

DE Food Research Network 3rd Meeting
5-22-20

1. Attendees

- a. Verona Mulgrave- Delaware State University
- b. Thianda Manzara - Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids
- c. Shebra Hall – Delaware Division of Public Health
- d. Ray Fitzgerald – Delaware Division of Social Services
- e. Nikko Brady - Delaware Department of Agriculture
- f. Nicole Minni - University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration
- g. Marikis Alvarez - Delaware State University
- h. Michelle Rodgers – University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- i. Lindsay Lancaster – Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids
- j. Lindsay Naylor - University of Delaware, Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences
- k. Laura Lessard – University of Delaware, Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition
- l. Katie Fitzpatrick – University of Delaware, Biden School of Public Policy & Administration
- m. Gina Crist – University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- n. Donna Paulhamus – University of Delaware Nutrition Clinic
- o. Alberta Aryee - Delaware State University
- p. Eric Jacobson - University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration
- q. Tara Tracy - University of Delaware Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP)
- r. Nicole Kennedy - University of Delaware Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP)
- s. Allison Karpyn – University of Delaware Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP)

2. Last meeting's notes

- a. No comments/updates

3. Discussion of food hubs

- a. Nikko Brady noted the Local Food Promotion grant. At this time the group has a broad understanding of the purpose of food hubs & where need is coming from.
 - i. In essence, food hubs would aggregate resources in one space and allow consumers to access this central location.
- b. Grant application underway
 - i. A request for a letter of support is currently being reviewed by DEFPC.
- c. Also noted that Delaware State University is applying to same grant for similar purpose
 - i. They connected w/ Elisa King
- d. Food Hub
 - i. Outlined by Nikko
 1. Consolidated hub to aggregate food products, could be electronic,

2. Elisa's group wants to get community involved
 3. New grant proposal
4. Discussion of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) HER grant opportunities & COVID19 related research
- a. Laura Lessard shared this link:
https://healthyeatingresearch.org/funding/?utm_source=HER+COVID+RFP&utm_campaign=COVID-19+RFP&utm_medium=email
 - b. Gina Crist identified a few ideas
 - i. Dietary behaviors of SNAP recipients as related to COVID
 - ii. Dietary quality of families who receive support under the Delaware Pandemic EBT waiver (for families who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch)
 - c. AK outlined HER approach
 - i. Wants to support research that can ultimately support policy change
 1. E.g. collecting data that would change policy in forthcoming Farm Bill
 - ii. P-EBT would be squarely in their court
 - iii. HER likes multi-state approaches
 1. E.g. regional or states the size of DE
 2. Nikko Brady notes DDA part of NASDA & NASDA's Eastern Region (NY + PA + DE + most of New England)
 3. Cooperative Extension region
 - a. Michelle Rodgers noted Delmarva is viable region
 - b. CES region=13 states, very large/cumbersome/bureaucratic
 4. Allison Karpyn suggested that rural or immigrant populations could be of interest. Noted that the New England region may be more urban.
 - a. Michelle Rodgers notes that Delmarva states work together well because of shared agricultural industries (i.e. poultry)
 - b. Gina Crist expressed that focusing on agricultural workers would enable the effects of COVID to be viewed through both personal & professional lenses (i.e. effect on jobs as well as their healthy behaviors of the individual)
 - c. Discussion of what constitutes of a rural area in Delaware as compared to other states. Michelle Rodgers noted the systems issue of the agricultural industry that relies on migrant labor working in rural areas – e.g., no broadband/connectivity
 5. Katie Fitzpatrick, in reference to the research design, mentioned that there does not seem to be a lot of state to state variation in regard to the pandemic (there would be no control group, only pre/post)
 - a. Allison Karpyn noted the following outcome variables could be researched:
 - i. Timing of when P-EBT was approved

