

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011

At a meeting of the **Health & Human Services Committee**, held Wednesday, November 2, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Moceri-Chair, Flynn, Frascchetti, Tocco and Vosburg (ex-officio).

Absent and excused was Miller.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

DiMaria

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Moceri called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Frascchetti, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Frascchetti, to approve the September 7, 2011 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following individual addressed the Board:

Ruthie Stevenson, 69 Beyne Street, Mount Clemens

EDUCATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND POLICY

Chair Mocerri felt with the real change in demographics, the economy, and with a strong agricultural base in the northern part of the county, that the Board has a unique opportunity to be a leader in making food accessible and creating an economy around food. The county has a strong manufacturing base and skill set of leveraging, utilizing, and transferring into a different way of thinking about food and utilizing it as an opportunity.

She thanked all of those in attendance for today's hearing. She then thanked Vicky Mazzola, legislative intern, for her efforts in coordinating the panelists. She spoke about the upcoming Food Policy Summit that will be held in February 2012.

Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow

A pre-recorded message from Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow was shown on the overhead drop down screens.

Statement from Office of Congressman Sander Levin

A one-page letter dated November 2, 2011 from Congressman Sander Levin was distributed.

Keith Nelson read the letter on behalf of Congressman Sander Levin who was not able to attend this morning's hearing.

Panelists:

Rick Foster, Ph.D., Professor, W.K. Kellogg Chair in Food, Society and Sustainability at Michigan State University and Director of MSU Extension's Greening Michigan Institute at Michigan State University

Dr. Rick Foster provided statistics on the population in Southeast Michigan and in Macomb County who do not have easy access to fresh fruits, vegetables, or quality food. He addressed four major focus areas of work at the Greening Michigan Institute. He spoke about community food systems, food society and sustainability, global production of food offset by local production, and metro food, not urban food. The future will be local food and not like a niche market. He believes there is a real opportunity in Southeast Michigan, because of not only having a water shed, but also having a food shed.

Cheryl Simon, Coordinator, Detroit Food Policy Council

A booklet entitled "The Detroit Food System Report 2009-2010" was distributed.

Cheryl Simon gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics consisted of the following:

- Mission of the Detroit Food Policy Council (DFPC)
- Early History
- DFPC is Formed
- 21 Seats Represent Sectors
- DFPC Goals
- Healthy Food Access
- Community Food Justice
- Schools and Institutions
- Urban Agriculture
- Current Focus

Aaron Martin, TLC Charitable City Garden

Aaron Martin explained how he turned a vacant piece of land in downtown Mount Clemens into a charitable garden that benefits the Anton Art Center. This past growing season, he delivered fresh produce to numerous local businesses and in turn donated some of the proceeds to the Anton Art Center to promote art education. The garden was also used for educational purposes. His mission for next year is to extend the garden bed and have residents come to the garden on a regular basis.

Susan Goodell, President/CEO, Forgotten Harvest

A folder containing numerous pieces of information was distributed.

Susan Goodell spoke about hunger being a critical and growing issue and illustrated the magnitude of the problem here in Macomb County. She explained how their food rescue operation works. They have 30 refrigerated trucks on the road rescuing food, volunteers repackage food, help with meal assembly for prepared foods, and help harvest foods. Donated food is delivered the same day throughout the tri-county area.

Statistics show for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, they rescued and distributed 1.6 million pounds of food here in Macomb County. Despite 51% growth for the new fiscal year, more food is desperately needed. She recognized the generous Macomb County food donors who choose to donate their food rather than discard it.

Statistics show 96 billion pounds of food goes to waste every year in this country; one-quarter of the food produced in this country goes to waste. Statistics show one-quarter of the children in Macomb County are hungry.

The following commissioners spoke: Flynn, Frascchetti, Vosburg and DiMaria.

Katherine Benford, Director of the Senior Citizen Nutrition Program, MCCSA

Katherine Benford gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics consisted of the following:

Senior Nutrition Program: What We Do

- Older Americans Act
 - Disease prevention through nutrition
 - Prevent social isolation
 - Help maintain independence
- MCCSA Senior Nutrition Program provides
 - 1,400 home-delivered meals Monday-Friday
 - 1,100 volunteers
 - 425 cafeteria-style meals Monday-Friday
 - Served at 22 locations
- Our community partners
 - 22 locations in community centers, senior centers, and senior living facilities

Senior Nutrition Program: Our Strengths

Safe Food

- 7 local kitchens prepare meals
- 22 locations monitored and licensed by the Health Department
- Staff trained in proper food handling

Healthy Food

- Meals are friendly to most dietary restrictions or preferences
- Meals are rich in:
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Whole grains
 - Low fat dairy

Senior Nutrition Program: Gaps Identified

- Access to food
 - Indicate not having enough money to buy food they need
 - 37 percent of congregate participants
 - 35 percent of home-delivered meal participants
 - Indicate no access to healthy, fresh food on weekends
 - 26 percent of congregate participants
 - 22 percent of home-delivered meal participants
- Senior Nutrition Program meals are primary source of fresh foods

Sue Figurski, Food Coordinator for the Macomb Food Program, MCCA

Sue Figurski gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics consisted of the following:

