

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012

I. Welcome and Administrative Items – Cristal Thomas, Co-Chair

- **Attendance: In Chicago:** Cristal Thomas, Kate Maehr, Frank Finnegan, Doug Schenkelberg, Mark Ishaug, Amy Rynell, Dan Lesser, Janine Lewis, John Cheney Egan, Kerry Lofton, Terry Solomon, Nicole Robinson, Juanita Irizarry, Caronina Grimble, Ahlam Jbara, Michelle Saddler, Dawn Melchiorre
In Springfield: Laura Kessel
On Phone: Mark Haller, Marla Goodwin, Burt Webber, Gary Tomlin, Mary Ellen Abbot, Barb Karacic
- **Approve Minutes from Last Meeting:** Mark Ishaug motioned to approve the minutes and Terry Solomon seconded, all approved.
- **Vacancies on the Commission:** Kathy Ryg resigned as president of Voices of Illinois Children and as chair of the No Kid Hungry Committee and member of the Commission. Her position will be replaced by Janine Lewis, executive director of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition. Tracy Smith has resigned as the executive director of Feeding Illinois. She will be replaced by Frank Finnegan, CEO of the St. Louis Area Food Bank. Matt Dace, Senior Vice-President of St. Louis will take Tracy's place on the Underserved Populations Work Group.

II. Working Group Updates - Cristal Thomas, Co-Chair

- Underserved Populations, Marla Goodwin, Chair
 - Dawn Melchiorre reported that the Underserved Population Work Group recent meetings have focused on the letter Feeding Illinois sent to the Commission concerning their concerns with the administration of the TEFAP program. A small work group of food banks and IDHS staff are working on a series of recommendations with a goal of maintaining the high standards of the program while increasing efficiencies. The hope is any savings will be passed to the food banks so they can serve more clients.
- Vulnerable Adults, Dan Lesser, Chair
 - Dan Lesser reported the recent activities of the Vulnerable Adults Working Group. The Illinois Department on Aging gave a presentation to the work group discussing the nutrition programs for older adults under their purview. It was noted that the federal Older American's Adult Act would face sequestration cuts if sequestration is allowed to proceed. The work group is also focused on possible SNAP waivers to simplify the process for application for targeted vulnerable populations. Dan Lesser and Dawn Melchiorre will be presenting to the Disability Rights Consortium in December.

- No Kid Hungry (formerly Children and Family at Risk), Janine Lewis, Chair
 - Janine Lewis reported the recent activities of the No Kid Hungry Campaign.
 - a. School Breakfast – Governor Quinn visited the Irving Elementary School in Berwyn in October to experience breakfast in the classroom (BIC). It was a successful visit and press conference highlighting the success of BIC as a model to increase participation in breakfast. The Governor offered to hold the Breakfast Challenge Awardees at the Mansion in March of 2013. Dawn will follow-up with his staff.

Kate Maehr discussed the funding of NKH. Share Our Strength has provided most of the resources for the past year and it is hoped they will deepen their investment next year. The Greater Chicago Food Depository (as the home of NKH) is pursuing an individual donor to also fund our work in school breakfast. The hope is to fund five regional coordinators to work directly with targeted school districts.

- b. Summer Food Service Program- The final numbers for the SFSP program had an increase of 172,000 meals. However, the Seamless Summer Option which most school use for the summer school programs was down considerable due to many schools (including CPS) decreasing the number of sites for summer school. Overall, both programs were down .03% in the number of meals served.

The Chicago Community Trust provided additional support to the NKH Campaign which allowed for the launching of the first dedicated Summer Food website in Illinois. (www.summerfoodillinois.org) In addition, the grant from CCT was combined with support from Share Our Strength to increase the resources available to fund expansion grants for SFSP sponsors; a total of \$51,000 was granted to 9 organization to expand their capacity to serve more children. Finally, NKH partnered with COFI (Communities Organizing and Family Issues) to employ “food ambassadors” in three Chicago neighborhoods. The COFI ambassadors knocked on over 4900 door letting residents know about the availability of the program in their area.

III. Federal Legislative Update – Farm Bill and Fiscal Issues Doug Schenkelberg, Greater Chicago Food Depository

- The Farm Bill expired at the end of September without any legislative action. With the election close neither political party wants to take action rather the consensus is it will happen after the election. SNAP cuts continue to be at the center of the Farm Bill discussion. The House Bill that currently exists cuts \$23 billion to SNAP by eliminating categorical eligibility which allows states to approve individuals for SNAP if they are determined eligible for TANF or Medicaid. This program increases efficiency at the state level as it reduces the amount of paperwork and time for clients and IDHS.

- Doug Schenkelberg and Dan Lesser encouraged all organization to develop advocacy around these harmful SNAP cuts. Cristal Thomas said that Governor Quinn is engaged in the Farm Bill and does talk with the Illinois Congressional Delegation as well as the White House. He is firmly opposed to the SNAP cuts but is focused on pension reform during the fall Veto Session.

IV. Commission Report Update for 2013 – Kate Maehr, Co-Chair

- The Commission is required by statute to release an annual report on the activities and achievements for the previous year. It was suggested that the report be simple and short as legislators often have limited time to devote to lengthy reports. Dawn will work on the report along with the steering committee and co-chairs. The next report will be available at the next Commission meeting.

V. Discussion of Holding a Statewide Hunger Summit – Kate Maehr, Co-Chair

- Feeding Illinois hosted a conference the past couple of year but with a change in staffing the organization will be unable to have a Summit this spring. Members have expressed an interest in the Commission filing that void. It would be important for the work of the Commission to continue to bring new voices to the table to increase the diversity of the viewpoints and new partnerships.
- The members suggested an all-day conference in Springfield to coordinate with the General Assembly Session. A suggestion was made to have a keynote speaker who could bridge multiple audiences such as a business leaders or faith leaders. Dawn Melchiorre will work with the work groups to develop a plan for the Summit.

VI. New Business/ Next Meeting – Cristal Thomas, Co-Chair

- Next Meeting : June 13, 2013 9:00- 11:00am