

# Marin Food Policy Council

## Rolling Meeting Minutes

### November 2025

**Attendees:** Alex Raffanti, (SF-Marin Food Bank), Angela Robinson-Pinon (City of San Rafael), Blythe Young (American Heart Association), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program/HEAL Collaborative), Kirsten Beckwith (community member), Laurie O'Hara (SBDC, [laurie@olitashop.com](mailto:laurie@olitashop.com)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Rachel Lane (Marin Parks, FARE Grant)

#### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Liana: AIM farmers markets are open rain or shine, SR Thursday market is moving to Wednesday 11/26 just for the week (since Thanksgiving is 11/27)
- Rachel: ZeroWaste Marin is doing a planting mix giveaway for community partners. Please reply to Meilin ([Meilin.tsao@marincounty.gov](mailto:Meilin.tsao@marincounty.gov)) if you plan to utilize this opportunity. **Pick-Up Date:** Thursday, December 4th, **Pick-Up Time:** Beginning at 9am; first-come, first-served. Starting at 1pm, we will allow City and Town Parks & Recreation departments to come pick up any bags that have not yet been claimed. Closing time 4PM. **Pick-Up Location:** McGinnis Park, 350 Smith Ranch Rd, San Rafael
- Alex: SF-Marin food bank looking into rent stabilization with effects of HR-1 - does anyone have leads? Contact Alex.
- Jenna: change in kitchen vendor for congregate meal program - looking for new vendor, will send out application this week.
- Angela: SR adopted a mobile food ordinance, thinking about how the city can support pathways to legalization for these entrepreneurs (<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/food-vending/>)
- Laurie: looking for insight in new food business questions - route approval for mobil businesses

#### **Update on Small-Scale Food Business Opportunities** (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- MFPC has done learning on cottage foods, mobile food vending, MEHKOs, City of San Rafael mobile vending, Cook Alliance input
- Created a letter to Marin County Environmental Health around Council's encouragement of MEHKOs ordinance adoption (as one tool in the toolbox of support of small-scale food businesses). Invite any MFPC members to contribute to this letter

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ievPS1a42C1RduJVAcwiclyP1pflnYprlMv5ymku3BU/edit?usp=sharing>), plan to send off in the new year.

- San Rafael three pronged approach: create pathways to legalization understanding that it's not just a city venture, it involves the county as well. Goal to establish a program similar to Richmond or Santa Rosa's.
- Statutory framework for ordinance is SB-946 and SB-972 - need to keep these in mind. Want to support entrepreneurship in low income communities. Need to make a nexus between health and safety.
- Interest in a food truck park (potentially like Mitote in Santa Rosa <http://www.mitotefoodpark.com/>); still in the initial stage of launching the permitting program.
- As the City of San Rafael develops options, may ask for orgs interested in collaborating. Would be good for the city to leverage existing resources rather than create their own.
- AIM programs for BIPOC entrepreneurs: **Food Maker Incubator Booth** at AIM markets is open now. **Deadline: December 15.** Walks vendors through the permitting process and helps with fees (<https://www.agriculturalinstitute.org/food-maker-incubator-booth>). Needs to be a pretty well-formed business idea. AIM's other opportunity is for current market participants/vendors, and is not open now.
- Canal Alliance has a Technical Support program also, important resource. Contact Chad.

#### **RFP process for congregate meals (Jenna Ray)**

- Congregate meal program is funded by the Older Americans Act (like AAA across the nation). Meals provided at community and senior centers for folks to eat in-person (anyone 60+ years old, no income requirements). Run at 7 sites around Marin, some sites have independent contracts with vendors. Facilitate a lot for their main program in San Rafael; this current vendor is changing and they are looking for a new vendor.
- RFP process quickly so there isn't too much of a lapse in service (in the new year).
- Consideration for culturally-appropriate meals and locally sourced food; also have a taste test for applicants and their menus. Nice to have a Marin vendor, but can be from the greater Bay Area.
- Thought to reach out to businesses that do school meals since they already operate within a system.

#### **Reflection on 2025 and brainstorm of priorities for 2026 (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Considering a tour at our January or February MFPC meeting
- **What is working well?** Met 10 times, skipping July and December. Meetings remain 1.5 hours @ 3:00 - 4:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday. Agendas a mix of guest presenters and learning with a standing section for policy updates (no big panel info sessions this year). 1 in-person meeting a quarter.
  - Something to consider in collaborative spaces: what does it mean to be a member? Minimum number of meetings to commit to? Should we restructure it to

somehow increase constant presence? In-person meets are ways to build relationships and partnerships.

- If more in-person, should we meet in a variety of places? Perhaps a bit farther south in the county? Learn more about some of the core work being down in the county. Brainstorm key sites and pencil in tour locations for the year and volunteers to sign-up to host.
  - Alex: tour to SF-Marin Food Bank market-style food pantry on January 20, 2026? Community market is a free pantry for people in the neighborhood where it's located, open multiple days a week for 6+ hours a day, and people are assigned a day to shop (not just an hour). Hoping the marin markets will be open in June 2026. Good tour option could be: Western Edition in SF. **Tour @ 11am - 12pm, with lunch nearby from 12-1pm. Potential for carpool van and sign-ups.** Invite Marin sites to be part of this ongoing conversation.
  - Less of a focus on food production in meetings - is this intentional? MFPC topics come from membership, and it's hard to get consistent farmer participation at meetings. If folks want to work together to learn about production, how do we go to where farmers are?
- [MFPC Membership Application](#)

#### Policy Updates (All)

- Federal policy updates & impacts of govt shutdown

#### Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- **No MFPC Meeting in December; next meeting will be on January 20, 2026 @ 11am - 1pm tour in San Francisco, and the meeting after that will be virtual on February 17, 2026 (evaluation and planning for 2026)**

Meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.