Macomb Food Program: What We Do

- Mission is to feed the hungry in Macomb County
- Started in 1975
- Operate warehouse
 - Accept food donations
 - Process and distribute emergency food
 - Store and distribute non-emergency food
- Network of 55 pantry distribution sites
- Provided pantry sites with 1.9 million pounds of food at no cost to the pantry
 - Canned and boxed food products
 - Frozen protein items
 - Dairy foods
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Distributed food boxes to over 150,000 individuals

Macomb Food Program: Our Strengths

- 80,000 hours of volunteer service
 - Volunteers in warehouse and pantry network
- Overseen by a 16-member advisory board of directors
- Community Partners
 - Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeast Michigan
 - Forgotten Harvest
- Non-emergency/commodity food distribution
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
 - Distributed 950,000 pounds of food
 - Serve approximately 4,500 households per month
 - Focus: HOPE (Commodity Supplemental Food Program/CSFP)
 - Distributed 150,000 pounds of food
 - Serve approximately 300 households per month

Macomb Food Program: Gaps Identified

- 45 percent reduction in FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter funding
- Majority of food distributed is canned or boxed items
- Nutritional value of donated food
- Fresh food availability is limited seasonally

Eileen Haraminac, Extension Educator, Health and Nutrition Institute, Michigan State University Extension

Eileen Haraminac gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics consisted of the following:

MSU Extension Nutrition USDA Funded

Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program

- Provides nutrition education to families with children
- 87% of EFNEP participants who reported income are at or below 100% poverty, earning \$22,050 year or less
- Provides nutrition education to families with children
- Group setting in community outreach

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Reaches low income seniors (60+)
- Developmentally disabled
- Youth (in eligible schools and afterschool programs) free and reduced lunch eligibility
- Group setting in community

Staff Delivering Program

Macomb-MSUE Nutrition

4 programming staff, 1 Supervising Educator

Macomb Population 831,427

10.9% = 90,626 persons in poverty

3% = 2,719 MSUE nutrition reach

New in 2011 – Addressing the need – 7 Community Nutrition volunteers programming in Macomb schools

Macomb-MSU Extension Nutrition

- TOTAL EFFORT
- EFNEP 2009-2011 Adults (families) 600
- SNAP 2009-2011 Adults 400
- Youth 1,141

Not typical of programming

coverage-restructuring years (2010-11) 2,141

Nutrition Services: Performed by Extension Educator

- Food preservation classes; food safety presentations; community collaborator-partner

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch

- **Macomb County Priority School Districts % Free/Reduced Lunch**

Eligible for MSUE nutrition @ 50% +

1. Academy of Warren	98.61
2. Ben Ross Public School Academy	92.02
3. Global Preparatory Academy	89.94
4. Van Dyke	84.57
5. Conner Creek Academy	81.32
6. Fitzgerald	78.68
7. Mount Clemens	78.45
8. East Detroit	74.47

Partnerships

Macomb County Food Program
MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine-
S(P)artner's Program Mount Clemens Schools
Programming in Macomb County Schools

Solid Ground, FYI, Abigayle Ministries, Compassion Pregnancy, senior housing sites, CSDD, developmental housing sites, Priority Health, DHS, WIC

Kathe Hale, Extension Educator, Greening Michigan Institute, Michigan State University Extension

Kathe Hale gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key slides covered included:

- Map of Macomb County USDA "Food Deserts" by Census Tract
- Map of Macomb County Percentage of Housing Units With No Vehicles
- Map of Macomb County SNAP Eligible Schools
- Map of Macomb County Food Resources

Community Food Systems Initiatives in Macomb County

- Macomb Food Systems Council
- All About Food Conference – February 8, 2012
- Farm to School/Institution Programs
- School, youth and community gardens
- 15 garden mini-grants funded by United Way

The following commissioners spoke: Mocerri, Flynn and Fraschetti.

Audience participation:

Terri Campion, 19095 Pine Cone, Macomb Township (on behalf of the United Way)
Ruthie Stevenson, 69 Beyne Street, Mount Clemens
Ted Confer, 12957 Pearl, Shelby Township

The committee took a recess at 11:43 a.m. and reconvened at 11:58 a.m.

ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND POLICY

A copy of the proclamation was attached to the final agenda.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FLYNN, SUPPORTED BY FRASCHETTI, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A PROCLAMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS AND POLICY (**OFFERED BY MOCERI**). FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

VETERANS

Report by Veterans' Services Department

Kermit Harris overviewed his report. He then spoke about a new program through a coordinated effort with other agencies to assist veterans. Statistics show out of the 50 states, including D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam, of those 53 areas, Michigan is 53rd in bringing money and benefits to the veterans, per capita. He met with representatives from Simasko and Simasko and has been invited to appear on their cable show to explain the function of the Veterans' Services Department. Lastly, he introduced Fred Warner who runs the Veterans Food Bank located on 12 Mile Road on Mondays.

The following commissioner spoke: Mocerri.

MOTION

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Frascchetti, to receive and file the monthly status report for September 2011, as submitted by Kermit Harris, Director of Veterans' Services Department. **The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Frascchetti, to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter