

# Q3 2022 MEETING NOTES DRAFT

## COLORADO FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

*November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

### ATTENDEES

- Members present:
  - Julie Moore
  - Derrick Hoffman
  - Krista Garand
  - Tessa Hale
  - Karla Maraccini
  - Al Goodman
  - Nicholas Marquez
  - Marci Cochran
  - Wendy Peters Moschetti
  - Dawn Thilmany
  - Marci Cochran (via Zoom)
  - Michele Meyer
  - Hollis Glenn
  - Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts
- Staff Present
  - Lilan Brislen
  - Alex DeJoy
- Guests Present
  - Sarah Gregory (for Effie Rorke)
  - Greg Bellomo
  - Andrea Crary
  - Jennifer Lockwood
  - Shayle Sabo
  
- 719-786-6041 ?
  
- Members Not in Attendance (emailed in advance)
  - Greg Thomason, Laurian Unnevehr, Ann Cooper, Joan Brucha, Effie Rorke
- Members Not in Attendance (did not email in advance)
  - Liza Marron, Michelle Bradford (phone number?)

## Agenda

- Sunset Review: overview & next steps
- Council Admin
  - New Members
  - Approve minutes Q2
  - Budget update
  - 2023 meeting schedule
- Strategic Plan Implementation
- Agency Updates
  - Get to know DOLA

## Sunset review

- Went through initial stage administratively audited by DORA
- Have been recommended to continue so far
- Heading into legislative Session for 2023, next step in sunset process
- Report was made public in October
  
- Next steps
  - 2023 legislative session starts Jan 9
  - Office of Legislative Services will create bill draft
  - 4-6 weeks into 2023 session, they will schedule intro hearing for bill draft and report
  - Jennifer Lockwood will present report and answer questions committee might have
  - Take public testimony at this time
  - Bill draft will flow through like any bill in legislative session

## Q. What aspects of council could be changed?

- A. Bill draft will mirror recommendations in report
- Decisions beyond this point are at discretion of general assembly
- Bill draft will mirror report that has been made public
- Committee will have access to bill draft and report at the initial hearing
- Beyond initial hearing, DORA isn't involved in the rest of process, except to answer questions

## Q. Is council at risk of not continuing, or do most programs reviewed keep going?

- A. In Jennifer's office (DORA) they don't have anything to do with fiscal decision
- Jennifer will just present report
- Will be at discretion of general assembly how they proceed beyond that intro hearing

- Jennifer makes their recommendation, then at discretion of General assembly how it moves forward, DORA will be there to answer questions
- Can't really speak to how other programs go through sunset, all different

Q. Are there means or mechanisms that council can make recommendations to bill draft

DORA has already made recommendation for COFSAC to continue, general assembly will evaluate report as it was submitted

Q. If there is an amendment or questions from legislators?

A. Jennifer presents and then DORA is available to answer questions

## SEATS

- Welcome new members
- Still trying to fill specialty crop seat
- Welcome Al Goodman
  - Farmers Market Manager and Value chain Coordinator at East Denver Food Hub
  - Background in childhood food education and security
  - Liaison between market and farmers
  - Loves getting to know farmers, and connecting them with people and resources
- Welcome Nicholas Marquez
  - Community Organizer with Hunger Free CO
  - New to food justice work
  - Supporting Prop FF-Healthy School Meals for all
  - Legislative aid
- Hopefully now we will be on a regular schedule of appointment with annual seatings at a consistent time

Approve Q3 minutes

- Any additions or corrections?
- Dawn motions to accept as written, Michele M. second
- Unanimous vote to approve Q3 minutes

2023 Meeting schedule

- Meet in person together 2 times a year and do 2 virtual meetings
- Q1 and q3 virtual q2 and q4 in person
- Should food summit continue to happen, align Q4 meeting with that
- February, May, September, December

- Stay with Thursdays, schedule Feb, May, Sept and then decide later about December
- Alex will send invite for first Thursday of the month 11am-1pm