## October 2025

**Attendees:** Alex Raffanti, (SF-Marin Food Bank), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Carolin (guest), Emma Mears (SF-Marin Food Bank, Policy Analyst), Erika Fuyo (DST-Novato), Felicity Schwab (guest), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program/HEAL Collaborative), Ida Green (HHS Social Services), Jahmeer Reynolds (Marin City Community Services), Laurie O'Hara (SBDC, [laurie@olitashop.com](mailto:laurie@olitashop.com)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Lisa Bennett (Multicultural Center of Marin), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Food Systems Group), Maite Duran (Raices del Canal, Director, [maited@raicesdelcanal.org](mailto:maited@raicesdelcanal.org)), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project Coordinator), Sarah Camper (Extrafood, Senior Ops Manager), Shannon Bell (Consumer Protection Supervisor - Marin County)

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Liana: link to the short film, "Leaving the Point" about ranching in the Pt. Reyes Seashore. [Leaving the Point - Los Angeles Times](#)
- Julia: **Marin Communications Forum on Federal Funding Cuts this Friday, October 24th @ 9am-12pm. Register [here](#)**
- November 18 meeting in-person at 1682 Novato Blvd. Suite 201
- Jessica: Sebastopol meeting Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food 9th Annual Symposium/Simposio Anual:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-womxns-leadership-in-food-9th-annual-symposiumsimposio-anual-tickets-1596791699959?aff=erelexpmlt>

### **Update on Small-Scale Food Business Opportunities** (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Update on [October 10 CDA Workshop](#) with Shannon Bell and Greg Minor
  - Positive interactions with the food community present. Mock kitchen inspection, hand wash demo, restaurant owners as panelists. Heard desire for more educational focused workshops in the future. Will gather survey results and incorporate to improve processes. Changes coming at the legislative level for food facilities.
  - Don't plan on bringing it back to BOS until early spring. Ordinance is created, drafted, and approved, will bring it back to BOS to address their questions. Don't anticipate a problem with it passing the second time around.
  - Encouraging everyone to talk to their supervisor to let them know of the need for MEHKOs in the community.
  - Many county departments present, lots of county staff present, well-represented
  - Take-away for someone interested in starting a MEHKO: contact CDA and Environmental Health \*early\* in the process so you don't get too far down the line before learning of a barrier.
  - MEHKO program is a crucial stepping stone to other larger sales opportunities; a missing piece in our menu of options for good businesses because they could service 1-2 mobile food carts/trucks as well (no formal pathway to do this otherwise)
  - There was maybe an equal number of service providers as prospective food businesses - shows that the non-profit service provider is a critical role. Opportunity to scale up our expertise as service providers to help folks better navigate a complex regulatory landscape.
- Next steps: finalize our LOS of MEHKOs and send to CDA and BOS in the next few weeks so that it is submitted for the record and lined up in advance of CDA's return to BOS in early spring.

### **Community Market** (Alex Raffanti, SF-Marin Food Bank)

- Concept and funding proposal



- Working to establish a community market: bring food to partners (service agencies, churches, etc) and they distribute this food from the bank. Pop-up pantries opened during the pandemic in streets, parking lots, etc. - sunset in June 2025 due to lack of funding, and wanting to transition to community markets. Large-scale community-lead multi-day pantries that feel similar to a grocery store. Hopefully will provide wrap-around services (access to things like diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc help with signing up for CalFresh, legal services, etc). Developing a Peer Navigator Program: folks helping ppl sign up for services and find services. Hope this increases the dignity of participants, and increases the equitable reach for people. Entirely free food, food bank modelled.
- Opened 2 markets in SF (La Raza and Rafiki Coalition <https://rafikicoalition.org/community-food-market/>), working with Canal Alliance on opening the first in Marin, in the Canal, North Marin Community Services in Novato next. Looking to collaborate to receive funding from Marin County for the project (ie: staffing). Working with Marin HHS to put this on the budget.
- Just applied for FARE grant with AIM and ExtraFood
- Let Extra Food know if there is a need for food recovery after the market if there's food that is vulnerable and needs a home after the market
- [One-pager with details](#)
- Email Jesus (Community Building Manager): [jbenitezgomez@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:jbenitezgomez@sfmfoodbank.org) or Alex: [araffanti@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:araffanti@sfmfoodbank.org)
- Tour a community market during a future MFPC meeting? February or March 2026?
- Office of Equity will be opening up RFP; the next cycle for the Participatory Budget will be beginning of 2026; this work could be a good candidate for that.

### Policy Updates (All)

- Federal policy updates & impacts of gov't. Shutdown
- National Non-Profit Council webinar: we've heard about grants and certain funding being cancelled. Next phase: different funding agencies will be reviewing entire orgs to see if they are doing any DEI work. Advice: have an internal org plan, know the risks (pgm scrutinized, websites reviewed, etc) and perhaps get legal counsel.
- MFPC is a collaborative partner with California Food and Farming Network, where we get lots of state updates. MFPC could use another 1 or 2 ppl to represent MFPC and bring their information back to the council. If interested, let Liana or Julia know. They meet in-person once a year, org with a strong focus on policy and social justice.
- **Save the Date:** Marin Communications Forum: Federal Funding Cuts, Friday, October 24th, 9am-12pm, register [here](#)

### Council Business (Liana Orlandi)

- **Save the Date: In-person MFPC Meeting on Tuesday, November 18 @ 3 - 4:30pm**
  - Networking, relationship-building, good time to connect
  - Reflect on 2025 and make priorities for 2026

**Meeting closed at 3:50 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be in-person on Tuesday, October 21 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Novato UCCE office (1682 Novato Blvd. Suite 201)**

## September 2025

**Attendees:** Alex Raffanti, (SF-Marin Food Bank), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE), Daeja Heard (Marin Nutrition Wellness Team), Darien Malekos (AIM), Debbie Harris (CAM), Emma Mears (Policy Analyst, SF-Marin Food Bank), Ida Green (Marin HHS Social Services), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Kira Wates-Williams (Ceres), Kirsten Beckwith (guest), Laurie O'Hara (SBDC, [laurie@olitashop.com](mailto:laurie@olitashop.com)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Julia VanSoelen Kim (UCCE), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Sarah Camper (Extrafood)

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Greg Minor: City of San Rafael's City Council's Economic Development Subcommittee will receive an informational report on mobile vending policies to enhance enforcement, encourage compliance, and support local businesses. The subcommittee meeting is open to the public and will begin at 10 am on Thursday, September 25th, on the 3rd Floor of San Rafael City Hall at 1400 Fifth Avenue
- Liana: BOS approved 40 year lease for permanent farmers market location
- Jenna: Marin AAA Senior Fair tomorrow
- Ida: Southern Marin Multi Service Hub (including divisions under HHS such as Behavior Health, Public Assistance, Veterans, etc as well as other services) to be opened Jan-Feb 2026
- Sarah: ExtraFood's Annual "Taste of Hope" at Marin Country Mart on Sunday, October 12 @ 3-5:30pm
- CDA public workshop for people interested in MEHKOs - October 10 @ 9am-4pm, at the B Street Community Center in San Rafael: <https://www.marincounty.gov/ehs-workshop> MFPC will be submitting a letter reiterating our support, as well as barriers and needs we've heard.
- Miriam: Marin SBDC has created a new program in partnership with West Marin Fund and Marin County Microenterprise Support Program (MSP). This program initially was designed to support the ranch workers who were being displaced from the legal suits in West Marin. We have now expanded this opportunity to any Spanish speaking individuals located in West Marin who are in business or looking to start a business. The application deadline is September 30th: [APPLY HERE](#). This program will give participants the skills, mentorship, and community they need to build a business.  
**Program graduates will be eligible to apply for a \$2500-\$5000 grant.** All business industries are welcome to apply. Program starts Tuesday, October 7 and will meet

weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30pm alternating in-person (location in West Marin) and online via zoom. There will be a total of 12-15 classes.

