DE Food Research Network Meeting Notes

9-30-20

Zoom recording: <https://capture.udel.edu/media/DE+Food+Research+Network/1_k2crhlrs>

1. Attendees
   1. Nicole Kennedy
   2. Tara Tracy
   3. Allison Karpyn
   4. Donna Paulhamus
   5. Thianda Manzara
   6. Andrea Pierce
   7. Johnathan Kirch
   8. Lindsay Lancaster
   9. Anna McDermott
   10. Katie Fitzpatrick
   11. Laura Lessard
   12. Nicole Minni
   13. Shebra Hall
   14. Verona Mulgrave
   15. Marcia Scott
   16. Michelle Rodgers
2. Introduction, Andrea Pierce
   1. Faculty in the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, focus on the environment
   2. National Science Foundation grant for project on food, water, and energy based in Wilmington, Delaware.
      1. Looking for ways to collaborate moving forward
      2. Seeking to understand how food, water, and energy systems are managed in an urban environment using planning and policy documents as well as interviews
3. Follow-up, Allison Karpyn, re: BRFSS or YRFS
   1. Adding food insecurity (FI) questions to BRFSS or YRFS
      1. The state gave careful consideration but was unable to incorporate FI questions.
   2. CARES Act funding
      1. Response from New Castle County
         1. Anna noted that the Food Bank of Delaware (FBD) had received some preliminary correspondence, but no final decisions.
         2. The funds must be spent quickly, by 12/31/20.
4. Updates
   1. Funding
      1. Anna McDermott, FBD, noted FBD received funding from Healthy Communities Delaware
      2. Shebra Hall, DHSS noted request for proposals from Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), “Advancing Healthy Lifestyles: Chronic Disease, Health Equity & COVID-19” [closed 10/21/20]
         1. Shebra noted that the pre-bid info (including attendees) will be posted today, using new contract information system so not sure what potential bidders will see
            1. Marcia, from chat: From UD’s Institute for Public Administration is planning to apply for the DHSS grant in collaboration with College of Ag/Co-op extension. Partnership opportunities are welcome!

She added that IPA has past convening experience using tobacco funding to create & update the Healthy Communities Toolkit.

Anyone who is interested can reach out to Marcia directly.

* + - * 1. Anna noted FBD would be happy to have a conversation about collaboration, not looking to take the lead
    1. Shebra also noted another funding opportunity (mini-grant): the Community Change Grant Program (closes 11/9/20) (<https://americawalks.org/community-change-grants/?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2054-DM40562&ACSTrackingLabel=Community%20Change%20Grant&deliveryName=USCDC_2054-DM40562>)
  1. Michelle Rodgers, UD Cooperative Extension, re: operations
     1. Still not able to meet face-to-face so adult programs & 4-H still working/delivering virtually.
     2. Michelle noted new role for Karen Johnston, Health Prevention educator
        1. Reflecting the Extension’s new focus on prevention with emphasis on youth, also reflects 4-H grant funding. Brand new position.
        2. Michelle offered to report ideas or have Karen attend.
  2. Allison Karpyn, UD Center for Research in Education and Social Policy, re: food hubs
     1. Although “food hub” is a complex term in Delaware, discussion regarding a more organized distribution system is underway. This means the growing/distribution/aggregation of product/sales.
     2. Details of this effort still to be determined, that is, who will lead, where it will occur, etc. Allison described a potential facility that has challenges.
     3. Application submitted to the Delaware Community Foundation’s planning program, but it was not selected for funded. The idea is still being developed and Allison is helping with convening/facilitation.
  3. Thianda Manzara, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (HFHK), re: Food Tank Summit
     1. From chat: HFHK received an email to be a local partner for a Food Tank Summit coming to Wilmington as early as Sept 2021. It's not research oriented, but here's the link FYI <https://foodtank.com/summit/>. 50 state tour.
        1. The summit is a culmination of work worldwide to bring food issues to light. It will include expert speakers discussing how to improve food system overall.
        2. A few people were contacted to be local partner, which many involve recruiting speakers. Thianda mentioned that she would be happy to forward the email.
     2. Tara, from chat:

Dear ComFood Community,

We hope you will join Food Tank as we partner with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the Food and Agriculture Program of the United Nations, and the Julia Child Foundation for a very special World Food Day virtual discussion on October 16th at 11:00AM ET.

This event is part of the Smithsonian Food History Weekend and speakers include: Chef. Jose Andres (World Central Kitchen), Leah Penniman (Soul Fire Farm), Vimlendra Sharan (UN FAO), Laura Reiley (Washington Post) and Danielle Nierenberg (Food Tank).

Register here (FREE): <https://foodhistoryweekend.si.edu/>

All the very best, Bernie

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* 1. Marcia Scott, UD Institute of Public Administration (IPA), re: emergency food
     1. To recap, the CCC4COVID project is a mapping effort that started in Cape Henlopen in March and involved coordinating the local response to the pandemic.
     2. The effort has since been expanded. Unfortunately, it is an unfunded initiative, and IPA does not have the funding to sustain this work and is looking for additional funding sources.
        1. From chat: IPA also submitted a proposal to DDA’s Food Council on Food and Farm Policy to continue Food Resource Mapping on a short-term basis from Oct - Dec. 2020. The proposed scope of work will support the function of the Council and partners and facilitate an in-depth analysis and assessment of specific locations and resource data. IPA is still seeking long-term funding for this important work.
     3. Allison, outlined a dashboard idea
        1. A government initiative, the Family Services Cabinet Council, is working across disciplines to make service delivery more effective.
        2. Software, such as that developed by CompassRed (CR), aggregates data across education, health, food access, crime, housing, etc. to develop a dashboard. CR’s scoring design for the dashboard uses a relative scale (high/low), with a clear tie to data, meaning that no results are obscured.
        3. Allison mentioned that it may be possible to incorporate the DE Food & Farm Council dashboard into this effort, as there is a need to include FI/School Meals. She suggested inviting CR to a future meeting to avoid duplication, and also to include others’ work.
           1. Nicole added that her work with the Delaware Department of Agriculture could be a part of this and said that she would love to see a demo.
  2. Donna, UD Nutrition Clinic
     1. From chat: Hi Everyone, I have to jump off the call for a patient appointment. Though we don’t have much going on in the way of food or policy research, the Nutrition Clinic continues to see outpatients via tele health for nutrition counseling, our National Diabetes Prevention Program continues, and we will be enrolling new participants In January for online delivery in 2021. Finally, we are providing on-site nutrition counseling services once a week at Horizon House in Wilmington as part of a contract with Delaware DSAMH.
     2. Allison noted that CRESP has a Veggie Meter, which could be used to measure outcome indicators.

1. Next steps
   1. The next DEFRN meeting will take place in early November.