#### Nominations and vote for Chair and Vice-Chair at Q1 meeting

- Julie is our chair now, her organization prevents her from being able to sign on behalf of COFSAC
- Would be helpful to have someone for chair that could sign things like recommendations
- Self nominations are always welcome
- Laurian who is vice-chair is going to be Pres. of Land Trust next year
- Chair and vice chair will be open
- Estimated time commitment for Chair and Vice-Chair, 2 ish hours a month in addition to quarterly meetings
- We will circle back in January to remind everyone of nominations before Q1 meeting

#### BUDGET

- Budget committee met to look over what we have
  - We're not done/finalized, need more detail on salary fringe for Lilian and Alex
  - Working on getting this from CSU
- Have money for travel to support in person meetings
- Contingency 10% in case something comes up
- Budget committee will meet again before q1 meeting to refine
- Next time we meet we will send budget meeting and outcome to group

FY 23	Budget
Allocation	\$ 107,704.00
Carryover	\$ 52,105.00
Revenue	\$ 159,809.00

Staff (Salary& Fringe)	\$ 75,000.00
Communications	\$ 10,000.00
Research Consultants	\$ 18,000.00
Supplies, Travel, Misc	\$ 4,000.00
Strategic Planning '23	\$ 25,000.00
Contingency 10%	\$ 10,770.00

Expenses	\$ 142,770.00
Left to spend	\$ 17,039.00

## GPS - STRATEGIC PLAN WRAP-UP

### [Strategic Plan](#)

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the process of developing our strategic plan

Why did we do this?

- New staff this year, new membership, coming out of covid
- Good time to look at new plan
- COFSAC had talked about doing so for some time
- Aligned well with timing of sunset review
- We know Food Systems work requires engaged stakeholders
  - Thinking about who we engage and how
  - Wanting to use everyone's time for highest and best purpose

Objectives:

1. Follow an inclusive, comprehensive process engaging Council, partners, state thought leaders, policy councils, and other stakeholders in identifying challenges and opportunities.

2. Align on a refined vision and a set of high-priority efforts that establish COFSAC as a force for food system transformation in our state and region.

As a team, we will produce:

- An attainable plan that will be widely accepted by COFSAC members and our stakeholders
- A process for executing the plan with clear roles and a rhythm of deliverables and review
- A commitment to ensure that we complete the planned activities and deliver the tangible benefits the plan promises.

Vision statement:

COFSAC is a trusted partner collaborating with policy makers, thought leaders, and communities to create a healthful, prosperous, equitable, and resilient Colorado-based food system.

Mission statement:

Provide community-informed, research-based policy recommendations to state leaders to address complex food systems challenges.

2023-2025 plan

Continuing 2 existing project teams

- Institutional Procurement (bring Universal School Meals group/efforts into this team)
- Ag land and water conservation

2 new groups forming

COFSAC communications

- Internal and also how we reach out

Strategic relationships (forming consultative relationships)

- How do we engage with thought leaders

Intentional Exploration of 3 Partnership Opportunities

- 1) Resilient food systems infrastructure (RFBC tie)
  - CSU leading grant application for regional business enterprise center
  - CSU team of leaders we could work in collaboration with COFSAC
  - There could be a team charged to do the work and COFSAC can be partner and advise
- 2) Equitable workforce development
- 3) Addressing risks and emergencies

Goals for each team

- Developing targeted specific measurable outcomes for each team
- Be a trusted thought partner
- Systems level changer
- Expert partner for critical food systems challenges
- We can refine and build targeted outcomes but we know where we are headed

