

## CHHS Food Security Workgroup Meeting – 8/9/17

Introductions –

CHHS Board historically has received requests for food support during our RFPs. Food support is a City Council priority.

Goal for our workgroup: Effective and efficient food system in the Spokane community.

Questions for first meeting:

Name and agency.

What your agency does in the larger food system.

How do you define food security?

The greatest issue you believe we face.

Pam Almeida, GSC Meals on Wheels

Provide home-delivered and Silver Café meals – 22,000/mo.

Preparing all of their own meals in their own kitchen – 1,000/day

Food security means not worrying about whether they will have meals

Hunger is a problem, but the greatest issue is not focusing on nutrition; seniors are not prepared for the future. Physically disabled people have serious access issues.

Beth Law, Sinto Senior Activity Center

Offer breakfast and lunch prepared in their commercial kitchen – 12-20/day

Source of income for the center.

Food security means having access to nutritious food.

One significant problem is labor. Volunteers do not have training in nutrition.

Cherie Moss, Our Place

Basic need agency including food bank, hygiene items, clothing, etc. Food bank is largest need besides hygiene – 55% of budget, serve 15,000/yr (4,800 children)

Rescue food from restaurants, stores, bakeries. etc.

Security is everyone in a household eats, nutritious/non-processed foods.

Greatest issue in community is fixed incomes, underemployed, ALICE, lack of skills in budgeting and cooking. One of Our Place's larger issues is

Jennifer Olsen-Standing Bear, HRC Ministries

500-1,000 meals/wk, 15 schools & pantries, low-income apartments

Food security is to feed your family without making the choice between utilities/bills and food.

Greatest issue is perishable foods getting out to people that need it fast enough (storage and delivery). Good Samaritan Act needs to be advised to local stores/restaurants.

Connie Nelson, Shalom Ministries

Meal site and case management for chronically homeless.

6 weekly meals – 4,800/mo.

Food security is ability to meet daily food needs, consistently and reliably.

One issue is need to vacant criminal records – limits housing, jobs, and other services, so they can't lift themselves out of poverty. Also, volunteers are untrained or older, do not stress nutrition, may not have food handler permits. Pets are also an issue for meal sites. Problems with sharing excess foods – distribution, storage, perishability, rules from donators, transportation, etc.

Kathy Hedgecock, Second Harvest

Work with retailer, growers, producers to get food to other partners in network. Last decade, focus on fresh foods (not just dry/canned foods) to aid nutrition. Mobile market is useful to get to those people with difficulty accessing services or underserved areas.

Food security is affordable access to healthy foods.

Greatest issues are access and nutrition education.

Natalie Tauzin, Spokane Regional Health

Look for vulnerable populations to provide assistance connections with partners. Healthy Communities team with additional focus on healthy eating including food access and equity.

Food security is knowing that there is food, that there is access to quality food, and you can receive food in a socially acceptable way.

Greatest issue is no coordinated food security system and lots of duplication of effort. No centralized training for volunteers regarding trauma and cultures. How are we handling food waste? Example: more expensive for restaurants for waste disposal in Seattle to encourage less food waste.

Not in attendance – Monique Kolonko (Catholic Charities), Chuck Teagarden (Communities in Schools), and Lisa Diffley (Women and Children's Free Restaurant)

Workgroup goal is to map the local food system including:

- Food banks (agencies, churches)
- P-12 Schools (lunch, backpacks)
- Food deserts
- Meal sites/distribution
- Farmers markets and gardens
- Transportation (bus passes, mobile markets)

Group brainstorm for definition of food security:

affordable  
reliable  
nutritious  
healthy  
accessible

acceptable/culturally appropriate  
maintaining dignity (how is food available, served, provided?)  
self-sufficient  
fosters community, friendship and family

Next meeting at 8am on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at Second Harvest.

Potential group activities: (1) Regional Food Systems webinar on September 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.  
(2) Department of Ecology food waste recovery training TBA by Natalie.