

Q3 2022 MEETING NOTES DRAFT

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Chair:** Julie Moore Vice-Chair: Laurian Unnevehr

August 29th, 2022

ATTENDEES

- Members present:
 - Julie Moore
 - Derrick Hoffman
 - Krista Garand
 - Laurian Unnevehr (via Zoom)
 - Tessa Hale
 - Karla Maraccini
 - Greg Thomason
 - Marc Jacobson
 - Ann Cooper
 - Marci Cochran
 - Wendy Peters Moschetti
 - Caroline Bushnell (via Zoom)
 - Dawn Thilmany
 - Marci Cochran (via Zoom)
 - Liza Marron
 - Joan Brucha
 - Michele Meyer
 - Hollis Glenn
 - Michelle Bradford
 - Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts
- Staff Present
 - Lilan Brislen
 - Alex DeJoy
- Guests Present
 - Laura Kriebel
- Members Not in Attendance (emailed in advance)
 - Gabe Disbrow
- Members Not in Attendance (did not email in advance)
 - Effie Rorke

AGENDA

1. Approve minutes from Quarter 2 meeting
2. Open seat announcement
3. Agency updates
4. Working group update
5. Budget Approval

APPROVAL OF Q2 MINUTES

Minutes were not included in pre-meeting materials, will follow up and request vote via email.

Email votes received: 10 approve

OPEN SEATS

- 5 seats are opening up
 - Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers
 - Representative of statewide anti-hunger organization
 - Representative with expertise in federal food and nutrition service programs
 - Representative of a food distributor or a food hub
 - Representative of agriculture production and as a specialty crop producer
- To remain transparent and equitable, we want to always send out all seats that are up for reappointment
 - Want to emphasize geographic and ethnically diverse representation on council
 - Need for more representation from far eastern Colorado
 - October is timeline for applications, will be following up via email
- Effie, Marc, Michele M., and Gabe's terms are ending
 - Effie and Michele's applications are recent enough that they can be used again
 - Marc would need new application if he intends to reapply
 - Effie has indicated she would like to reapply
 - Gabe has indicated he will not be reapplying

BUDGET UPDATE

Staff	\$55,359
Expended	\$ 32,612
Encumbered	\$ 22,746
Support	\$ 8,240
Expended	\$ 7,740
Encumbered	\$ 500
Consultants	\$ 51,331
Expended	\$19,418
Encumbered	\$ 31,913
TOTAL	\$ 114,930
Annual Budget	\$ 100,000
Unencumbered	\$ (14,930)
FY 21 Carry Over	\$ 65,797
Total Balance	\$ 50,867

- Sometimes Lilian's time is billed to COFSAC, other times billed to other accounts
- Universal School meals has used their working group funds (\$5,000)

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

CO Department of Public Health and Environment

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment announced the release of the FY24 Cancer Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Grants Program Request for Applications (RFA) #40802. The purpose of the RFA is to reduce chronic disease in Colorado by providing a cohesive approach that focuses on prevention, early detection, and treatment for cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chronic pulmonary disease.

The initiatives funded through this RFA will focus on further improving the health of Coloradans by building capacity and support for the implementation of chronic disease prevention and health promotion. This funding opportunity aims to fund organizations/agencies/collaborations/eligible Tribes across Colorado that will:

- Focus on further reducing chronic disease in Colorado, specifically in populations most burdened by cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease.
- Put into practice evidence-based strategies and/or evidence-informed innovative approaches that advance the strategic direction of the CCPD Grants Program.

This RFA includes a Policy, Systems and Environmental Change Path (#1) that addresses:

- Healthy Food and Beverages, specifically:
 - Local and municipal policies restricting unhealthy foods and beverages
 - Built environment policies to increase access to healthy foods and beverages

- Distribution and procurement systems for healthy local foods and beverages

The deadline for application submission is September 15, 2022, 5 p.m. MDT. Details of the funding opportunity and application materials may be found on the [CCPD Funding Opportunities](#) website. A pre-application webinar is recorded and posted on the CCPD Funding Opportunities website until the application due date has passed.

CO Department of Agriculture

CDA has posted the job announcement for our Community Food Access Program Manager. This new program will use federal funding to provide up to \$6.3M in grants to small farms and small food retailers to help purchase equipment to increase the sale of healthy food and retailers participating in the SNAP and WIC programs. In addition, this program will establish a Consortium of small food retailers to help reduce the cost of wholesale purchasing of healthy food and improve distribution. In addition to the \$6.3 M in grants, the Consortium has a budget of \$930,000. We hope to have our program manager hired by October 1 to begin developing the program. We intend to partner with nonprofits in the food access space on this project. We have until 6/30/2025 to distribute these funds.

[Here is the link to the job announcement.](#) **Please forward this to anyone you may think would be interested in applying.** This is a term-limited position that will end on 6/30/2025 and the application period closes on 9/12.

- Don't have to be on front range, hiring for anywhere in CO
- Bilingual encouraged
- Hope to have position filled by mid October
- Hope to get grants out March or April 2023

CO Department of Education School Nutrition

Local Food for Schools HB19-1132 awarded to 20 school districts for 22/23 school year. Funds will be dispersed to districts in early October for the purchase of Colorado grown and raised products. Another round of supply chain assistance funds is going to school districts and the funds can be used to purchase domestic food products that are unprocessed or minimally processed.

- 500k/year going to multiple districts 2022-23 to purchase CO grown and raised products
- Use money to offset costs on fresh foods
- Seeing enormous decrease in amount of meals being served
- Will effect allotments for next year
- Will those decreased numbers be included in written update?