#### How we do our work

- Build and maintain **effective council processes and partnerships** that ensure we are effective and relevant in years to come
- **Leverage our council members' expertise and networks**, which span the breadth of the food system.
  - Provide **on-demand food systems perspectives** and as needed for key stakeholders.
  - We **convene and facilitate systems-level dialogue** for timely and emergent issues.
  - Members serve as **conduits for dialogue, partnership and exchange** with other areas of work
- Respond to our key stakeholders' needs for **research and community-informed guidance** by:
  - Conduct research, engaging in outreach to gather inputs and better practices, and generate reports and other outputs that inform policy design.
  - Further leverage expertise and relationships to help understand implications and alternatives to help refine parameters and even wording.
- How do you see teams interacting with broader council about targeted outcomes?
- After we agree on are these the right project areas, decide where we go from here
- Please figure out where you can put touches on the wheel and lend your specific knowledge and expertise

#### Strategic relationships

- Is there a working list or register of stakeholders?
  - We need to do a much better job of finding out who is in our network and how we leverage relationships
  - Decide which relationships we manage at what level
  - Decisions still to be made on this

#### Individual elements

- Update on strategic relationships
  - Planning on meeting as co-leads Greg, Joan and Sarah
  - Anyone who works with a state agency need to make sure there are no restrictions with committee actions
  - Doodle poll after chairs talk to get availability for state agency reps interested in committee
  - Committee goes hand in hand w/ mission and vision

- Earn the trust of and have meaningful and purposeful engagement with stakeholders and leaders
- Please reach out to Sarah if you're interested or have questions [sgregory@feedingcolorado.org](mailto:sgregory@feedingcolorado.org)

#### Communications

- Quarterly newsletter
  - Include state agency updates
- We want to be go to and trusted thought partner
- Focus on how we package our insights and findings with the broader community and our stakeholders
- We have some issue briefs that sat on the shelf partially because of pandemic but also because we didn't have clear plan to promote
- More focus on sharing what we learn with the folks we serve
- Establish strategic relationships so that people know who to call
- There is a large number of legislators and agency heads that we can develop connection with, make sure they know they can come to us on specific food systems issues

#### Ag land and water update

- Co-lead by Michele M. and Greg
- Have not had a chance to coordinate on this yet, have more questions than a plan and direction
- Have chatted about long list of partner orgs we'd like to engage with
- Need people to join the group
- Want to address issues unique to our geographic areas across CO
- Look at how we can get broader statewide representation
- This has been active working group
  - Currently organizing panel for CO food summit
- Bringing FS perspective to conserving land and water issues
- What perspectives can this group bring?
- Potential links to new/beginning farmer access
  - Equitable way that promotes clear access to that career path

#### Institutional Procurement update

- Morphing into more focused group integrating value based procurement within public institutions in the state
- Haven't met as a workgroup yet
- Need to formally refine objectives
- Looking at addressing health disparities
- Drive systemic change and model environmental sustainability, animal welfare, farm labor



### 3 things talked about

- 1) Baseline study proposal adopted to have CSU student do study on impacts of value based procurement

Looking at spring 2023

Extension internship program-could integrate that student over the summer

All teams are eligible to consider the internship program to do their work.

Applications due in January and more information here: <https://intern.colostate.edu/>

Best if linked to specific counties/regions you want to focus on in your work

- 2) Ongoing series of white papers

- 3) Reports

- Have been communicating with state agencies about procurement data they currently collect
- Starting local with papers
- State agency perspective is crucial
- Need baseline data before we declare outcomes and success measures
- Need to establish ourselves and our infrastructure to be valuable partners

### Partnership opportunities

#### Addressing Risks and Emergencies-Dawn

- Topic that came up in several focus groups
- COFSAC should be aware of what's going on but not lead
- Ragan Adams with CSU Extension-emergency preparedness
- Establish contact points with CSU, CDA, Resiliency Office

#### Equitable workforce development

- Liza might lead?
- Start with diverse representatives of workforce
  - What we know of their goals to be,
  - How can we assist
- Do we step in or develop a relationship

#### Food systems infrastructure-Hollis

- Partnerships outside of the associations that our members represent
- Could align with CSU's planned regional food business center
- Begin to brainstorm with contacts and see where we can make a connection
- Large frame of infrastructure (soft infrastructure) does it behoove us to keep so broadly framed?
- Would that be a useful task from group to narrow to something more doable?

