



**SLO County Food System Coalition Meeting Minutes**  
January 12, 2016, 4:00-5:45 PM, UCCE Auditorium

Attendees: Nicki Anderson, Karen Aydelott, Josh Ayers, Jaleah Brynn, Becca Carsel, Joel Diringer, Julie Fallon, Terri Knowlton, Linda McClure, Eric Michielssen, Jen Miller, Montgomery Norton, Brenda Ouwerkerk, Lisa Paniagua, Erica Ruvalcoba, Stephanie Teaford, Jeff Wade, Nell Wade, Emily Wilson, Janice Wolf, Alexandra Yesian

## **I. Introductions**

- Janice – The Community Foundation grant cycle opens in February, check their website for details.
- Joel – See CFP grant update handout. There is an app pending for another round of USDA funding.
- Eric – President of the SLO Natural Food Co-Op, member of the ALAB board, is running for District 5 County Supervisor position.
- Lisa – UCCE CalFresh nutrition educator funded to help start up school gardens.
- Erica – Promotores consultant.

## **II. 2015 Year in Review (including work group updates)**

For a detailed list of the Coalition goals (adopted from the Hunger Free Communities plan), visit: [http://www.slofoodsystem.org/uploads/1/8/9/1/18918029/slo\\_hunger\\_plan\\_goals\\_objectives\\_only\\_6-20-12.pdf](http://www.slofoodsystem.org/uploads/1/8/9/1/18918029/slo_hunger_plan_goals_objectives_only_6-20-12.pdf)

These goals were posted up around the room on the walls. We went around the room and everyone shared their accomplishments for 2015, for their FSC work groups and their own member organizations. Kylie wrote them down by the coalition goal she thought they corresponded to:

### **Goal #1: QUANTITY – All SLO County residents have access to nutritious food.**

- Farm-to-School work group formed, collaborating with Tri-County region and UCCE (UC CalFresh).
- UCCE received funding for a 2 year position to help start up school gardens.
- Food Bank included more fresh produce, shifted to farmers market style distribution (e.g., Children’s Farmers Markets).
- The Wellness Kitchen started teaching a four module children’s cooking class in July.

### **Goal #2: QUALITY – Improved nutrition of SLO County residents who experience food insecurity.**

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- Built relationships with market managers to raise awareness of accepting EBT and educate about opportunity to apply for Market Match funding.
- The Downtown Association plans to accept EBT at Thursday night farmers market; our EBT work group is providing tech support.
- The SLO Grange farmers market on Tuesdays 3-6 already accepts EBT.
- UCCE Nutrition Education
- The Food Bank's nutrition committee circulated a survey to inform their nutrition policy
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### Goal #3: FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE – A sustainable local food system that is able to meet the food needs of SLO County residents.

- Made contact with Harvest Santa Barbara, organizing around sourcing demand from institutions.
- Jeff Wade is working with CCG interns to write a Food Hub business plan (per CFP grant requirement), potentially partnering with Cal Poly.
- 209,000+ pounds of produce gleaned and collected from markets.
- GleanSLO added new farmers in North County.
- New farmer and CSA program and disability access at City Farm.
- Slow Money SLO gained fiscal sponsorship from national organization.
- Started Phase I of commercial kitchen assessment (Slow Money SLO with SBDC and the Cal Poly library).
- Hosted Rob Rutherford to speak about climate change, ecosystem resilience, and farming.

### Goal #4: POLICY – Collaborative community efforts to address the root causes of hunger in SLO County.

- The County Office of Education survey (in spring 2016?) will address Farm-to-School, which includes:
  - Procurement,
  - School gardens,
  - Ag and nutrition education (in gardens, at farms...), and
  - Marketing.
- Farm-to-School work group developed their mission and vision statement.
- Local Living Schoolyards network group formed out of the Advocacy and Education work group.
- Food system folio is in the works.

### Goal #5: INTERNAL PROCESS – A vibrant SLO County Food System Coalition and effective Hunger Free Community plan.

- Increased number of active members and formed new work groups.
- Hosted advocacy training in June.
- Built relationship with CA FPC and helped advocate for AB 1321, which passed.
- Booth at Bioneers and the Resilient Food Systems conference at Cal Poly.
- Co-hosted meeting with CAFB Policy Director.

### **III. 2016 Goal Setting:**

We brainstormed goals for 2016 for each work group, and some extra goals that don't have work groups yet:

#### **EBT at Farmers Markets Work Group – Chairs: Stephanie & Joel**

- Come up with a plan to maximize participation in and utilization of CalFresh. (DSS enrolls people.)
- Increase the number of markets that accept EBT, starting with Thursday night Farmers Market.

#### **Food Hub Work Group – Chair: Jeff Wade**

- Make it easier for institutions to access local food.
- Complete business plan by end of July...and adopt/implement.
- Start pilot phase partnership with demonstration institution.

#### **Farm-to-School Work Group – Chair: Nicki Anderson**

- Garden at every school.
- Procurement and marketing and nutrition education.
- Sustainability within working group.
- Increasing visibility.
- Complete COE Needs Assessment.

#### **Community Cafes Work Group – Chair: Stacey Hunt**

- Obtain funding.
- Put a team together.
- Sign up 15 of 30 restaurants.

#### **Need Work Groups:**

- Involve youth in FSC meetings. Ideas:
  - Culinary academy
  - Home economics at SLO High
  - FFA
  - 4H - Put in announcement
  - Girl Scouts
  - Health Hornets in San Miguel (throw back)
- Nutrition recommendations for people who cook for shelters
- Outreach to student groups at Cal Poly and Cuesta
- Outreach to diverse populations
  - Partner with UCCE Nutrition/Garden volunteer programs
  - Partner with Promotores
- Rekindle relationships with farmers. Possible issues of interest:
  - Tax credit incentives bill sunsets this year
  - Chicken processing
  - ALAB (Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board) (Eric is connected)

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- Strengthen relationships between local food producers and businesses, increase local demand

### Advocacy Event:

- Host an advocacy event for the community.
- Track and support legislation/policy in partnership with the CA FPC and CAFB.

### **IV. Closing:**

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19 from 4-6pm at the UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way**