

Full Council Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Jared Barnett (OCHD), Eric Candela (Forgotten Harvest), Melanie Gill (United Way of Southeastern Michigan), Melissa Gervais (Gleaners), Carrie Hribar (OC HHS), Kelly Humes (OC), Theresa Krell (Trinity Health Oakland), Kelsey Merz (OCHD), Kristin Olmedo (United Community Family Services), Megan Page (Prescription for Healthy Oakland), Chris Perry (Children's Foundation), Breanna Schroeder (Lighthouse), Alejandra Solorzano (community resident), Chad Techner (Metro Food Rescue),

Welcome: Making Connections and Introductions

Chad welcomed the group at large.

Current Policy Landscape & Local Impact

- Proposed SNAP-Ed cuts impacting United Community Family Services, Oakland County Health Division, and Gleaners. The next round of funding tentatively will start on October 1, 2025; Michigan Fitness Foundation (funder) told grantees to continue operations as normal with more details come in June.
- United Way shared the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) is on hold and this is a potential loss of \$400,000 across Oakland County.
- Senior Market Fresh is on hold until June 1, 2025.
- Forgotten Harvest reported declines in rescued food; Lighthouse shared Meijer is no longer donating produce and is composting it instead.
- Michigan School Meals was included in the Governor's FY26 budget but cut from a House proposal (HB 4162). Fewer students may automatically qualify for free/reduced costs meals due to proposed SNAP and Medicaid cuts. This would increase financial need for additional state funds to cover the balance. Currently, Michigan school districts provides universal free school meals and uses state funds to cover the remaining reduced fares and/or full-priced meals for students. Title 1 funding decreasing would also impact categorical eligibility for students.

Local Efforts and Strategies: What can OCFPC do?

- Seek joint advocacy opportunities, for example, around SNAP-Ed
- Continue communication on policy and funding updates
- Promote the Oakland County Food Landscape Study when released, and share with local elected officials for as evidence when discussing food policy issues and impacts
- Explore an OCFPC social media account to share advocacy opportunities
- Create a charter that is more nimble and responsive to address emergent concerns and issues
- Look to alternative industries for funding opportunities
- Seek to answer, “What does the food policy council membership want to contribute?”

Partner Updates

- Lori (Oakland Schools): Will be sending out a survey to collect information on summer feeding sites. Lori will share informational flyer when details are complete. Meet Up, Eat Up is now referred to as SUN Meals. Oakland Schools will be holding a local wellness policy workshop for school districts.
- Gleaners is requesting opportunities to have a table at community events and disburse nutrition education information. Kelsey will share information on HOP Family and Senior Market Days.
- United Way is advocating for Healthy School Meals for All (i.e. Universal School Meals). [More information here.](#)
- OC HHS will share information on Food As Medicine Summit registration once announced.

Next full council meeting: July 22, 2025 TBD 9-10:30 AM.