- ii. Distribution of additional money that is going to recipients in lieu of school meals,
 - 1. Where programs are and are not
 - iii. Expenditures
 - iv. Consumption, usage, purchasing
 - b. Katie Fitz posed question: what data is available? This research would require a lot of data in a short amount of time. (Zip codes, how far people are from schools, weekly expenditures)
 - d. Potential research questions
 - i. Allison Kapryn noted that the research questions should be important to the state
 - 1. Interested in hearing what would be valuable from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services
 - ii. Allison Kapryn mentioned WIC recertification waiver approved for DE
 - 1. How WIC patterns have changed, for example. Transition online may be a solution to the problem of mothers falling off as kids age.
 - 2. Viable policy solution for WIC program: isolate population to examine WIC usage, how long do they stay on given online waiver of recert
 - iii. Katie Fitzpatrick changes in SNAP benefits as related to online purchasing waivers.
 - 1. Implications of online purchasing waivers
 - a. How are grocery store benefiting?
 - b. How many people are using online purchasing? Are people unable to take advantage of this because of higher prices charged online in many cases due to delivery and ordering fees?
 - c. How effective in this is changing people's decision to go to the store v. online purchasing?
 - d. Does it affect eating patterns and food insecurity?
 - e. DE has requested waiver, not yet approved.
 - f. Will WIC recipients also be able to shop online?
 - 2. Gina Crist noted that this topic would enable the study of before and after implementation. Delaware has this waiver but has not implemented it yet.
 - a. Reiterated cost and other prohibiting factors, since this program doesn't cover the cost of delivery and pickup fees.
 - b. The group confirmed that all states around Delaware also have this waiver.
 - iv. Laura Lessard discussed her healthy default beverage work, and noted that she is beginning to focus on online purchases
 - 1. Delaware's policy goes into effect in July 2020
 - 2. Due to COVID, restaurant ordering has switched to apps and websites. She will be looking at the quality of food and drink available.

3. Noted that HER has to be federal nutrition policy related, and her research is at the state level.
 - v. Allison Karpyn mentioned the hot food waiver, and posed the question of whether or not it has changed diets?
 1. Discussion of the hot food exclusion ensued & potential reasons for its existence were questioned. Is its purpose to discourage take-out? Or to avoid mix of items purchased w/ SNAP?
 - vi. Allison will ask AHA-DE to ID policies that could support legislation change
 - vii. Laura Lessard mentioned childcare
 1. Pandemic EBT not extended to families who benefit from The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - a. Very similar issues/applicability though
 2. CACFP still operating & can serve meals but not outside
 3. What are the Dept of Education's needs? Contact Amy Beam.
 - e. Potential data sources
 - i. Grocery stores, e.g. ShopRites
 - ii. Work with state to see what system is for identifying a purchase made online
5. Other updates/funding opportunities/additional resources
- a. Discussion of grant opportunity sent by Thianada Manzara, should get circled back to food hub people. Could be viable mechanism for them
 - i. <https://www.investinginfood.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HFFI-2020-TSGP-RFA.pdf>
 - ii. May need CFDI partner/lead
 - iii. Nikko to get info to Elisa, etal
 - b. Nicole Minni shared an update related to food pantries on the CCC4COVID map and shared a link to Department of Education student meals for the state <https://arcg.is/0yX95O>
 - i. Trying to coordinate with rest of state & extend, see link
 - ii. Would like to gather data for New Castle and Kent and could love to include in project
 - c. Allison Karpyn shared soundcloud.com/first-state-insights/community-connections-for-older-delawareans-during-covid-19 and mentioned the cross-sector COVID work that Partnership for Public Education is doing. Relevant to DEFRN? <https://www.cehd.udel.edu/covid19-resources/>
 - d. They are working to understand what the online working environment looks like, as well as the parameters around polices and COVID in school polices (HER relevant, eating in school). Interesting guidelines. She also shared <https://wakelet.com/wake/oLmRQq9rmvdwo7TGX7wN->
 - e. Marcia Scott shared <https://wakelet.com/wake/oLmRQq9rmvdwo7TGX7wN> and <https://www.cehd.udel.edu/covid19-resources/>
 - i. Updating Waklet every week

6. Next Steps

- a. Allison Kapryn will draft research questions and circulate them for input. She will also reach out to American Heart, Aimee Beam, Public Health to get feedback on ideas.
 - i. Anyone who is interested can help with the creation of a proposal
 - ii. Michelle Rodgers mentioned that she has someone on her team who can help with creating partnerships w/ in & outside UD & can help with the write proposal after we have a concept together.
- b. Future meetings
 - i. 6/5 @ 10 am (brief meeting with focus on the grant application)
 - ii. 6/26 @ 11 am (regular meeting with broader focus)