- Yes, we will narrow down to be more targeted
  - Have opportunity come through our door, evaluate individually and as a portfolio
  - As we form infrastructure we will know where to channel things through and where to spend resources
- Project teams are not all in the same place
  - Some existing efforts, some are brand new
- Don't have absolute certainty on potential partnership opportunities, still have a lot of partners to reach out to
- Projects and partners, who wants to join chairs in each group?
  - Institutional Procurement lead by Wendy-Al, Nicholas, Julie, Marci
  - Ag lands and water lead by Greg and Michele M-Hollis
  - Strategic comms lead by Lilian-Tamaan, Julie
  - Consultative relationships lead by Joan, Greg, Sarah-Karla and Nicholas
  - Food sys infrastructure lead by Hollis-Dawn
  - Emergencies and risks lead by Dawn and Ragan
    - in sunset review if seats are changing, we make ourselves known to emergency groups or we propose CO resiliency Office as one of our touchpoints with agencies
    - Decide how important resiliency management is to this group
- Strategy into action
  - Roadmap of what we're working on at any time
  - Detailed action plan
  - Accountability framework
  - Strat planning meeting quarterly to touch base on where everyone is at in working groups
  - On annual basis document impact, do a Strategic Planning retreat-won't be starting from scratch like we did this time, but update and evaluate existing groups
- Is everyone okay with monthly project meetings, and quarterly strategic planning updates? Yes
- Assessing progress
  - Identify risks and issues and raise them up
  - Tracking completion of plan

Implementation roles

Strategy oversight group (exec committee or SP committee)

Project owners will:

- Coordinating detailed planning

- Managing execution and status reporting
- Coaching teams and surface barriers

Task owner/team members will:

- Executing tasks per the project schedule
- Reporting progress and impact to project owner via email/tracking log
- Surfacing barriers quickly

Partner outreach

- Did outreach to folks who provided input that we used to craft the plan
- If you have a relationship with anyone on the list, demonstrate respect and thank for contributions in our focus groups
  - When you thank them, also ask about where they think we could help

Final notes and considerations

- We're a council of volunteers with very busy jobs outside of this
- Unintentionally, some teams are getting better service than others just because they align more with some peoples jobs already -those groups move faster
  - Using CSU interns or other pockets of resources to help not overload council members
- We can make the best of everyone's efforts and time by:
  - Making sure we are aligned with someone's natural work
  - Bring in additional resources
- Any time state agency reps are involved we have conflicts of interest, and areas they can't comment on, which can be a detriment to progress/movement
- Tap the people who can do the work, involve everyone
- For example, Julie volunteered to help with communication
  - If there are others willing to lend their name to communications, they can sign off on things that members like Julie cannot
- Remember that Strategic planning is as much process as product
  - Engage and bring others along as we shift based on what we've learned
- Thank you to Greg and Erin with Government Performance Solutions for all of their thought and work on the Strategic planning process!

TO DO

If you have a relationship with any partners who provided feedback during focus groups or other parts of strategic planning, thank them for their contributions

Ask if there is anything COFAC can do now to help

### Getting to know DOLA

- Joan with CDPHE reached out to DOLA
    - Lilian, Joan, and DOLA met and identified lots of synergy between our work
  - Andrea and Shayle
    - CO Resiliency Office in the dept of local affairs
    - Even though housed in DOLA, looking at statewide efforts in holistic way
    - CO resiliency framework reaches out across 16 sectors in the state
    - Looking into the future, climate strategies and how climate change is cross cutting across everything we do
  - Framework is 5 year process
    - Have established teams looking at priority areas
    - Have ag and food security area with goal to cultivate a robust state and local food system from ag, to distribution, to consumption
  - PIT=priority implementation team
    - Andrea and Kate are leads
    - Shayle looks at cultivation of resiliency framework as a whole
  - CDA and CDPHE involved as well
    - Not set in stone as far as who co-leads are
  - Strategies looking at 5 year cycle
  - Promote and protect working lands
  - Have 2021 annual report for framework, working on 22 version
  - Resiliency summit Jan. 26th
- 
- Areas of focused effort for PIT
    - How can we support/expand on PIT efforts?
      - Huge value of networking we have and connections across the state
        - Producers and food system networks so they can get to know them better
        - Want to work at local level
    - PIT focused on state but there is trickle down to local gov.
    - See ways to be involved with private sector as well as non-profits
    - All PITs led by someone different