- Once districts start submitting claims we'll have that data, Probably end of September into October/November to get that data

CO Department of Human Services

- Newsworthy: [Colorado's Agencies Create Recipe Frameworks for Communities through the Healthy Corner Store Partnership](#)
- New tool available for the eventual end of the public health emergency: [Toolkit: Messaging for the End of the PHE \(SNAP Max Allotment\)](#)
- Fall 2021 Pandemic EBT was issued in August to a total of 147,650 students and children under six in child care who were eligible based on this year's criteria set forth by FNS. The total amount was \$14,602,129 (\$5,607,541 for school kids, \$8,994,588 for SNAP Under 6).
- CDHS continues to develop and implement increased technological solutions to reduce client and worker burdens and increase the accuracy and timing of programs such as telephonic signature, Intelligent Character Recognition for automating certain forms that were previously exclusively manually entered, and increasing MyCOBenefits app functionality
- End of pub health emergency is looming
 - Federal partners have guaranteed 60 days notice
- When it does end:
 1. EBT school meal replacement program will end
 2. SNAP max allotment would end
 3. Student exemptions will end, go back to traditional eligibility
 4. Reinstatement of time limit for Able-bodied Adults without Dependents
- What can we do?
 - Let congress know that max allotment has made enormous impact on households
- Card skimming and scamming has increased
- Increasing ability to make mobile payments instead
- Funds that have been stolen are not replaceable
- Tribal entities declined funds so there will be a round 2 to distribute those

CO Office of Economic Development and International Trade

- OEDIT is heading up Statewide Economic Development Strategy (SEDS)
 - Just hired consulting group
- Diverse understanding of what makes societies successful brings diversity, equity, and access
- Colorado will now have SEDS at statewide level and regional level

- Getting remaining 4 regions that don't have SEDS in place now
- Having SEDS will increase ability to access federal funds and have prioritization for Colorado
 - Check box on forms for having a SEDS creates prioritization
- Every department in state has been notified of this process
- Discussed at local, state, national, and global perspective
- Even if your agency isn't involved in conversations, COFSAC will be referred and consulted with, consulting group may be contacting council members for one-on-one call
- Anticipate 9/15 and 10/1 notice of meetings will go out
- Colorado SEDS official probably June 2023 at the earliest
- The Rural Opportunity Office within OEDIT recently hired Wendy Stewart Martinez as OEDIT's new Rural Opportunity Representative serving Southern Colorado. Wendy began work on September 12, 2022, and can be reached by email at wendy.stewartmartinez@state.co.us

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- Institutional Procurement and Conserving Ag Lands & Water working groups are planning sessions for the Colorado Food Summit
 - Dec 8th at Cable Center in Denver
 - Planning for 400 people
 - 4 different tracks, something for everyone
 - Statewide planning committee
 - Sponsorship is still available if your organization is interested

Conserving Ag lands and Water

- Reviewing white paper from last year
- Efforts are being channeled into session at summit
 - Session will be "Can policy keep up with the rate of climate change?"

Key Factors Food and Agriculture (Water, Land, Capital, Labor)

This track will take a deep dive into the foundation to our food and agricultural systems - water, land, labor, and capital. Hear from the people that live, breath, and eat the topic. Panelists will speak to the biggest challenges and opportunities facing communities in Colorado including policy implications for each of the topic areas. Hear about on the ground examples of how communities are seeking to increase equitable access to these resources in rural and urban places.

- 1. Can Policy Keep Up With Climate: Perspectives panel on land and water issues into the future. (ORGANIZED BY COFSAC)**

2. Brand New Bag: Investing in the future of Colorado's food system.
 - a. Examples of how grass roots, philanthropic, and public (government) funding programs are working to wrangle resources to support a bright and equitable future for Colorado food systems. Infrastructure investments, land trusts, loan programs.
3. Community Case Study: San Luis Valley

Showcase of community-based collaborative efforts that take an assets-based approached to food system development.

Institutional Procurement

- Undergoing fact finding and study design process for what procurement data is available across the state
- Completed Open Records request (CORA)
- CSU Public Health grad student is interested in working on this project

Connecting Supply and Demand

Connecting supply and demand for Colorado food products is at the crux of initiatives across the state. Join for engaging and interactive sessions to identify practical action steps stakeholders can take across the state to assure the food grown is consumed in our state. Sessions will explore different supply chains including food access programs and institutional procurement.

1. Colorado Feeding Colorado: Farm to Institution
 - a. **ORGANIZED BY COFSAC**
 - b. Connecting local food production to institutions and nutrition security programs in ways that support local food economies and equitable approaches to nutrition security.
2. Working Smarter Not Harder: New and Appropriate Technologies
 - a. Where technology is helping to facilitate markets and increase access/equity for growers, makers and eaters. Where might we need more care and attention to ensuring technology-based solutions have equitable access and benefit?
3. Value Chain Vision Session
 - a. What is Value Chain Coordination, and how can it help grow Colorado food economies? (how it's different/complicates simple supply & demand equation, why it's important, successful models, how it builds capacity among practitioners/networks, economic opportunities for farmers and businesses, and promotes climate resilience). This session culminates in a collaborative mapping and visioning exercise on how communities and leaders can coordinate.

Universal School Meals

- Created issue brief last summer detailing the benefits of Universal School Meals for students and schools
- Developed executive summary and video
- Working with consultant Michele Ames to distribute these and get word out
- Developing social media accounts that will be used for all COFSAC work, Facebook and Twitter
- Ballot measure in November will determine if Universal School Meals are continued
- Michele is also helping us learn how to position COFSAC once we have Strategic plan finished
 - Will develop newsletter
 - Prepping for this with quarterly updates from state agencies

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 17th 11am-1pm