



FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Regarding the COVID-19 Response in Oakland County

Teleconference, 3/17/2020

Attendees present: Jeremy Brown (Oakland County Farmers Market), Robin Danto (MSU-E), Anne Ginn (Forgotten Harvest), Barrett Harr (Jewish Family Services), Trevor Johnson (Henry Ford Health System West Bloomfield Hospital), Theresa Krell (St. Joseph Mercy Oakland), Regina Mallett (Senior Advisory Council), Monica Martinez (OLHSA), Sarah Mills (Gleaners), Nicole Odom (Michigan Department of Corrections), Michael Randall (American Heart Association), Melissa Reznar (Oakland University), Danielle Todd (Make Food Not Waste), Virginia Uhley (Oakland University), Jessica Williams (OCHD), Kelly Wilson (Taste the Local Difference), Kaitlin Wojciak (MSU-E), Madelyne Wright (OLHSA)

Partner Updates

OLHSA

- Providing double packages during distribution, food will be available in March and April. Food will be placed directly into car.
- Will provide site information as it is determined

Henry Ford West Bloomfield

- Knowledge gap among general population about COVID-19

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital

- Initiating "Life in the Community Calls." See detailed information below in resources.
- Food distribution with Forgotten Harvest will still take place on 4/6/2020. Information will be included in food access resources document.

Gleaners

- Check [website](#) for up-to-date information, including distribution site information
- Working to identify gaps for mobile grocery availability and options
- Working to distribute emergency food with community partners
- Continuing with school mobile pantries

Forgotten Harvest

- Check [website](#) for up-to-date information, including distribution site information
- Working to distribute emergency food with community partners
- Continuing to support food distribution to homeless shelters



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YMCA

- YMCA will be providing meals to children 18 years and younger, and young adults with special needs up to age 26
- Lunch and breakfast provided, and parents/children can take 4 days' worth of meals at one time
- Children do not need to be present for parents to pick up meals
- Link to partner locations and schedule is listed below in resources

Oakland County Farmers Market

- Market is open at this time- will be assessed weekly
- Jeremy is concerned for the farmers, will be participating on a call with the farm bureau

Taste the Local Difference (TLD)

- Kelly is also concerned for the farmers
- TLD can help support direct farm purchases with their current database and technology available

Fair Food Network (FFN)

- Markets that are remaining open are moving markets outdoors and providing additional hand sanitizer
- FFN is assessing how DUFb can be used to support farmers during this time

Oakland County Health Division

- Jessica Williams: Sprout Fresh Food Store is offering food delivery and the Pontiac Community Foundation is compiling Pontiac-community specific resources (see below)
- Carrie Hribar: COVID-19 update
 - [MDHHS site](#) has information including situational updates, press releases, links to reliable federal resources, and population specific information
 - Hotline for questions 1-888-535-6136 (open daily 8 AM-5PM)
 - [OCHD site](#) has local, state, and federal information
 - Toolkits are available and are free to download and use
 - Contact Amanda or Carrie if you need additional resources
 - OCHD is working to update the site daily with new information as it is released
- Amanda Woods: Amanda is preparing a spreadsheet for food access resources across the county. It will be updated daily. Amanda will share with council on regular basis.



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Resources Discussed

Volunteers

Food pantries, Meals on Wheels, and other programs that have traditionally relied on volunteers are losing their volunteers (typically seniors themselves). You can contact Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest. United Way has set up a special page dedicated to COVID-19 that includes volunteering opportunities: <https://unitedwaysem.org/covid-19-toolkit/>

Food Rescue

Restaurants, caterers, other venues may have extra food due to decreased demand and Gov. Whitmer's executive order that closed restaurants, theaters, sporting venues, etc. Business can still donate food, by:

- Contacting Gleaners
- Contacting Forgotten Harvest
- Using Food Rescue US Detroit: <https://foodrescue.us/>
 - Pickup and delivery available

Summer Food Service Program (Meet Up & Eat Up sites)

These sites will also be included in the document Amanda is producing.

- [MDE map link](#)
- [YMCA link](#)

Community Resources

- St. Joseph: "Life in the Community Calls"
 - Will take the name and number of any person in the community that wants a call/ feels socially isolated. Staff will call them to talk and to provide resources.
 - Anyone names/ numbers for calls can be shared with Theresa: Theresa.Krell@stjoeshealth.org or you can call 248-858-3172.
- Oakland County Health Division:
 - [Website](#) for COVID-19 information will provide daily updates and key toolkits partners are free to use
 - Phone Lines: Nurse On Call 800-848-5533, County Hotline 248-858-1000
- [Pontiac Community Foundation](#)
- [MyCovidResponse.org](#)



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Policy News Links

Reliable policy resources shared by Anne Ginn.

- Washington Post is providing no-cost COVID listserv. Is updated frequently 24/7. (May include editorials.)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/03/17/coronavirus-latest-news/>

- Roll Call is Washington-based media publication that issues breaking news. Here's link to this morning's most recent article on status of COVID-19 bill, which House passed, awaiting Senate action.

https://www.rollcall.com/2020/03/16/ohio-governor-recommends-postponing-tuesdays-primaries/?utm_source=morningheadlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_content=03/17/2020

- The Hill is another reliable media source, similar to Roll Call. Here's its most recent posting:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwHMPkBtdXpjpCjxFjJNrJwTMXw>

- Free of charge source of Washington and regional / state policy information on the ag and food sector:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwHMPkCNDTLdnMmZnlFRStVNxnC>

- SNAP Funding:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Families%20First%20summary.pdf>

Initial gaps identified

- Getting meals/food to seniors
- Getting general information out to public
 - Monica (OLHSA) suggested inserting flyers, general information in with food boxes and with other meal distributions
- Homeless shelters – per the Homeless Healthcare Collaboration