advocating for some state set-aside funds based on pockets of severe poverty.
 - More information at efsp.unitedway.org.
- **Annual Conference – Caitlyn P.**
 - Confirmed date is October 21 at the Patel College of Global Sustainability. It will be an all-day event and we have confirmed our keynote speaker: Craig Gunderson, a world-renowned researcher on global food insecurity as well as domestic, and leads the Feeding America Map the Meal Gap.
 - Annual Conference Committee met this week. Each breakout topic will be organized, not just with a presenter with a powerpoint, but with a panel of experts on that topic to talk about it together and offer a Q&A segment for the audience members.
 - Potential topics: Transportation and Food Access; Lived Experiences; Childhood Hunger; Health and Hunger; Structural Production of Hunger (how larger socioeconomic structure causes hunger); Senior Hunger; Healthy Corner Store / Earth Box to Provide Healthy Food Access; Hunger / Food Policy. Other ideas: will be requested through TBNEH email and Jennifer Webb will also request ideas from USF.
- **A big thank you**
 - Caitlyn P. and Deborah L.: We had asked everyone to sign a support letter for us for the TBNEH board to ask for funds and we applied for a grant from Allegheny Franciscan ministry (for which no members were eligible, and it was a one-time only capacity-building grant, by invitation only), three-year, \$100,000 grant. We still need more funding to ensure we are sustainable long-term and will be seeking more funds – e.g. sponsorship opportunities at the annual conference.

- **Work Team Updates**

- **Healthy Corner Store**

- Pat Rogers: The team has been finding out what others have already done in this process. First step is to figure out where are the corner stores you want to target. Pat was able to use the Hunger Gap map of the food deserts and hunger gap areas, then added in the convenience stores that take SNAP, and numbered the ones in the relevant areas. Now she has a list of stores to give to the team. Pinellas County has already done this in South Pinellas, and we have their survey forms to use. The team will have another meeting – had to reschedule due to the recent rains, but will start doing the surveys. Some of the stores are not in the best neighborhoods, so it's best to do it in teams. The idea is to get a feel for what foods the stores have available now and what can be done to improve them. The key is for it to be a compelling business model that the stores would like to follow – that will make it sustainable.

- **Transportation**

- Kevin Salzer has been collecting letters of support from various charities so that he could submit them along with the application for the grant process. The surveys will be conducted in August, on the cusp of when the school year starts. Also, Kevin attended a state-wide professional development conference these past two days and met a new planner at the Pasco Transit Agency and one of the workshops is looking at a new route to go in to Moon Lake and help people access jobs. Kevin will work with her in case some of the data will be relevant across their work.

- **ABAWD Update**

- Jennifer Webb has heard from Tiffany, the new community partner liaison for Pinellas / Pasco / Hillsborough. They are talking about having a July community partner forum and they're looking for topics and locations. We have discussed ABAWD changes and how that has affected clients that the agencies serve. Jennifer wants to encourage our service providers to approach them, or we could all go as a group, to see if this topic would work. Jane (Daystar): A discussion might be better than a presentation. People have been getting letters saying they're eligible through 2017, then a second letter saying they need to re-certify, then they go in to re-certify and they can't because they've already been approved. Those people are getting cut off. And when they are cut off, they can no longer get their IDs replaced for free, as well. We need to be brought up to date on how to handle these situations when they come up.

- **PAL Farm - Neil Brickfield**

- The PAL is located in Lealman, which has high poverty, high unemployment, high arrest rates, and is a classic food desert. The center of Lealman is a mile and a quarter to the nearest grocery store. Mark Trujillo got Neil involved in farming – hydroponic farms that can put 20 plants where a normal farm would have one. They started planting in March, distributing food the second week in April, and they have about 1500 plantings now. It's producing more than they can distribute now. By the fall, they'll have over 15,000 plants – they ordered 5,000 strawberry plants. Steve will be helping with the farming and they use community kids to help with the planting and watering. They are also working with an organization that has a culinary program for developmentally disabled adults, and with IFAS, WellCare, and Pinellas County. They grow peppers, kale, chard, basil, oregano, poblanos, collards, okra, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, tomatoes, lettuce, and much more. They are a U-Pick farm – will be open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons 1-5 in the fall (check their Facebook page – First Fruit Hydroponics). The previous owners made a profit; PAL is hoping to break even. Fresh food costs more in Lealman because they can get away with it, so PAL is working with 15 community partners, including the high schools, the health department, food banks, youth organizations, community centers, churches, and others to pass out healthy food. The Department of Corrections on Ulmerton is sending a work team out to change the pots' soil, and they have their own farm that isn't producing well so PAL is going to help them with that.

