



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Mar 24, 2022 |

📅 Distribution & Access Subcommittee Meeting

Attendees: Megan Bluthardt Lee Babcock Meg Kimmel Diana Taylor
Vanessa Calaban -MDEM- Blake BMC Lisa A. Lachenmayr
Mischelle Williams -DHS- SSC Panowitz, Kara

Notes:

- Baltimore resiliency hub model - used during COVID as food distribution sites; they are fully energy self-sufficient but lack resources like cold chain storage (although generally have small-scale refrigeration capabilities)
- Create a vision - what would a perfect hub look like?
 - full wraparound services for underserved communities
 - foundation of RH could be a food hub for aggregation and further distribution, and getting food from MFB to RH locations
 - Assessment of what facilities are out there and available
 - Ask Dr. Lansing to share resources document @Vanessa Calaban
- Connection to focus group piece - ask participants what services they would like to see in their communities, what they need, etc., as a way to help build a useful set of services
 - Community gardens as a means to supplement food distribution - gardening education, cooking demos, etc
 - primary focus should be on ensuring sufficient food source - if vegetables don't grow, it's not just an inconvenience
 - MFB has been conducting referrals into workforce training programs - is this expertise we can use?
 - Must have customizable services tailored to each community
- How many resilience hubs should there be? one in every ZIP code?
 - different models for different areas? urban/suburban/rural?
- [Judy center](#) - a one-stop shop for social/wraparound services
 - Is this a good model for something like a RH?
- Should reflect community needs over time and grow with the community



- Focus groups:
 - Setting goals, determining what information we want to have in the end
 - incorporating
 - What questions would we actually ask consumers?
 - where information is received, trusted
 - awareness of different services,
 - how are people currently accessing food, what are the barriers and challenges? how are those challenges unique to different areas?
 - How can we connect people with reliable access points to food?
 - Geographic area?
 - broad enough to gather information from a cross section of pops/demographics
 - Maybe instead, distribute an outline for every area looking to set up a RH to make sure the community input is heard
 - How to make sure they reach those individuals
 - Logistics
 - number of focus groups needed
 - having analysts to interpret data
 - Using MFB data as a starting point?

Other notes:

C Dyson:

Thanks for such a dynamic conversation! New to the group, representing Food & Friends, and personal resident of Howard County and former member of HoCo Food Policy Task Force.

Good news: Frederick County Food Ambassador program - 3 high school sophomores

MFB: obtained second mobile grocery store and looking to obtain a third soon
Waivers for summer meals being extended

Diana is looking for a co-chair for this subcommittee - please reach out to her or Vanessa if you are interested!

Action items

- Vanessa to ask Dr. Lansing to share resources document



Subcommittee Members

Distribution and Access	
<i>Every other Thursday at 1pm (beginning 1/13)</i>	
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Subcommittee Assigned Areas of Focus

Distribution and Access
Addressing and eliminating racial inequalities in the food system
Addressing and eliminating diet-related public health disparities
Addressing and eliminating food deserts
Creating additional market opportunities for Maryland food businesses