**SF-Marin Food Bank's Policy Agenda** (Marchon Tatmon and Alex Raffanti) \*[presentation](#)\*

- SF-Marin Food Bank is working on future policy agenda currently, focus on what happened last year as well
- Federal updates: programs under threat, CalFresh cuts will increase food insecurity rates, substantial number of people on the waitlist. Primary concern is for people in the community experiencing hardship: 25k households (13k in Marin), 14k families with children, 11k households of older adults are at risk of losing benefits due to gov't changes. The federal gov't is a threat to some of our neighbors.
- SNAP cuts in Farm Bill. \$186 billion cuts to SNAP, more than \$900 billion from Medicaid over the next 4 years. Estimated to result in the loss of 6 billion meals annually nationwide. Enhanced paperwork, age requirement, parents with school age children 14 and under now have to be mindful of rules that pertain to them now.
- Legislative cycle was drawn out, as of Sept 12: CA took on some of the federal lost benefits. 3.1 million Californians are estimated to lose some of all of their CalFresh benefits. If CA takes on these costs it would add about \$2.5 billion a year. Might be effective in October.
- Budget ask: support for food banks across CA "**CalFood Funding**" before pandemic it was \$8 million, increased to \$60 million during the pandemic, brought back down to \$8 million last year. This year it was approved to return to \$60 million. Allows FB to buy local produce and from BIPOC farmers.
- AB 1049 "Food For All" pilot approved last year, extension was not passed this year. Gives CalFresh to all folks regardless of documentation status. Created by Nourish CA in Oakland and CA Immigration and Policy Center. Pilot allows a small group of undocumented people over age 55 to get CalFresh. This will stay on FB policy agenda until it gets passed.
- School Meals for All maintains school meal investments and Sun Bucks (CA first state to give to all kids). Breakfast, snacks and lunch at schools. Additional \$90.7 million this year. Sun bucks: \$120 per child for the summer. Sun Bucks can be used at most local Farmers Markets and doubled with Market Match. This will stay on FB policy agenda until it gets passed.
  - Will this need to be reauthorized? Approved for this year with \$90.7 mil. At risk based on federal funding and will need to be reauthorized in CA next year.
- Market Match / CNIP (allows \$ to be matched at markets) is now a permanent part of CA annual budget. Collaborating with markets to expand access to local foods. CNIP increased \$35 million annually; CA needs to apply to the federal gov't. every 2 years. CA will need to apply for federal match next year.
- AB 1967 turned into AB 518 (passed last year) and this year AB 119 allows for coordination efforts across counties to ensure more people eligible for CalFresh can receive benefits.
- \$20 million increase approved by Governor on Thursday

### **Policy Updates (All)**

- MFPC public comment in support of AIM's permanent farmers market building at BOS meeting
- From CFFN meeting: Sign-on **SB 411** – (Perez) – Stop Child Hunger Act – **Organizational sign-on letter to Governor**. The bill: 1) creates a boost benefit not only in summer but also during winter break 2) create meal sites during other school closures 3) online website for sunbucks program 4) codified protections for student data
- City of San Rafael's City Council's Economic Development Subcommittee will receive an informational report on mobile vending policies to enhance enforcement, encourage compliance, and support local businesses. The subcommittee meeting is open to the public and will begin at 10 am on Thursday, September 25th, on the 3rd Floor of San Rafael City Hall at 1400 Fifth Ave. Could be an opportunity for MFPC to provide a letter of support or public comment.
- CDA public workshop for people interested in MEHKOs - October 10 @ 9am-4pm, at the B Street Community Center in San Rafael: <https://www.marincounty.gov/ehs-workshop> MFPC will be submitting a letter reiterating our support, as well as barriers and needs we've heard. For those who would like to review or contribute, here is the DRAFT letter about Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens for the Community Development Agency <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ievPS1a42C1RduJVAcwiclyP1pflnYprlMv5ymku3BU/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Council Business (Liana Orlandi)**

- New member presentations: Debbie Harris, CAM
- CAM operates 9 Head Start funded pre-school sites serving 650 children in Marin. Serves seniors meals at 9 senior meal sites. Production farm garden, school gardens, commissary garden (create over 1,000 scratch meals a day) for pre-schools and senior sites (including Vivalon). Commissary kitchen has a tenant program: rents out to small businesses; have barriers due to litigious nature of commissary kitchens, want to figure out a pathway to make it more accessible. Biggest legal barrier is that all of the food that a tenant will serve in their business has to be made in their space, plus limited liability insurance. Only accessible for some due to costs and need for initial capital, insurance, permits, etc. Agency goal: fostering equity through Marin with equitable access to nutritious meals, environmental education, social and economic development, etc.
- Entered policy space with other programs including housing justice
- Community Action Centers created in President Johnson's era as a way to channel federal dollars for poverty eradication. CAM receives federal and state grants (Head Start, CNIP, others).

**Meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, October 21 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

# August 2025

**Attendees:** *Althea Armada (Market Manager with Agricultural Community Events Farmers Markets), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Chad Singh (Senior Entrepreneurship Manager, Canal Alliance), Darien Malekos (AIM), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Fernando Barreto (Aide to Supervisor Rodoni, District 4), Gary Besser (Marin County Office of Equity), Greg Minor (City of San Rafael Community and Economic Development), Greg Pirie (CDA), Jahmeer Reynolds (Marin City Community Services), Jenna Ray (Marin AAA), Jamillah Jordan (Marin County Office of Equity), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Lauren Wolfer (COOK Alliance, [lauren@cookalliance.org](mailto:lauren@cookalliance.org)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Miriam Karell (Marin SBDC), Orlena Yee, Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks FARE grant), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Sarah Camper (ExtraFood Senior Operations Manager), Shannon Bell (CDA)*

## **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Greg: will be presenting mobile vending program to city council in September
- CDA Shannon Ball presented about Envi Health programs's offerings to BOS
- Jesica: 6th Annual Marin City Job and Resource Fair is taking place on September 4th 2025
- Miriam: Positively Groundfish, a West Coast-based nonprofit dedicated to sustainable seafood is launching our new Catch+Create Accelerator, an opportunity designed to support packaged product innovation using local sustainable fish species. The program will include significant support: a \$20k product development stipend, a comprehensive curriculum, mentorship, networking, a whole marketing support package worth \$30k, and more. We are currently accepting applications until September 30th, 2025. For further information, we will be hosting an informational webinar on August 20th and the sign up: <https://www.positivelygroundfish.org/accelerator>

## **County of Marin Microenterprise Support Program** (Jamillah Jordan, Marin County Office of Equity Director) \*[presentation](#)\*

