



**May 12, 2016 – 9:30 am
United Way Suncoast
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602**

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**
- **Network Business**
 - **Annual Conference – Caitlyn P.**
 - **Board Retreat Aug. 12**
- **Teen Food Insecurity – Nicole Brand**
- **Pantry Survey – Jennifer Parker**
- **Additional Info to Share**
- **Adjournment**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Deborah Lekenta.

- **Introductions – Deborah Lekenta**
- **Network Business**
 - **Annual Conference – Caitlyn P.**
 - **Last year our annual conference was Oct. 22 to coincide with World Food Day. Great turnout, great guest speakers. To build on what we learned last year, we need to discuss forming this year’s planning committee, not a huge time commitment, mostly over email to provide feedback and guidance on the structure and format of the conference. Volunteers are Lauren V., Jennifer Webb, Glarisol Traspalacios, Nicole B. Jennifer Webb said that USF Tampa would be happy to host again at the Patel College, but she could also reach out to USF St. Pete – though overwhelming show of hands at the meeting prefers Patel. Need to ensure everyone understands how to get there and how and where to park – Jennifer Parker can help with this as can Jennifer Webb. Andrew C. volunteered**

to cook again if we repeat the recovered food presentation. Craig Gunderson is the world renowned researcher on food insecurity who does research in Africa and elsewhere and will be our keynote speaker this year, so we need to nail down the location and date as soon as possible. We need to let him know a date within the next couple of weeks. Friday, October 21 seems to work well – everyone should go back to their calendars and confirm that it will work and confirm within a week. Jennifer Webb will confirm that Patel is available on that date and reserve it tentatively.

- Board Retreat Aug. 12 – Executive Board will work on strategic plan for Hunger Network in the morning, and the afternoon is for the Board of Directors to talk about the strategic plan for the Network. Location TBD. We will then bring that plan to the monthly TBNEH meeting in September.

- **Teen Food Insecurity – Nicole Brand**

- Nicole is the Student Liaison for the Board of Directors for TBNEH and a student at Merrill Hurst University working on a masters focusing on poverty and dignity in obtaining food. Research objective: To examine teen food insecurity by empowering community stakeholders (including teens and parents) to innovate solutions. There are structural issues that drive teen food insecurity, and a lot more research now on what that means to a teen. Still in rough planning stages but planning four steps: (1) identify a community to work with; likely South St. Pete; (2) work with stakeholders in the area to get to know the community; (3) assess the issues surrounding teen food insecurity with the teens – breakout sessions, surveys; (4) working with the teens, parents and other community figures to generate practical solutions they can work towards. This right now is about 10 hours a week if anyone would like to assist with the project, especially if someone has experience with curriculum development. Email Nicole at nbrand8@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.
- Caitlyn Peacock added that teen food insecurity came up at the food conference she attended in D.C. and one of the big take-aways was that mid-aged teens were using transactional sex as a mechanism of coping with their food insecurity, which is a big reason we are bringing teen food insecurity to light - the teens do not have well-developed coping mechanisms so they need help with that. TBNEH has good representation with seniors or younger kids through the Seniors in Service / Meals on Wheels and also the school district members, but teens is an area where we need to add visibility. Deborah Lekenta added that there is a program called GEMS that connects older kids with younger kids to talk with each other about issues in their lives. One of their ambassadors, Dr. Butler, has a daughter who is a liaison and spokesperson. That organization might be able to make a connection in Pinellas. Caitlyn Peacock added that Danielle Hintz with JWB has a childhood hunger initiative that might also be a good contact. JWB has a mid-county teen council that just formed, and Seniors in Service is in the south county area as well, so there are plenty of contacts.

- **Pantry Survey – Jennifer Parker**

- Pasco County team has been working hard to figure out what is most needed and how we can help. Jennifer Parker has developed a pantry survey to find out what their clients' needs are. One concern, for example, was pregnant teenagers – making sure their dietary needs are met. The survey was piloted at two different pantries and the work team talked to the people who seemed to be in charge (unclear if they were the best people to talk to). But the coordinators differed – one knew a lot about her clients; the other just said they needed food, without being more specific. Need to determine whether the pantry is an access site. But a lot of the questions on the survey could not be answered by the coordinators as far as whether their clients need specific things – for example, if the pantry provided clothing, they knew if their clients needed it; if it did not, they did not know. Pantries do not know whether or which medical services their clients need and are not interested in providing or able to provide those services in any event, so those questions will come off the survey. They are open to providing more educational information if it was given to them (e.g. a WIC pamphlet). The only consistent thing the pantries agreed that people needed to know was cooking and food nutrition, and the most urgent need was transportation. Both pantries have food once a week but clients can only come once a month. Only one of them saw an impact of the new ABAWD regulations, with 10-12 new clients each week; the other saw no difference. The idea is to expand the surveys to anywhere that distributes food – not just pantries, but anywhere that provides food. The survey is given verbally – a structured interview. Probably the survey should be given to the intake people, not to the coordinators, who actually know what the clients' needs are. The coordinators would be more helpful as far as ordering needs – what they can and cannot get, what infrastructure they need and cannot get.
- Mark Trujillo suggested that another topic for the survey might be fruit and vegetable needs, consumption, preparation knowledge, what is preventing them from increasing capacity in produce. It would be good to know if they want cooking instruction.
- Looking for help in administering the survey. Timeline would be sooner rather than later because trying to determine changes in clientele as of April 1st due to ABAWD regulations. Food demand is increased in the summer.
- Could add to the survey whether they have a possibility for a BreakSpot site.

- **Additional Info to Share**

- Ace Padian: Two things. First, flyers for Waste No Food Tampa Bay are available at the door. Please take them and pass them out to restaurants and charities and farms you may visit or where you may have connections. She can also provide electronic versions if anyone wants to email them to connections – make available on the TBNEH website. Second, need input on flyers for BreakSpot sites during the summer. Three new sites in South St. Pete working with Mamie Jackson of the Walking School Bus program at Campbell Park Elementary. Robin Ingles said that they have foster grandmas in the classroom at Campbell Park who can help pass out the flyers. Andrew mentioned that Danielle has done this in the past for JWB and may have some marketing ideas that would be useful for us. Kevin and Allie – social media marketing, possibly

sponsored ads on Facebook. Jennifer Webb – pictures of kids doing the activity, on their phones, gardening, eating pizza on the playground, etc. and then say “Lunch provided.” Title of flyer: Hang out! Summer Fun! Patty: Do not put the word “free,” which is really a turn-off. Wifi – look for “free wi-fi” symbol. Patty – Should ask schools to post flyers where parents will see them so they don’t get lost in kids’ backpacks. Also if they can put it on their school website. May want to give out flyers at pantries, churches, etc.

- Kevin Salzer: Recap of transportation work team. Have met with partners who will distribute the transportation survey and now working on the survey tool. Kevin has a template for letters of support for sites. Also, submitted an application last week to a research institute in Portland for a grant for faith-based transportation (church vans). The goal of the survey is to gather data on transportation as a barrier to food access in all three counties and then use it to help clients in those areas who have trouble getting to food sites.
- Mark Trujillo, Earth Box work team: Met over the phone, and are in the process of figuring out how to move forward with an agency-based model. They will be working with various sites in Tampa and Pinellas and they need to figure out what changes need to be made to the pilot to make it scalable.
- Jennifer Webb, ABAWD update: Homelessness Provider Meeting on May 10 revealed that people are getting kicked off food stamps because they are not responding to the letter. If they get sanctioned, they lose it for ten days first; second time they lose it for longer; the third time, it is for the full three-year period. People with mental disabilities or with emotional or social disabilities are not responding to the letter to say that they are not able-bodied. Clients need to know that they can give this response to the letter if they have some kind of barrier to communication problems.
- Patty: Pasco Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention has an orientation May 18 at the Baycare Behavioral Health Administration Offices in new Port Richey, focusing on coming up with healthy solutions. They have various subcommittees – safe driving, marijuana, etc.
- Steve, Meals on Wheels: About six months ago, they started Saturday deliveries in addition to their Mon-Fri deliveries, which is called POW – Produce On Wheels. They have completed their six-month pilot and plan to continue it, but hopefully twice a week instead of once. This adds fresh fruits and vegetables to the cooked meals that Meals on Wheels already provides. They also have a WOW program – high school leadership board came up with the Water on Wheels project with educational materials on hydration, reusable water bottles, etc.
- Reminder that Eve Spengler has a Farm Tour at Bay Mulch in Plant City on May 28 at 10:30 a.m. Patty has been and said it was a fun tour plus you get a bag of composted soil to take home with you!
- Health and Wellness seminar at Metropolitan Ministries on Wednesday, June 15 from 9 am to 4 pm.
- General agreement that once-a-week emails from TBNEH with information about seminars and other events would be great for the members.
- Caitlyn Peacock, increasing breakfast participation among young school kids. Participation rate is about as low as the rate for summer food. Working with JWB, the superintendent, FRAC, and other partners to work on a model to make it easier for kids to get the breakfast. It is mostly a time issue where the

kids get to school too late to get the breakfast, so we need other breakfast models, including Breakfast2Go, second chance (breakfast2go after first period), and breakfast in the classroom. Working with teachers and janitorial staff to deal with extra food waste in the classrooms; also we have a note from the state saying that eating in the classroom is educational. Goal is to get participation to 70 percent.

- Deborah Lekenta: Went to Humana Bold Moves recently. One of the projects is Ariel's Food Farmacy project, and Humana will probably do some tracking for us. Many community stakeholders were there and they are taking the lead on some of it.

- Adjournment – 11 a.m.