- **Additional Info to Share**

- Summer feeding starts Monday – school is out Friday. Hillsborough has four food trucks that will be going out and have tripled the number of stops – up to 64 stops. They do breakfast as well as lunch during the summer (they might be the only county in the state that provides breakfast). It's not too late to sign up if anyone wants to be a site in Hillsborough. Also, the school district's central production kitchen will be finished by August and will produce meals to deliver to about 30 schools – it will have a dinner program and after-school snack program as well as emergency feeding. They have a large generator that will keep the kitchen going in case there is a hurricane or other issue.
- Some sites did not get SFSP flyers – TBNEH can send out the generic flyers, and those and banners are free. There is not a good distribution effort for the summer program. Florida Impact tries to handle it but it seems to be hit-or-miss (they will ship it out when requested). There needs to be a stronger effort.

- Hillsborough County Aging Services needs a registered dietician – the link is about to be posted. Possibly looking for someone fresh out of college with minimal experience to develop a program to get people to make changes to their eating to make it healthier. They also need to work on explaining how to use the healthier food – how to cook it, store it, freeze it, etc. Deb L. can help with that as they've done something similar at Neighborly for about two years with help from Nan.
- Lauren from Meals on Wheels of Tampa – Saturday, June 18th they will be delivering free, fresh produce to all homebound seniors they serve in Tampa Bay through Produce on Wheels. Also, they are hiring a full-time office administrator to help with recipient intake, who must be bilingual.
- Neighborly Care Network also does meals on wheels in partner with Feeding Tampa Bay, and they have fresh produce once a month. They are starting a new pilot with St Pete Free Clinic to bring USDA food to Meals on Wheels clients who are homebound.
- Kevin is still accepting more sites for his transportation surveys – takes only a month and a commitment of 13 surveys a week.
- Update on Food Recycling (Eve Spengler) – if food is no longer edible by humans or animals, it should be returned to the earth by compost, but a lot of it is being burned even though the burning doesn't create energy. Georgia has now instituted a waste diversion ban and mandate against allowing food into landfills or incinerators – this is the 27th state to do so. The Food composting and recycling work team had a tour to show the composting process with 25 attendees on May 27th. The work team is trying to change the ordinance in Tampa so that food is considered a recoverable material on the list like paper, plastics, rubber, glass, textiles – need to add food to that list. Orlando is already there, as does Collier County. Also, the money lost from inefficiency in the incinerator is another incentive not to burn food, and Eve has found a study that can quantify that. Ericka McThenia is going to visit elected officials in Tampa to try to pitch this to them. The work team could use a few more members to reach out to K-12 schools as well as universities to recycle food.
- New St Pete Free Clinic warehouse in Lealman – the clinic moves 3.5 million lbs of food each year out of a 1920s building with no loading dock and only 5,000 square feet of space. An actual warehouse with 14,000 square feet will be opening with the goal of moving 6 million pounds in the next few years. The goal is to open at the beginning of next year following some renovations.
- Patty: report on Pasco County Food Advisory meeting. The Board of County Commissioners meeting is June 14th and there will be a

presentation on a business initiative to get more community gardens. They need public support.

- Ariel from Metropolitan Ministries: June 13th is their Food Farmacy meeting 12-1 at United Way; June 15th is the Tampa Bay Health Care Collaborative wellness conference at Metropolitan Ministries; next functional forum meeting will be July 11th at 7 pm, also at Metropolitan Ministries.

- **Adjournment** at 11 a.m.