### State Agency Updates

#### **CDE**

## Quarterly Food Access Update for CDE School Nutrition

- USDA Farm to School State Formula Grant - awarded \$1,049,935 , these funds allow CDE to hire a full time Farm to School Coordinator through September 2026 who will support training/technical assistance to districts/farmers across the state, participate in FTS activities and develop and coordinate FTS educational activities, workshops and promote current FTS initiatives.
- USDA Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement - \$2,649,917 in subawards for districts to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed local foods. This funding will allow districts to increase the quality and nutrition of school meals, and support local and regional food systems, further benefiting student health and educational outcomes. This funding can also help alleviate supply chain issues by purchasing from local farms, ranches, and food hubs.
- USDA Supply Chain Assistance Funds - we've distributed \$12,480,738 to districts this month to purchase unprocessed and minimally processed domestic food such as fresh fruit, milk, cheese, frozen vegetables and ground meat; we will be distributing an additional \$6,120,903 once we receive those additional funds from USDA
- Funding is allocated to schools based on student enrollment, with a minimum amount per district to ensure that small schools are not left out
  - We've submitted our application to USDA to participate in the Direct Certification - Medicaid pilot; we'll find out in November if it's approved. We're working closely with HCPF on a DSA for this project
  - We're receiving a lot of questions about Healthy Meals for All, we've created a FAQ and will continue to update it:  
[www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/healthymealsforallguide](http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/healthymealsforallguide)
  - Local Food Program, \$500,000 to CDE and \$150,000 to Nourish, 20 districts participating this year and all funds were awarded and districts are tracking local food purchases
  - Blueprint to End Hunger Grant: just completed rural summits in SE and NE regions with content directed specifically to our small, rural school districts
    - Looking at several projects for spring related to access and participation including a video for SFSP, mini grants for technology to support mobile meal counting and claiming for summer and some translation services of documents used by frontline food service staff

## CDHS

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and P-EBT:

- The Federal Public Health Emergency order was extended into January 2023. As long as a State-level recovery order is in place, Colorado has the ability to continue to request emergency allotment (also known as max allotment), which brings all participating SNAP participants up to the maximum allowable benefit for their

household size. CDHS developed a [messaging toolkit](#) to help prepare households for the end of this additional benefit. Other components of pandemic-related changes to SNAP will also end, including student exemptions for post-secondary enrolled participants and a waiver of time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents.

- Pandemic-EBT, or the cash-like benefit that replaces the cost of missed school meals for children whose schools were impacted by closures or outbreaks, is also tied to the Public Health Emergency and will likely end.
- Since the Pandemic began, SNAP and P-EBT have issued more than \$4.2Bil in food assistance benefits to Coloradans to help ensure access to nutritious foods. The loss of emergency allotment will not only have a potentially devastating impact on SNAP participants but will result in ~\$50Mil/month that will no longer be available to be spent in the local economy in retail and farmer's markets that support our local growers and producers.
- The Local Food Procurement Agreement is a federal grant program that is intended to purchase food produced/grown locally by socially disadvantaged farmers to be distributed free of charge to underserved communities. We intend to grant 100% of this allocation out by early spring 2023. Our current grantees include ranchers, farmers, food banks, food hubs and food pantries.
- The first round included a 40% allocation for the two tribes. Because it wasn't applied for by either Nation, it has been reallocated to CDHS. CDHS leadership is in consultation with SUIT and UMIT as the Nations could apply to CDHS for a portion of these funds. Additionally, the USDA has inferred that a second round may be granted. In this case, the Nations could also apply directly to the USDA for 40% of the funds in that round.