- Marin County Micro Enterprise Support Program (MSP), working with Canal Alliance and SBDC, with overlap with CDA
- Community and Economic Vitality: 1 of 6 BOS priorities, with equity being a core element - elevated and much more visible
- Recent Economic Vitality Report: snapshot of economic indicators and where County hopes to go in the future.
- Economic Vitality Strategic Plan (RFP for vendors in the coming months), including: food business outreach and engagement, microbusiness support, workforce development
- Race Equity Action Plan (REAP): \$1.7 million allocated to advance racial equity in Marin

- Of the \$1.7million, \$566,000 provided for the economic opportunity component; microenterprises (1-4 employees) compromise 70% of Marin businesses = important area of focus, which led to the Microenterprise Support Program.
- Goal: to address the inequity of the availability of resources for starting and growing a business. Resources include: workforce development support, loan access, business plan support, scaling/growth/expansion, interface with govt agencies and programs, securing business space and equipment, etc.
- Microenterprise: sole proprietorship, max receipts of \$2.5 million, regardless of formality of business type. Microenterprises can have a bigger positive impact on communities with increased access to the above support.
- Partnering with SBDC to provide place-based and culturally relevant support. Working with Canal Alliance in San Rafael, looking to expand the model to Marin City, West Marin, and Novato.
- Microenterprise food business solutions are not one size fits all - great that MSP targets the resources and support, not the pathway/method
- How can the Marin Food Policy Council contribute to and promote the Microenterprise Support Program?
  - Being a means for communication and information-sharing using our network to get the word out.
  - Areas of expertise among MFPC membership: ongoing lens on where systems and policy are a barrier; tapping our state or national partners on policy advocacy and food entrepreneurship; engaging with local community and economy.
- What avenues are available for the MSP participants to increase their consumer base? How do they get more customers?
  - Need: more marketing knowledge - training, webinars, and peer mentorship around how to market themselves. Example: SBDC recently held a Canva training that was popular. **Let SBDC know of specific learning areas they could host trainings on;** Miriam Hope Karell, [miriam@marinsbdc.org](mailto:miriam@marinsbdc.org)
  - Need: permit and regulation overwhelm, need support talking through options/menu

**CDA update on BOS Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens (MEHKOs)** (Greg Pirie and Shannon Bell, CDA)

- Current planning to ensure BOS concerns are addressed
- Next steps for the MFPC on the topic
- MEHKO ordinance brought the BOS in May, met with questions including: ways where regulations would filter between brick and mortar and others, on-site dining at homes, and more - BOS did not pass. CDA met with management and shifted towards understanding food facilities, regulations, how to interpret regulations for MEHKOs, and how environmental health in our food facilities currently works and works best.
- Shift to how Envi Health works and how the permitting regulatory agency can shift its focus into being a resource, outreach for businesses on how CDA Envi Health can assist them. Brought in a lot of different stakeholders.



- Presented to BOS this morning. [Check here](#) for the meeting recording of today's Board of Supervisors meeting with the Environmental Health presentation. Comments:
  - Unique challenges - lots of businesses emerged during the pandemic, and since pandemic there has been a turnover in existing brick and mortar businesses closing - lots of change and volatility currently.
  - Need for improved communication earlier in the process and desire for education over enforcement
  - Need to organize systems behind the scenes so businesses know who to call/go to for assistance and questions
- **Save the Date: Community Development Workshop on October 10th**, time TBD, at the B Street Community Center in San Rafael (MFPC invited!)
- Exemption permits for local vendors: allows for 25 sq ft or less for non-perishable, commercially pre-packaged foods
- Code does allow for MEHKOs to serve up to two carts - way to build a customer base (although carts are expensive)
- Another reason that MEHKOs can be prohibitive for mobile food vendors is that so many folks in Marin rent. It could be difficult to convince a landlord to allow a home kitchen.
- Can a permitted food cart owner use the kitchen of another permitted MEHKO? Yes. Can also use a brick and mortar kitchen. Potential for an online matchmaking service between mobile food vendors and MEHKOs
- Opportunity to streamline or bundle the permit process and/or fee structure for those wanting multiple pathways/sale channels? Not currently, difficult to bundle because of formal process with BOS. Perhaps some grant-supported or Board-supported discounting or waiving of fees?
- **Next Steps: Save the Date for Oct 10 meeting at the San Rafael Community Center at 618 B Street**, and look to new year for MEHKOs being back on the table. MFPC has drafted a letter in support of MEHKOs, will continue to refine (MFPC draft letter available [here](#)).

#### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- New member presentations: Rachel Lane, Marin County Parks FARE grant
- Rachel joined Marin County Parks as FARE Program Coordinator 6 months ago, manages FARE grant program (funded by Measure A quarter cent sales tax). Currently accepting grant applications through September 12. More info: <https://parks.marincounty.gov/projectsplans/fare-grants>. Email Rachel with questions: [Rachel.Lane@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@MarinCounty.gov). Launching Gardens Strike Crew providing support to community and school gardens. Also developing garden resources hubs.

#### **Federal funding impacts** (e.g. SNAP Ed, AmeriCorps, Head Start) *\*will continually revisit\**

- How are MFPC members impacted and is there a role for MFPC
- Jessica re: funding for Snap Ed (Nutrition Wellness program's largest funder was CalFresh) - the program will not continue to be funded in September. Hosting community



convenings to understand role of HEAL collaborative moving forward - late fall into December. Will let MFPC know dates, email Jesica to be added to HEAL listserv.

- Liana: AIM has been funded through SnapEd for mobile farmers market, will reduce program operations in October from 4 days a week to 2 days a week, try to be more targeted in their work.

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, September 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## June 2025

**Attendees:** *Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Fernando Barreto (Aide to Supervisor Rodoni, District 4), Greg Minor (City of San Rafael Community and Economic Development), Jenna Ray (Marin AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Kira Wates-Williams (Ceres Community Project, [kwates-williams@ceresproject.org](mailto:kwates-williams@ceresproject.org)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks FARE grant, [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Sarah Blunt (Gem Garden program manager), Sarah Camper (ExtraFood Senior Ops Manager)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- **No July MFPC meeting**
- Liana: AIM farmers markets now open
  - Pt Reyes market May 3-September 27, Saturdays 9am-2pm
  - Downtown San Rafael market on 2nd Friday in July and August
- Rachel: opening the next round of our Food, Agriculture, and Resilient Food Systems program for applications starting July 17-September 12. Please reach out if you have any questions or want to discuss project ideas [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)
- Jesica: there will be a community convening to showcase HEAL work at the end of the summer, email if interested: [MarinHEALcollaborative@marincounty.gov](mailto:MarinHEALcollaborative@marincounty.gov)

### **MEHKOs Ordinance Updates**

- MFPC draft letter available [here](#)
- On Tuesday, May 6, CDA presented a proposal to BOS (regulatory pathway that does not currently exist): MEHKO ordinance would allow food entrepreneurs to operate a small scale restaurant from home for foods sold or donated to the public up to 30 meals/day, no more than 90/week. No catering or wholesale, no signage. Gross sales up to \$100,000 annually. Food has to be sold from home. While the Marin ordinance is set up for home kitchens, it would also allow a kitchen to prepare meals for up to two food carts. Fees: \$715 for first time permits and \$440 for renewals, fee waiver for certain priority communities.

