



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Distribution & Access Subcommittee
May 5, 2022 1:00pm-2:00pm

1. Welcome
2. Group Discussion
 - a. Invited Speakers - Food Council
 - i. 1:10 pm-1:25 pm - Anne Palmer and Caitlin Misiaszek (JHU)
 - CLF Resources
 - A. Maryland Food System Map- online interactive application with over 175 data layers (agriculture, distribution, etc.) across the food system. Updated quarterly.
 - B. Resilience guidebook for municipal leaders- (release date TBD Summer of 2022) Primary audience is local government. Guide will provide information regarding specific food system resilience constructs, planning development, equity, strategies, implementation, etc.
 - C. Food policy council guidebook for beginning council
 - What we have learned regarding Food Policy Networks
 - A. Food Policy Councils (FPCs) require a significant amount of time, relationship-building and, resources, in-kind and financial
 - B. It is not a model that works well top-down, instead the following is needed to ensure successful implementation: gauge political will, group of stakeholders who represent many different sectors and interests in the food system.
 - C. Done the right way, FPCs are a good forum for jurisdictions to learn about food system issues, develop relationships with others working on



- related issues, collaborate on projects, and review and recommend policy changes to help ameliorate food system problems.
- D. Increasing focus on equity and how racial equity, in particular can be integrated into their work
 - E. Increasing focus on resilience and planning for future food system disruptions
- What do we still need to know
 - A. Need a better understanding of what challenges and successes did each county encounter during the pandemic
 - 1. Each jurisdiction might have a different approach to tackling the same problem, in part because they have different assets, issues, values, etc.
 - 2. Who/what organizations were the major players in each county and what role(s) did they play?
 - B. What county level policies and plans already exist that can be leveraged to address food systems resilience?
 - C. For future disruptions, what needs to happen at a county level?
 - What can we do going forward
 - A. If there are dedicated resources, there are likely counties that would be interested in trying to start a council.
 - B. Without guaranteed dedicated resources, we could begin collecting some of the information i.e. scoping activity.
 - C. Develop survey materials and subcommittee discovery questions will be shared separately
 - D. Determine a standardized definition of what a food policy council impact can be post-pandemic
- ii. 1:25 pm-1:40pm - Megan Bluthardt & Blake Fisher (Baltimore Metropolitan Council)
- Local outreach involving faith-based organizations were successful during the pandemic



- Challenges observed included: tracking resource/meal distribution, methods of communication (apps, verbal, written), distributions of benefits for participants in assistance programs, lack of case management limited coordination
 - During the pandemic observations:
 - A. Food taskforce groups were set up throughout each jurisdiction (taskforce were divers depending on jurisdictional resources/needs)
 - B. As needs developed BMC assisted with resolving needs and coordination efforts
 - C. Reviewing best practices, and information sharing once per month with the taskforce was vital for addressing community needs
 - D. BMC drafted 7 plans that are now in the review phase, this document will be shared upon completion
 - E. The BMC Farmer's Market report will be shared with the subcommittee
- b. Question Review
- c. Finalize which topics we will submit for inclusion in the mid-year report
3. Next Steps and adjourn
- Review shared documents/resources from JHU
 - To examine existing counsels
 - Local Management Boards- presentation to determine structural differences from food policy councils



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT