

Food Security Committee Teleconference Agenda

2-2:15... Introductions: Name and organization

Janet Leaders, Second Harvest Food Bank of SC and SM Counties (SHFB); Etan Newman, SHFB; Sara Marin, Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB); Aimee Reedy, The Health Trust; Debra Mason, MT Diablo Cares; Prickitt, Joe, SCC PHD; Holly Elseman, ACCFB; Susan Algert, UCCE-SCC; Susan Stuart, SCCPHD/Steps to a Healthier SCC; Susan Karlins, SCC PHD/BANPAC Coordinator

2:15-2:20...A review what the committee has done since the September BANPAC meeting (Sara) Goal of committee is to advance food security agenda in the region.

2:20-2:30...Brief description of the 3 options for the committee (Joe Prickitt, Susan Stuart and Sara Marin)

1. Further Food Stamps outreach efforts: California has relatively low utilization of food stamp program; local food banks have done great work to increase FS program utilization; the *Network* can't actually do FS outreach (per USDA restrictions) but can partner with food banks and other organizations that can; desire to increase awareness of FS program through new *Network* posters and more. Stephanie Nishio has taken Jessica Bartholow's place as director of the California Association of Food Banks. CAFB would like to support this effort if we move forward with it. Our resources include a newly developed poster: *Food Stamps: You May Be Eligible*. Susan A interested in this effort. Etan from SHFB reported that the literacy level of materials is too high for many FS program participants.
2. Support EBT option at Farmers Markets: interested in letting people know that more and more farmers markets are accepting EBT; Central Coast Nutrition Network along with the food bank and other local organizations collaborated to develop a brochure about which FMs accept EBT. We have permission to use their graphics. Sarah Nelson reported that they had already collaborated with ACNS to put out a brochure about FMs accepting EBT. Susan's interested in creating something similar that might be made available at WIC and other locations. One brochure for six counties would be very text heavy; we might want to start w/ SCC and go out from there. Also, could post these lists on the BANPAC website so members could get the information out to clients. Janet mentioned that we might even have to do a north and south county version for larger counties. Through federal stimulus funding, there are efforts to provide equipment to make FMs accessible to people receiving Food Stamps. Etan: the SHFB educator has developed something similar—will send to Susan.
3. Participate in BANPAC's Rethink Your Drink initiative with a youth engagement project about product placement at neighborhood stores In an effort to work with BANPAC's Rethink Your Drink initiative and explore youth focused activities, interested in this type of project. Could work with Literacy for Environmental Justice's corner store conversion program; talk with youth about presenting to County Boards of Supervisors about placement of healthy/ unhealthy foods at corner stores; could tap into groups in Youth Action Group such as Youth Radio.

Susan S to send information on Jovenes Sanos, a youth group in Watsonville has been working on this—youth get a stipend—have assessed the food environment and advocated to their City Council. (http://www.unitedwaysc.org/index.php?pr=GFH-Jovenes_SANOS
http://www.healthyeatingactivecommunities.org/communications3_18.php)

They recently received RWJF support. Holly asked about chain supermarkets offering portable stores with basics in low-income food deserts. Joe reported on a new entrepreneurial business plan to offer grocery options in food deserts. already working with youth.

2:30-2:50...Open the call up to folks to share thoughts about their interest in the options and if and how they would like to take leadership (All)

Janet suggested that we work on the EBT project since it may be partly completed and simultaneously work on the Food Stamp Outreach. Sara agreed we could do the EBT plus another project. Susan S. asked if this committee could lend its hand to policy issues related to FS program barriers. (Yes, with non-funded members taking the lead.) Susan A. asked if we should document FS program barriers. Janet mentioned that eligibility for FS is 130% of the FPL and the FB is serving up to 200%.

Etan reported about a small FM on the San Mateo coast and learned that smaller markets have more barriers getting EBT access. Helping farm stands and small FMs access EBT could be a good contribution. Susan S. knows a group in Monterey Co. working on this issue—there should be groups. Etan is developing a report on barriers to FS program participation in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. He will make it available to us. Susan A. volunteered to survey her UCCE EFNEP participants to add data as needed. Janet noted that CFPA produced a report on barriers prior to finger printing and each county had different barriers, such as staff treatment, hours.

2:50-3:00...Synthesize what we have talked about and decide which option seems the most feasible and interesting to the group. Delegate tasks to folks who are willing to take on some leadership responsibility between now and the next BANPAC meeting when we meet again (Susan Karlins and Sara)

Sara noted interest of participants in FS program participation improvement. Further info about EBT @ FM's markets could also be done—a couple of people could work on that. Susan A noted we could follow up on Etan's report and address one of the issues. Janet suggested a press release from Etan's report with follow up activity. She reported on many fears experienced by FS eligibles—including that they will have to pay back FS for their children during any citizenship process. Susan L. suggested that youth could bring our message forward. Janet indicated that Cindy McCown may want to be involved.

Next steps:

- ✓ Susan S. to move forward with researching and compiling data on Farmers Markets that accept EBT – and what documentation is available
- ✓ Susan A. take the lead on Food Stamp barriers as follow up to Etan's upcoming report—Joe will support on press efforts as feasible.
- ✓ Joe will follow up with Stephanie Nishio after she begins as director of programs on January 25 about our interest—can include her in our next phone call
- ✓ Sara still interested in Youth Action Committee—will continue with Food Security in the meantime

- ✓ Susan K to arrange space for an in-person meeting after the BANPAC membership meeting on Tuesday, February 23 from 2:30-3:45 and a teleconference line for Wednesday March 17 -- 2-3:30PM