- BOS had concerns and sent it back for further work: competition with brick and mortar restaurants, and capacity for CDA to take on added workload.
- MFPC wanted to provide support to CDA and potentially copy BOS in support of MEHKOs: draft letter available [here](#)... edits made in meeting:
  - There are fewer restaurants in the Canal, Marin City, and West Marin (for the supposed competition). Could consider
  - Demand for food currently being met by unpermitted vendors

### **Discussion: Federal funding impacts to our work**

- How are MFPC members impacted and is there a role for MFPC?
- Concerns about funding changes for CalFresh and Americorps
- Liana: AIM has several federal funding sources. USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant has been renamed (initially terminated, then came back, but changed) to AMP grant (now a large portion of grant funds has to be made directly to farmers). Large SNAP Ed grant for mobile farmers market through Sept 2026 but funding may go away then. Currently writing grant for local food promotion through USDA...
- Kira: Ceres hasn't had much direct impact, other than USDA grant to fund perinatal program cut and
- Jenna: worry of reorganizing of branches/departments that would change AAA structure or operation.
- Julia: Snap Ed funding is in jeopardy, long policy process that UC ANR is watching: UC ANR Update on SNAP-Ed funding and reconciliation bill <https://ucanr.edu/blog/anr-update/article/update-snap-ed-funding-and-reconciliation-bill> and UC ANR Response to proposed elimination of SNAP-Ed <https://ucanr.edu/blog/anr-update/article/response-proposed-elimination-snap-ed>. Snap Ed funds a lot of UC ANR nutrition programming across CA.
- Sarah: concern from food pantry clients about losing their eligibility/Snap

### **Policy Updates (All)**

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### **Council Business (Liana Orlandi)**

- New member presentations: Kira Wates-Williams, Ceres
  - Been with Ceres for 5 months, serves as Executive Assistant and Policy Coordinator to understand how Ceres can support the local food system and engage in policy. Passionate about disaster mitigation, intersection between human communities and natural environment. Ceres background: provide 240,000 medically tailored meals, groceries, and produce prescriptions per year to those with health needs; support local farmers and run a youth program serving 300 youth per year. Ceres has sites in Novato, Petaluma, and Sebastopol. New project: development of new center in SW Santa Rosa. Involved in emergency response since Tubbs fire, building this headquarters will

enable them to scale up to 800,000 meals annually over the next decade as well as serve as a disaster center and support hub in times of need.

- No Meeting in July

Meeting closed at 4:05 p.m.

Next meeting will be **virtual on Tuesday, August 19** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## May 2025

**Attendees:** Althea Armada (Agricultural Community Events farmers markets), Andy Naja-Riese (AIM), Anita Sparks ( ), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Casey Fritz ( ), Chad (Canal Alliance), Darien Malekos (AIM), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Ida Green (HHS Social Services), Jamillah Jordan (Marin County Office of Equity), Jenna Ray (Marin AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Kevin Wright (Marin County Parks), Kira Wates-Williams (Ceres Community Project, [kwates-williams@ceresproject.org](mailto:kwates-williams@ceresproject.org)), Lauren Wolfer (COOK Alliance), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project), Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks FARE grant, [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)), Rhonda Kutter ( ), Sarah Blunt (Gem Garden program manager), Sonya Hammons (MALT)

### Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)

- **No July MFPC meeting**
- Sonya: MALT just awarded 5 grant sot ag producers in Marin, another round of grant making in the fall
- Althea: 2 new Sonoma County ACE farmers markets
- Darien: Tues 5/27 2-5pm Resource Fair for Producers in Berkeley. Also AIM is recruiting for multiple job positions
- Chad: Canal Alliance working with Chambers of Commerce to create farmers / makers market inviting Latino entrepreneurs in San Rafael on June 7
- Sarah: therapeutic garden for adults with disabilities at New Beginnings land in Novato
- Debbie: CAM is hiring temporary garden coordinator for the summer AND farm manager position about to open
- Jenna: AAA opened a new congregate meal site in Pt Reyes at Dance Palace every first Thursday
- Jesica: June 7 hosting Fruit and Veggie Fest at the Health and Wellness campus in the Canal; July hosting strategic planning session for Marin HEAL collaborative (funded 8 community gardens in Marin over the past 2 years), will reconvene to determine direction going forward
- Rachel: FARE grant second round to open in July, will present later in meeting

- Kira: Ceres is in the middle of building new site (Comm Resilience Center) in Santa Rosa
- Lauren: COOK Alliance dedicated to legitimizing the sale of home produced foods
- Julia: USDA 3 grant programs "LAMP grants" sister grants (farmers market promotion program bringing federal dollars to our farmers markets, local food promotion program for intermediary markets, and regional food systems partnership grant for partnerships between food systems entities). USDA has released RFA for sister programs: open and available for funding
- Julie: SGCC wrapping up HEAL work
- Andy: Marin Feeding Work Group planning meeting on Friday, June 6 @ 9am - disaster planning for the county and coordination of resources
- Jamillah: Office of Equity launched pilot Micro Enterprise Support Program, opportunity with SBDC for small businesses to start or grow, working on outreach materials now, will share
- Marchon (via email): Sharing the [SF-Marín Food Bank's 2025 State Policy Agenda](#), reflective of the Food Bank's work at the state level and their commitment to supporting their partners and community locally. We will share their Call To Action to the Governor for their Cal Food ask when it is released.

**Update & Discussion about Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens (MEHKOs)** (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Update from Board of Supervisors Meeting: statewide law that passed a number of years ago that allowed local jurisdictions to create a MEHKO program at the county level before it can be an option. Would allow home cooks to cook meals in their home kitchens and serve at a small scale level like a home restaurant. Complimentary but different from Cottage Foods Law which passed state-wide (only low-risk non-hazardous shelf-stable food products). This law would expand what's possible to cook. County needs to approve, home cooks go through an application process and training with regulations. Identified as an opportunity for the County to create more business opportunities to communities of color, aligned with County's equity goals. This went before BOS on Tuesday, May 6 to be heard in its first reading as a local ordinance. BOS heard the proposal from CDA and asked for edits to be made.
- Andy: MEHKO ordinance would allow food entrepreneurs to operate small scale restaurant from home for foods sold or donated to the public up to 30 meals/day, no more than 90/week. No catering or wholesale. Food has to be sold from home. While the Marin ordinance is set up for home kitchens, it would also allow a kitchen to prepare meals for two food carts. There would be inspection fees for the program (about \$700 for first time, \$400 for renewals) with fee waivers for priority communities. Wasn't a lengthy public discussion, BOS had lots of feedback. Concerns: how would impact brick and mortar food community; outdoor BBQ/restaurant could create noise-related challenges for neighborhoods; does Envi Health have capacity to inspect all of these home businesses. Cities and towns are generally against this ordinance (haven't said publicly, but seen as another thing that will cause neighborhood disturbances), and BOS are

projecting some concerns from city and town officials and chambers of commerce. MEeting ended with question of reformatting the program with a more limited pilot: 12 month program and cap on number of permit recipients? Supervisor Rodoni was the most supportive, perhaps because he and Fernando Barreto have been involved with MFPC: already a state law so it's too late for these objections.

- Lauren: COOK Alliance only non profit that works exclusively with this program. Can have a dine-in component (dinner parties, backyard pop-up, etc) but most people prefer delivery or pick-up. Delivery can't be done through Uber Eats or Door Dash, just the MEHKO themselves. Concern for traffic and parking issues; though this inst being seen playing out in areas where it's taking place. Renters can do this under state code, San Mateo is the only County that requires landlord approval. But have seen challenges for renters: standard leases about not being able to operate business out of home, larger corporate landlords might be less flexible. If Marin moves forward, up to BOS or Environmental Health to determine how they want to address landlord issue. Are there resources for folks to get set up? Certain parameters are set by state law (meals served, income grossed, etc), but permit costs are determined locally (initial \$700 and renewal \$400) but county would use state funding to waive fees in certain areas for certain populations. Other costs exist in running kitchens.
- Jamillah: BOS main issue was the dine-in foot traffic and car traffic. This is a mandated issue, have to find creative workarounds to address BOS comments, but we will ultimately have to do this. County stands in support with micro entrepreneurs. Marin County has launched an Economic Vitality Report, and is a priority for BOAS and CDA and other departments and agencies now.
- What incentive is there for MEHKOs to get permitted? What is the opportunity, vs what is creating a law around something (feeding your neighbors) that doesn't need to be regulated? CDA perspective: County and State were forced into position to do something after the pandemic, when things grew to a large enough scale that needed oversight, with no oversight mechanism in place. Movement began when Cottage Foods law passed in 2012. If it works for folks to stay under the radar that's fine, but without this program there isn't an option for people who want to legitimize and use this as a springboard to grow their business (get resources, training, financing, etc). Is this creating a pathway, or does it have an unintended consequence of making something illegal if folks don't get permitted? Without the program, it is illegal - so this would fix that. Relevant to think of unintended consequences. MEHKOs also aren't the silver bullet to all food business options in the County, doesn't actually impact that many potential entrepreneurs. Ideally we'd see a variety: cottage foods, MEHKOs, mobile food vendors, pathways to brick and mortar, etc. Asking to set requirements so you can't operate within a certain distance of a certified farmers market (so no sidewalk vendors right next to farmers markets). Question to consider: how many people want to build a business vs is this just a side hustle. Benefit: increase the level of income people make off their businesses.
- BOS wanted this to go back for further work, what's the next step in the timeline/agenda? Discussed to revisit at a future date TBD.

- San Benito just made their pilot program permanent.
- Don't want to see a cap regarding the number of participants, as that might benefit more resources people disproportionately; a timeline cap would be less discriminatory.
- **Next steps for the MFPC on the topic:** have folks who would benefit attend the next meeting to tell their story. CAM could speak to the lengthy list of financial barriers to access to a commercial kitchen. MFPC to be more informed active learners. MFPC to send in a LOS for the ordinance (to BOS and/or CDA). VOTE Steering Committee to craft LOS for MEHKOs as a pathway toward equitable access for small-scale food businesses: **PASSED**. Will work on this before the issue goes back to the board. Will also invite CDA to present at the June or August MFPC meeting. **MFPC will be working on a letter, reach out to Julia or Liana if you are interested in contributing your perspective.**

#### **Policy Updates (All) - *tabled until June***

- Federal funding change impacts - SNAP Ed, AmeriCorps, Head Start
- **Potential June topic: what's changing in our local orgs based on federal funding changes**

#### **Marin County FARE Grant (Kevin Wright and Rachel Lane) \*[presentation](#)\***

- Workshops and office hours, also can call anytime.
- First round of FARE program: sales tax passed by voters in 2022, 6% set aside for competitive agriculture and food system grants. Recipients eligible to apply for Round 2. \$1.58million available to award. Focus on strategic investments to have the biggest impact, since they don't have the capacity to fund ongoing projects. Found a lot of need among school and community gardens.
- Round 2 updates: **RFP available [here](#); applications open July 17 and close on September 20, 2025.** If existing, will be asked how round 2 would build on round 1 funds. Plan to offer additional resources and direct support, including garden strike crew to help with one-time projects. Also working to support better access to commercial and home kitchens and how to sell food locally. ALOs aid with food vendor fees and permitting consultations. Round 2: \$1.1million for FARE competitive grants. Can ask for funds to be used for labor. Funds are usually reimbursements, but people can request advances and the process is straightforward. Equity priorities described in workshops: priority communities addressing a wide range of barriers and issues. Make the case to them about why your work serves communities in need.
- Join a virtual open house for the category that most applies to your work.
- Role for MFPC: food entrepreneurship aid: culturally sensitive help with permitting and outreach materials? Share the opportunities with your networks!

#### **Council Business (Liana Orlandi)**

- Steering Committee Updates - *tabled*
- Call for new member presentations - *tabled*
- **No Meeting in July**

Meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.

Next meeting will be **virtual on Tuesday, August 19** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## April 2025

**Attendees:** Althea Armada (Agricultural Community Events farmers markets), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Elaini Negussie (HHS), Erika Fuyo (guest), Greg Minor (City of San Rafael Community and Economic Development), Ida Green (HHS Social Services), Jamillah Jordan (Marin County Office of Equity), Jenna Ray ( ), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Joseph Aiello (San Rafael Fire wildfire mitigation department, [joseph.aiello@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:joseph.aiello@cityofsanrafael.org)), Julie Young (San Geronimo Valley Community Center), Julio Perez (City of San Rafael), Kira Wates-Williams (Ceres Community Project, [kwates-williams@ceresproject.org](mailto:kwates-williams@ceresproject.org)), Kirsten Beckwith (community volunteer), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Lidia Que (City of San Rafael), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood), Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks FARE grant, [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)

### Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)

- Julia: **Tuesday, May 20 MFPC meeting will be in-person**
- Julia: likely will skip the July meeting

### Presentation: Food businesses in San Rafael (Greg Minor & Angela Robinson Piñon)

- Topic: unpermitted mobile food vending
- Mobile vending offers business opportunity and source of food and culture to public, but can present food safety, waste management, and ADA hazards
- Interdepartmental group convened to work with these challenges
- Research question 1: what are the best locations for food vending?
- Reviewed relevant state laws SB 946 and SB 972 which decriminalized mobile vending with guidelines.
- Interviewed stakeholders, visited mobile vending sites, research analysis
- Key insights: food vendors need safe location that are accessible to customers, and need to see the value in getting permitted, and the City needs a clearer path to compliance for food vendors, including access to a commercial kitchen
- Intersection of access to healthy food for customers and pathways of business opportunities for vendors



- Consensus around the need for incentives and enforcement, and a centralized marketplace has potential to address this. But there are insufficient resources and disproportionate responses
- Ideas: Food Park at a community center with navigator/promoter on-site, education and resources accessibility; sidewalk dining program; city-owned commissaries
- Exploring sites: Pickleweed Park and Al Boro Community Center
- Example: Mitote Food Park in Santa Rosa <http://www.mitotefoodpark.com/>
- Marin County grappling with similar questions/issues. Would be great to have a comprehensive list of commercial kitchens/commissaries existing across the county.
  - West Marin Food Systems group has been working on mapping the local community/school/farms [www.westmarinfoodsystems.org](http://www.westmarinfoodsystems.org)
- Micro-enterprise support program for food entrepreneurs and others (County working with Small Business Development Center), can present to MFPC in the future when more developed.
- Mobile food vending vs. food truck difference: City of San Rafael is working to address temporary food facilities where people cook on-site (like a restaurant on the sidewalk), rather than where food that is cooked previously off-site and then heated up.
- Training is a big piece: when you get permitted you go through training and learn of all the rules and agree to comply.
- Challenging due to multi-layered jurisdictions with competing policy priorities
  - State level passed laws supporting low income immigrant entrepreneurs operating on the sidewalk vs county staff enforcing health codes, and city staff somewhere in between
- Main concerns: 1) access to commercial kitchen space, 2) access to training/knowledge of permitting, 3) access to a safe & successful vending location
- Keep MFPC informed as they progress. Contact Greg with any questions or input: [greg.minor@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:greg.minor@cityofsanrafael.org)

#### **Discussion: 'Food Systems Resilience' focus area (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Evolution of this topic over time
- Defining this theme's scope
- Identifying specific topics to learn about
- Input on programs, projects, and speakers to invite
- Policy areas to watch: Prop 4 funding (four different buckets), farmers market infrastructure money, piece of the climate bond.
  - Good learning topic for MFPC this year.
- Next round of FARE grants open in July, Master Plan could potentially fit in well

#### **Policy Updates (All)**

- LFPA advocacy opportunity to reverse the decision to terminate LFPA 2025
  - Funded at federal level, currently being funded for food banks to purchase local food at market rate and distribute for free to clients. Reauthorized in 2025 for the

following 2 years, but the future iteration got cut, along with similar parallel program for schools.

- MFPC signed onto suite of CFFN policy priorities
- MFPC signed on to support National Organic Program

**Council Business** (Liana Orlandi) *\*tabled\**

- Steering Committee Updates
- Call for new member presentations

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be HYBRID IN-PERSON on Tuesday, May 20 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## March 2025

**Attendees:** Althea Armada (Agricultural Community Events farmers markets), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin Public Health), Kirsten Beckwith (community volunteer), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Madeline Hope (West Marin Food Systems), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood), Rachel Lane (Marin County Parks FARE grant, [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Stephanie Robison (Vivalon, [stephanierobison@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanierobison@hotmail.com)), Zoe Kalbag (AIM, [zoe@agriculturalinstitute.org](mailto:zoe@agriculturalinstitute.org))

**Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Stephanie: Vivalon is working on building a medically tailored meals home delivered nutrition program for an upcoming CalAIM grant
- Karina: Save the Date: Annual in-person Community of Practice convening for the North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership on Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 10am–3pm at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center
- Jesica: Bioneers is hosting a pre-conference 'Urban Foodscape' Tour in the East Bay -- next Wednesday the 26th. I hope to see some of you there! [Daily Schedule - Bioneers Conference](#)

**Focus Area(s) for 2025** (Liana Orlandi)

- Previous months' meetings show large interest in Community Food Security
- What is your organization doing, what do you want to learn, what is the policy implication?
- Jesica Rodriguez, Program Coordinator of Nutrition Wellness Program with Marin Public Health, working supporting HEAL:

- HEAL vision: build local sustainable food systems to increase access for communities in need (Marin City, Canal, and West Marin) - goal to increase equitable food access, community empowerment, promote leadership
- Support 7 community gardens throughout Marin, and the development of 2 new gardens. 4 of the gardens are associated with a school district, 2 are at a community center, 3 are associated with affordable housing and 2 are associated with prioritizing services for elders.
- Share resources and help with communications to support lead agencies
- Look to keep kids off the street and offer support and alternatives for alcohol and substances, support school cafeterias and nutrition, support families to grow food at home in their residential spaces, and more!
- Canal: 1 garden; Marin City: 3 gardens; West Marin: 4 gardens
- Looking to expand partnerships in these and other regions, and to sustain long term funding (current funding slated to end in May)
- Access to water is becoming more difficult (issue is mirrored in a food bank survey) especially in West Marin. Examples: Nicasio school district gets their water from a generous neighbor; and clean water is questionable with ranching nearby.
- Evaluation metrics: production tracking tool and working on finding ways to visually display the data through their website.
- Anita Sparks: the Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden produces more than they can consume (over 2000 lbs of produce last year) - potential to participate in an exchange with labor and food? How to collaborate?
- Michael Delafield: ExtraFood program Share the Bounty is a gleaning program that goes to backyard gardens and harvest food and deliver to recipients in need; also want to collaborate.
- Debbie Harris: CAM operates 8 Head Start centers, all of which have a range of school gardens, currently in a funding deadzone. Lots of energy and enthusiasm about resurrecting them.
- Karina Lundahl: supporting UCCE's FARE grant award project that is focused on trying to connect gardens in Marin with free resources (compost, starts, inputs... but not funding). If interested, reach out to Karina at: [klundahl@ucanr.edu](mailto:klundahl@ucanr.edu)
- Rachel: next round of FARE grants opens in July, more info to come before then. For more info contact Rachel at: [Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov](mailto:Rachel.Lane@marincounty.gov)
- Have pulled out the gardens serving 80% of students receiving free and reduced school meals.
- Policy opportunities? Policy barriers? Water access in West Marin, or funding for school gardens, more?
- Mailing list; email Jesica Rodriguez to learn more: [MarinHEALCollaborative@marincounty.gov](mailto:MarinHEALCollaborative@marincounty.gov)
- Karina Lundahl, North Coast Emergency Food Systems Partnership
  - 6 county project from Marin to Oregon border
  - Third year of a 3 year grant

