

# Food Access, Outreach and Education Task Force Meeting

September 9, 2013 at 3:00  
Fargo Cass Public Health Room #3

Present: Kim Lipetzky, Deb Haugen, Cheryl Stetz, Lynn Wolf, Rory Beil, Nikki Johnson, Megan Ness, Lloyd Harding, Courtney, Rita Ussatis, and Dana Reith

## Food Systems Report and Plan update

- Metro COG continues to work on the food systems report, this fall work to obtain approval from various jurisdictions:
  - September version of the draft Food Systems Plan is complete
  - A resolution has been drafted
  - Presentations are set to the Board of Health (BOH) for Fargo on 9/20/13 and Clay County on 9/24/13 – request will be for support/approval of the Plan from the each BOH
  - Plan to meet with City/County Commissions and Councils to request adoption of the plan

**Action item:** Kim will send out meeting dates for the Commission/Council meetings as they become known – CCFSI members can attend and show support for the Plan

## Mobile garden – discussion and future plans

There was lots of discussion on the mobile garden, Lloyd's and Anita's written comments were also reviewed. The following was decided:

- Plan to do the garden again next year
- Lynn has a smaller/lower trailer for use, will make a smaller garden box and reuse some of the materials, lower trellis
- planting – refer to Lloyd's garden planting for suggestions
- provide education as well as use the garden as a way to recruit additional initiative members, be creative in obtaining contact information from people stopping by the garden, offer incentives, do a drawing at the end....
- places to take the garden – Anita's suggestions – community picnics, StreetsAlive! events; maybe add library/children events

## Recap of Healthy Food Festival at Streetsalive! and upcoming West Fargo event

West Fargo Streetsalive! event Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – 2:30-5:00. SchoolsAlive! will be having a float. Soy nuts could be given out from the parade float.

**Action item:** Rita will contact soybean council for free samples; Cheryl will make label with health message

## Garden acreage

- Rory's intern is gathering data on number of acres of community gardens in our area
- potential goal of increasing current acreage to 1 million, think about how to increase acres – i.e. available land, zoning for garden space, opportunities for those living in apartments
- There was discussion of possibly starting an "adopt a garden" program – linking people with available land to those who could help garden it (adopt a fruit tree also)

## Food Deserts maps were discussed

- consider identifying and contacting some of the convenience stores in the identified "potential food desert" areas to assess how receptive store owners might be to working together; consider corporate vs individually owned

## Increasing SNAP at Farmers Markets

- may be grant funding in future to assist with this

**Action item:** Kim's student will do some research on this area as well as the "convenience store in food desert areas" mentioned above

## Health concession stands

- Hope to work with local schools this fall to try some healthy concession stand offerings. At a minimum getting stands to consider changing the oil used to make popcorn

Next large group task force meeting is September 26, 8:05-10:00am, Cass County Extension

Next task force meeting set for October 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 at Fargo Cass Public Health, basement conference room #3