

Full Council Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2025

Attendees: Lori Adkins (Oakland Schools), Eric Candela (Forgotten Harvest), Leigh Coyle (OCHD), Melissa Gervais (Gleaners), Carrie Hribar (OC HHS), Kelly Humes (OC), Kelsey Merz (OCHD), Kelsey Monks (Trinity Health Oakland), Kristin Olmedo (United Family Community Services), Megan Page (Prescription for Healthy Oakland), Hannah Stafford (Gleaners), Lindsay TerHaar (OC HHS), Ginnie Uhley (Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine), Kelly Victor (Resident), Amanda Woods (OC HHS)

Welcome: Making Connections and Introductions

Group members introduced themselves during breakout rooms.

Partner Updates

- Kelly Victor: Works for the Detroit News and can be contacted about food and nutrition stories and issues.
- Kelsey Monk: Trinity Health Oakland is offering discounted Farm Share boxes for SNAP beneficiaries at \$3/box. See attached flyer.
- Carrie Hribar: Oakland County Health & Human Services is holding second annual [Summer Fest on August 5 from 11-2 at Normandy Oaks Park in Royal Oak](#).
- Kelsey Merz: [Healthy Oakland Partnership Market Days](#) are back at Oakland County Farmers Market and Oak Park. Upcoming dates are: 8/14 at Oak Park Farmers Market and 9/4 at Oakland County Farmers Market.

Workgroup Updates

Collaborative Funding: Amanda provided an update on the workgroup's progress. Several council members reported that receiving the weekly funding alerts has been helpful. The weekly emails have alerted them to new funding opportunities, and some have applied as a result. Amanda shared the results from the recent data needs survey. Members reported support is needed around primary data collection and how to better organize their data for story-telling, grant writing efforts, along with outcome and evaluation. Workgroup members will reconvene on strategies to assist membership

Membership Updates: Kelsey and Kelly presented the new membership categories. See PowerPoint for details. Members then took a poll to determine what category they might choose today if prompted. Majority of voting members would opt for general membership.

Other notes: Eric C. noted that USDA food insecurity data can be overlaid with ACS data to refine communities and/or groups that may be experiencing higher rates of food insecurity ([see article](#)). Amanda will confirm with the Health Division's epidemiologist on feasibility.

Federal and State Policy Updates

- Lauren Marks shared that American Heart Association-Michigan and United Way of Southeastern Michigan are collecting impact stories on the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). It is likely funding will not be released and negatively impacting shelters' bed capacity. There may be potential cuts to FEMA which could impact food access during disasters. [Email Lauren](#) to receive updates and/or share a story.
- Michigan Healthy School Meals for All was re-added as a categorical line item in the state's budget, but no funding was appropriated. Lori shared Michigan School Nutrition Association has sent action alerts. Without state budget passed, school districts may be preparing two separate budgets. If a statewide budget is not passed before the start of the school year, school districts may need to cut staff and programming.
- Amanda asked the group what the council at-large can do collectively to address the upcoming federal changes to SNAP. For the short-term, members expressed interest in regularly receiving policy updates. They felt the changes can be numerous and fast-paced. It has been hard for some agencies to keep track of these changes, and some are experiencing funding and staffing cuts currently as a result. Council will check in during the September meeting to determine what strategies and activities they can work on together to address the federal changes. Eric C. also believes this will give the Council lead time to review landscape findings and align the two, potentially hosting a summit to highlight and promote the landscape study and address the looming SNAP cuts.

Next full council meeting: IN- PERSON - September 16, 2025 from 9-10:30 AM at Oakland County Health Division: North Oakland Health Center.