

Full Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Eric Candela (Forgotten Harvest), Robin Danto (OCHD), Susan Erspamer (Hospitality House), Angelya Higginbotham (OCHD), Carrie Hribar (OC HHS), Kelly Humes (OC), Angela Gill (Lighthouse), Jessica Lofton-Williams (Fair Food Network), Jennifer Lucarelli (Oakland University), Bre-Anna Koeing (Macomb County Health Department), Megan Page (Prescription for Healthy Oakland), Emily Row (community resident), Hanna Sandzik (OCHD), Katelyn Smoger (Trinity Health Oakland), Alejandra Solorzano (community resident), Chad Techner (Metro Food Rescue), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA), Amanda Woods (OC HHS)

Guest: Angela Guerra, Forgotten Harvest; Sarah Himes-Greer and Erin Lammers, Public Sector Consultants

Welcome and Introductions

Chad welcomed the group at large.

Partner Offers, Asks, and Updates

- Katelyn S.: Openings available for Trinity Health's Farm Share and Farm Share Assistance Program, including no-cost registrations for community members experiencing food insecurity. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Amanda: Food Solutions of New England 21- Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge starts April 7. [Click here to register](#) and [email Amanda](#) if interested in joining an OCFPC member discussion group. Alejandra shared her positive experience participating last year.
- Amanda: [Funding Sources for Food-Related Businesses Digital Directory](#) is now available through MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. The directory identifies local, statewide, national and global opportunities for financial support for farmers, food producers, distributors, food hubs, other food-related businesses, and business assistance providers.
- Amanda: OCFPC Collaborative Funding Workgroup is launching a survey later this week. They are seeking to better understand organizational needs and capacity related to funding. This was a priority identified by members in November 2024.

Policy Updates - Written Updates, not provided at meeting

Federal Updates

- USDA: \$1B cut for local food purchases for schools and food pantries, includes Michigan
 - 500 Michigan farmers participate in the program, \$1.7M invoices have been declined
 - Gleaners reported in [Detroit News article](#) it could mean 2 million fewer pounds of food, equaling to about 36,000 fewer families
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is also at risk. CEP funding may be cut by raising eligibility rates, from 25% to 60%. [What is CEP?](#)
 - Current CEP districts in Oakland County: Avondale, Brandon, Clarenceville, Clawson, Farmington, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Holly Area, Huron Valley, Lamphere, Madison, Oak Park, Pontiac City, Southfield, Walled Lake, and Waterford
 - [Read this state fact sheet produced by FRAC about CEP](#)
- The recently passed budget reconciliation will require cuts to programs through 2034, and may include SNAP and Medicaid. G.T. Thompson, House Agriculture Committee Chair, has floated the idea of having states cost-share with the federal government a percentage of the total state SNAP benefits. Advocates express concern this would place increased financial burden on states that may not be able to meet match requirements at current program levels and would be forced to lower program capacity, tighten eligibility requirements, and/or decrease benefits to meet the match requirement. [CBPP](#) has prepared a summary of the implications and breakdown of potential state cost-sharing estimates.
- [Modern WIC Act](#) would update WIC's physical presence requirements to allow for virtual certifications, while preserving program integrity and health screenings. It would allow for virtual issuance of benefits on e-WIC card.

State of Michigan Updates

- Michigan Local Food Policy Council Legislative Education Day: Chad and Amanda attended the event hosted by Michigan Local Food Policy Council and provided information about the Council to 4 legislators. They learned FY26 budget negotiation would be more difficult this year, and likely would push right up to the start of the new fiscal year.
- [Governor Whitmer's FY26 Budget Recommendations](#) includes \$200M placeholder for universal school meals.

Food Landscape Study Update

Sarah and Erin provided a project overview, key data findings, review of goals and objectives, and shared next steps. See PowerPoint for detailed reporting. This spring, PSC will be moving into action and implementation planning sessions. This will involve identifying responsible parties, define success and create a timeline. For questions or how to become involved, [email Amanda](#).

Next meeting: May 20, 2025 will be held in-person at Oakland County Health Division, North Oakland Health Center from 9-10:30 AM.