DE Food Research Network Meeting Notes

11-10-20

Zoom recording: <https://capture.udel.edu/media/DEFRN+meeting_11-10-20/1_2wi7owe5>

1. Attendees
   1. Allison Karpyn
   2. Shebra Hall
   3. Samuel Besongs
   4. Nikko Brady
   5. Nicole Kennedy
   6. Marcia Scott
   7. Kate Dupont Phillips
   8. Hope Vega
   9. Gina Crist
   10. Anna McDermott
   11. Tara Tracy
2. Introductions
   1. New faces
      1. Samuel Besongs, Delaware State University (DESU), Chair of Human Ecology Department
      2. Hope Vega, University of Delaware (UD), Dietetic Intern
3. Updates
   1. Anna McDermott, The Food Bank of Delaware (FBD)
      1. Recent uptick in request for services
      2. Receiving sufficient volunteer support, noted that corporate involvement is low due to COVID-19
      3. Some items, ordinarily packaged by volunteers, have been purchased
   2. The Philadelphia Federal Statistical Research Data Center
      1. Allison shared the information from Katie Fitzpatrick of the Biden School: UD has purchased a membership in the Data Center, along with several other institutions
      2. From Tara, in the chat: <https://web.sas.upenn.edu/pfsrdc/menu1/health-data/> & here's the Regional Data Center general information: <https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/locations/philadelphia.html>
   3. Samuel Besongs, DESU
      1. Responding to a National Institute of Food and Agriculture request for proposal to develop a Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life.
      2. The Center, hosted by DESU, will focus on eating behaviors & lifestyles. It will serve as a hub, with six other institutions intent on collaborating at this point
      3. The award is for $1.8 million, and the application is due on November 18, 2020
      4. Seeking letter of support
         1. The proposal is close to finished. Comments from an external reviewer were recently received. After incorporating these, Dr. Besongs will send the proposal to DEFRN. Allison will provide a letter of support on behalf of DEFRN.
         2. Opportunities for student support/involvement – include this in letter. Dr. Besongs also sent this to UD.
   4. Shebra Hall, Delaware Division of Public Health
      1. Questions regarding food insecurity (FI) will be added to the BRFSS
         1. Specifically, the two standard screening questions & one supplemental question for each about whether or not the FI impact was due to COIVD
         2. Still in planning phase - when the BRFSS will be administered is unknown, however, it will be administered by phone
   5. Kate Dupont Phillips, Healthy Communities Delaware
      1. Asked to support the state in distributing CARES Act funding
         1. The funding has to be spent by December 30, 2020
         2. The Community Resiliency Fund ($3 million) is specifically for Kent and Sussex Counties
         3. Applicants are actively being recruited
      2. Anna noted that FBD has identified bottled water in Kent and Sussex counties as an important need. Additionally, shared that Goodwill mentioned they have a significant supply of donated items that are not moving out of the stores and are interested in distributing gift cards.
      3. Allison suggested a few potential contacts
      4. From Kate, in the chat: State CARES Act Community Resiliency Fund - for Kent and Sussex at this time. <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/caresact/crf.html>
      5. Encouraged to share information regarding this application
   6. Food Availability
      1. Anna gave an update re: surplus food & expressed her hope that the deadline for cares act funding will be extended
      2. Nikko noted that the food box program had been extended to round four (through the holidays)
         1. Fresh, quality product (as opposed to typical, shelf-stable)
         2. USDA has gotten feedback and is learning as they go
            1. Negative feedback regarding scrapple from outside of DE
      3. Anna commented, noting that food is getting to the community, however, given the large scale & speed of the development due to COVID there have been some issues (on the national level). However, things are going well at the local & state level.
      4. Kate referenced previous problems with food distribution, asked if this was still the case
         1. Anna responded, saying FBD is still brining on new partners, however, there is not the same level of urgency as there was previously, also:
            1. Fewer limits on people’s lives now so can pursue more traditional avenues to get food
            2. COVID-related food access mechanisms have been in place for 6 months
   7. Nikko Brady & Gina Crist, Delaware Department of Agriculture & UD Cooperative Extension,
      1. Anna mentioned the Feeding America Conference & the mapping effort (adding layers such as SNAP, etc.)
      2. Nikko said that the group plans to continue working with UD’s IPA team, grant deadline set for next week to confirm funding. Have agreed on layers to add to map.
      3. Gina noted that mapping work has been elevated to state level through Allison & Nikko to obtain access to restricted data
         1. Allison applied to the DE Integrated Data System (DIDS) for access to SNAP spending & WIC usage data as a test case.
         2. Non-mapping update: Developing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED) contracts for 2021, and how COVID will be reflected in them
   8. Allison Karpyn, CRESP
      1. Allison reiterated that the application to DIDS is pending and that the requested SNAP & WIC data should be very useful.
      2. Allison also shared a thought regarding gut microbiome & its importance in nutrition/dietary change vs. MyPlate. She asked whether SNAP-Edhas thought about this? Mentioned that it could create new wave of enthusiasm at the street level.
         1. Gina indicated that “new science” is not being used at the national level. Sue Snider was interested in this.
         2. Discussion ensued about decrease in flexibility in SNAP-Ed in past 10 years, they are not incorporating new research
         3. Anna noted that SNAP-Ed advisory committee/panel could be lobbied
4. Looking Ahead
   1. Demonstration by CompassRed of the state data dashboard
      1. Will try to set this up for December meeting
   2. Please feel free to reach out to Allison, Tara, or Nicole with any other DEFRN related suggestions