## **CDA**

### **Upcoming Community Food Access Public Workshops:**

CDA is partnering with Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger to host three public engagement workshops for our new Community Food Access Program. Dates are TBD but will be late November and early December. These will be English/Spanish virtual meetings in which CDA goals will be:

- 1) build an awareness of the program, including objectives, and timeline;

2) identify challenges and best practices CDA should consider in implementation through group discussion; and

3) outline continued relationship development and co-creation of the program.

The result will be the development of a strategic plan for the program that must establish a consortium of retailers to increase healthy food options in retail stores and a \$7M grant program for retailers to purchase equipment and services to sell healthy food in underserved areas.

Official Launch of the Colorado Future Loan Program:

CDA has officially launched its Colorado Future Loan Program; which is a \$20M fund that provides low-interest and flexible qualifying requirements for new and existing farmers, with an emphasis on supporting underserved farmers. We have partnered with First Southwest Bank as the program lender. Loans can be up to \$750,000 (or higher w/ approval), 1-20 years, lines of credits up to 5 years, and 4% fixed interest rate. More information can be found on the [program's website](#).

## **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

Federally Funded Nutrition Assistance Programs

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- The ongoing COFSAC recommendation and grants from the Blueprint to End Hunger and CO Department of Ag focused on expanding healthy food access by increasing SNAP and WIC in corner stores has not resulted in any vendors successfully applying for WIC authorization to date.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP federal child nutrition program that provides meal reimbursement to participating child care programs.

- Extension of the national public health emergency allows for continued remote monitoring of sites (30 days after expiration).
- Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 passed into law June 25, 2022. This allows for temporary additional reimbursement of ten cents per meal and/or snack served by CACFP providers. In addition, CACFP family child care home providers will receive higher tier reimbursement rates.
- New! CACFP participation [dashboard](#) on CDPHE's website. The participation data is shared by fiscal year and by program type.
- In an effort to raise awareness and increase meals/snacks served in Colorado, the CACFP continues to make connections with partners through State agencies, the Blueprint to End Hunger (Workgroup 5), the Preschool Development Grant (Quality Nutrition Workgroup), Local Health Departments as well as many other nutrition advocates.

## Office of Economic Development & International Trade

- SAGAX Associates, will conduct meetings with executive-level staff from Colorado's 25 departments, starting January 10 through the 12, in support of gathering information for Colorado's Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The statewide CEDS program is funded through a non-compete grant awarded to Colorado by the Economic Development Administration.
- SAGAX will meet with executive representatives from non-government agencies, February 7 - 8. With a third series of meetings scheduled with Colorado's Tribal Nations, scheduled to take place in March 2023.
- The Office of Economic Development and International Trade has opened applications up for OEDIT's [Economic Development Organization Action Grant](#) program. The program will provide grants in the range of \$25,000 - 40,000 economic development organizations to help expand economic development programs and technical service assistance. Preference will be provided to rural-based economic development organizations.
- Applications will be accepted through February 15, 2023.

## Closing comments

- Healthy school meals for all passed!
  - We'll know soon what next steps for all of us will be, what support might be needed
  - How can we scaffold and connect to efforts that are coming into place next?
  - From CDHS perspective
    - Meeting with CDE and gov office to talk about the transition at the end of November
    - Karla will have more info for us next meeting

## Next Steps:

- Alex will send calendar invites for 2023 meetings
- Alex will send draft of minutes and written state agency updates
- If you have a relationship with any partners who provided feedback during focus groups or other parts of strategic planning, thank them for their contributions
  - Ask if there is anything COFAC can do now to help
- Consider which project team(s) you want to participate in and let Alex and team leads know
- Everyone think about chair/vice-chair nominations, will take place at Q1 meeting



- Ping Julie or Laurian if you have questions about what that looks like
- Follow up on priority areas