DE Food Research Network Meeting Notes

8/19/20

Zoom recording: <https://udel.zoom.us/rec/share/w9YsNLLA90RIfZXG40PZfIMGGZnfeaa82nAZ-vVZxJBxXhH00O4TWQ5DJ3DZ0oA> (Access Password: #HSj$H2X)

1. Attendees
	1. Allison Karpyn
	2. Anna McDermott
	3. Katie Fitzpatrick
	4. Marcia Scott
	5. Nicole Kennedy
	6. Shebra Hall
	7. Tara Tracy
	8. Nicole Minni
	9. Lindsay Naylor
	10. Verona Mulgrave
2. Updates
	1. Lindsay Naylor asked whether there had been any discussion re: food insecurity (FI) for students returning to the University of Delaware (UD) who may be stranded in dorms?
		1. Allison shared information about a project led by the Food Bank of Delaware (FBD) & David Teague, Associate Director of the UD Associate in Arts Program, targeting students on UD’s Wilmington Campus. FBD will do special food distribution (planning well underway) for these students.
			1. Katie suggested surveying these students, perhaps using their student identification number.
				1. She noted that UD just bought into a national undergrad survey of students at research institutions run by the University of California. This survey includes FI.
				2. She also noted that the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund just put out request for proposal re: student financial security grants.
		2. Allison agreed that it may be beneficial to collect information for future use. She said that the group could ask FBD about including two FI questions but does not want to hijack their process either.
			1. Lindsay said that her sense is that Charlotte would support this type of effort. She noted that Charlotte has done something similar with Delaware State University. She did not know if this was a mobile pantry.
			2. Anna noted that most mobile pantries are asking for pre-registration (online). This means that names & emails are collected. FBD using this to contact folks for follow-up nutrition education efforts (e.g.)
				1. Anna thinks adding these 2 FI Qs to this form, if it is used, would be okay. Could provide DEFRN with de-identified data.
	2. Anna McDermott, FBD update
		1. The FBD has seen some uptick in demand over the past few weeks but did not see a massive influx of need. They are also monitoring the end of unemployment. She thinks that SNAP benefits were extended through the end of September.
		2. School lunches/meals – her understanding is that the Department of Education (DOE)’s waiver for Summer Food Service Program style service for school year has not yet been issued. DOE might need a United States Department of Agriculture waiver.
			1. FBD still researching how to distribute backpacks since a lot of schools will be operating remotely. In the past FBD had been doing distribution through schools. However, FBD wants to make sure that all kids get food, so they are looking at the childcare system as alternative because they are offering school age, all-day childcare.
			2. Allison asked about FBD’s work with Head Start or Early Head Start to distribute the backpacks.
				1. Anna responded that FBD has not had the resources in the past to target early childhood education (ECE) and has primarily limited their focus to K-12. The program is not federally reimbursed, which means that approximately $1M would need to be raised each year. However, given the pandemic, FBD is looking to expand the program in new ways and serving ECE populations may be possible.
				2. Anna asked about the status of Telemon’s services downstate (provider of Head Start). Are they still working on this?
				3. Allison asked if UD could facilitate a connection because they offer Head Start services.
		3. Coronavirus Food Assistance Programhas been extended – fresh produce + proteins.
	3. Marcia Scott/Nicole Minni, Institute for Public Administration, effort in collaboration with the Delaware Council on Food and Farm Policy.
		1. Zoom meeting with the State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture to discuss how to obtain & map weekly data from emergency food providers (ex. FBD, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Healthy Communities Delaware, DOE, & Federal Emergency Management Agency).
		2. Mentioned CARES Act funding through the DDA. Additionally, New Castle County CARES Act funding is tentatively going through.
		3. This data will be critical to examine moving forward. There are shifting needs & this is a fluid situation. It is a logistical challenge to understand who is doing what, where resources are located, etc. This effort will provide:
			1. Standardized data collection + internal mapping
			2. External mapping
			3. Dashboard to provide metrics
		4. FBD applied for & received Delaware Community Foundation funding, their project would be supported by the project described above. FBD’s larger project would utilize project Marcia/Nicole described.
	4. Katie Fitzpatrick
		1. State SNAP paper policy just accepted, data through 2016
		2. 2 projects:
			1. Elderly SNAP caseloads
			2. Employment waivers with SNAP
	5. Shebra Hall, BRFSS addition of FI questions
		1. Learned that questions will be lost if the FI questions are added in order to avoid making the survey longer. Which ones would be removed? Also mentioned the challenge of covering the cost. In sum, this does not look promising.
		2. Allison wondered why FI is not a high enough priority given COVID.
		3. Shebra noted that there are no questions re: FI and physical activity (PA)
		4. Discussion re: CDC Block Grant Advisory Council: could they help get FI and PA questions onto the survey.
			1. Allison mentioned that the group could ask Dr. Rattay, who is the chair.
			2. Katie offered recent information that connects FI to PH problems (morbidity).
			3. Shebra suggested emailing Dr. Rattay and Cassandra, who is also on the advisory council, with copy to Shebra.
3. Frequency of meetings & structuring of group moving forward
	1. Allison noted that DEFRN had increased the volume of meetings shortly after COVID because of increase in FI and interest in research. She asked how the group wants to move forward this fall.
		1. Lindsay suggested waiting to see what the next few weeks will look like. The rest of the group agreed.
		2. Marcia suggested segmented meetings among groups of people who are collaborating may be needed on a more regular basis.
		3. Allison noted the benefits of DEFRN’s roundtable approach.
	2. Meeting schedule: Allison proposed meeting again at the end of September and discussing our plan for moving forward at that time.
	3. Allison also noted the possibility of sharing responsibility for, or co-leading, DEFRN meetings. She asked members to consider this before the fall meeting. For now, CERSP is happy to take responsibility for coordinating the next DEFRN meeting.