- Increase resilience in times of disaster with local food resources, build capacity of partners, enhance community empowerment
- Create emergency feeding plans, inventory local food system assets, work with local partners and government
- If you would like to invite others to learn about the North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership or if you are joining us for the first time, see their [project summary](#) and the article [\\$1.5M North Coast project to improve food access even during disasters](#)
- Email Karina Lundahl for more info or with any questions, [klundahl@ucanr.edu](mailto:klundahl@ucanr.edu)
- Michael Delafield with ExtraFood
  - Share the Bounty program: teams harvest excess food and deliver to recipients in need
  - Pick up excess food in Marin and SF (markets, hospitals, schools) and deliver to food pantries, low income housing, senior centers, after school programs, etc.
  - Always looking to collaborate with more on either end: take on new food donors and recipients.
  - Recipients of food: do organizations reach out to ExtraFood or do they reach out to orgs? Both ways. ExtraFood tries to serve communities where the food is coming from, match what people are looking for and where the need is.
- Liana: AIM's Rollin Root mobile farmers market
  - Goes to markets and picks up produce that's been ordered and AIM purchases, then goes to communities and sells the produce there
  - Goal to address transportation barrier to farmers markets (people who don't drive anymore or live remotely)
- Community Food Markets with SF-Marin Food Banks
  - Newer program with multiple cohorts
  - SF and 2 planned in Marin (1 will be community-led and 1 with a partner organization)
  - Community driven, grocery store-like brick and mortar place where people can come and access free food they can choose from
  - Always looking for partners - know of a community organization who might be interested? Let Marchon know at: [mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org)

## Policy Updates (All)

- SB 341: School Garden Grant Program
  - [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB341](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB341)
  - Legislation that would create funding for school gardens
  - \*\*VOTE to support the bill (LOS): **PASS**
- Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA)
  - <https://caff.org/federal-funding-freeze-farmstogether/>
  - Funding has been frozen, CAFF is asking we call representatives to ask funding be reinstated, you all are welcome to take that action as individual voters or through your organizations

- SF-Marin Food Bank monitoring federal level and progressing with their policy agenda
  - Make sure they protect the social safety net on the state level
  - Access to SF-Marin Call to Action Updates here: [Advocacy For Change | San Francisco - Marin Food Bank](#)
  - Buckets of focus include:
    - Making sure emergency food system and disaster response system is efficient and adequate; considering AB 262: CA Individual Assistance Act and SB 739: Disaster CalFresh County Resource Status
    - Strengthen CalFresh benefits and streamline access to food despite immigration status (Food for All); considering AB 1211: backup for Thrifty Food Program if the federal govt reduces it
    - School Meals for All: possible in CA because of fed funding and CA might not have the financial resources to backfill this
    - Student Learners and Families; considering a bill supporting summer meal access where caregivers can eat along with their children
    - Food policy and advocacy coalition (Food PAC): community members advising the food bank on actions to prioritize: access to clear water was an issue; considering AB 995: CA Safe Drinking Water Act with random sampling and testing of public water systems
    - LFPA: Food Bank will be affected by the cancellation of the 2025 LFPC contract, will be a big hit: \$660million will be cut from schools purchasing local foods program. LFPA primary funding source to get local food into schools, hearing from producers and food providers about the huge effect this will have. Producers and providers are both asking for advocacy.
- Changing federal landscape... wait and see
- CFFN updates: CA Food and Farming Network funded by CAFF, policy arm with lots of members researching policy priorities - this year it's 5 bills:
  - Healthy Food Access:
    - AB 1049: California Food Assistance Program: Sponsor Deeming (remove sponsor need for benefits and open access to undocumented)
    - SB 411: Stop Child Hunger Act (create statewide sunbucks application website to streamline signup process, require school meal apps to require sunbucks, support school nutrition staff,
    - SB 711: Summer Caregiver Meals, giving caregivers meals at same time as children
  - Agroecology:
    - AB 524: Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act, creates program at Dept of Conservation to increase access to land for beginning and underserved farmers
  - Farmworker and Food Chain Advancement:
    - AB 694: Strengthening CA Worker Health to get more people to learn to become CAL OSHA inspectors sign-on letter available due March 25
    - **\*\*VOTE: PASS**

### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- Steering Committee: reach out to Liana or Julia or Bonnie if interested
  - Quarterly meetings to define topic areas and learning sessions
- Call for new member presentations
  - Brief 5 minute overview of your organization and hopes to get from MFPC

**Meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## February 2025

### **2/18/2025 - MFPC Hybrid Meeting**

#### **Attendees:**

**In-person:** *Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Althea Armada (Agricultural Community Events farmers markets), Joe Deviney (Ag Dept Commissioner), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood), Kirsten Beckwith (community volunteer), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS)*

**Virtual:** *Daeja Tillis (Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program); Alexandra Morehouse (Marin Council on Aging Nutrition committee); Ida Green (Marin HHS coordinating Southern Marin hub), Camille Jolly (Aging & Adult Services); Fernando Barreto (Aide to Supervisor Rodoni); Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project), Debbie Harris (Community Action Marin, Food and Climate Justice Director), Sonya Hammons (MALT), Julie Young (SGVCC), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Rhonda Lynn Kutter (West Marin food systems)*

### **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

#### **Relationship Building Activity:**

- Introduce yourself, org, & connection to MFPC
- What skills, knowledge, or connections do you hope to bring to the MFPC this year?
- What do you hope to get out of your participation in the MFPC this year?

Wide range of folks wanting to focus on networking and activities in Marin to policy wonks wanting to track fast-moving legislation and legislation language.

#### **Organizational Updates:**

- Share any major structural changes in your org in terms of funding, staffing, priorities at the federal level

- Priorities, top issues/topics your org is watching at the federal level
- What could MFPC do to support your organization and community?
- Are there any organizing efforts MFPC should be aware of related to the changes in the federal administration impacting food access and local food systems

*Orlena Yee:* [Climate Smart Commodities grant—conservation and climate work is being impacted](#). A lot of partners are slowing work because it's not clear that people will be paid. Due to the federal executive order to halt DEI and climate change work.

*Liana Orlandi:* AIM is also being impacted because they were a partner on the Climate Smart Commodities grant. AIM is watching climate policies and immigration (because of on-farm and farmers' market impacts), also watching SNAP because in the past those have been targeted and will impact farmers' markets.

[Is there a way to make Market Match local to California? Heard from some FMPP grants that they were rescinded over the weekend due to language in the grant. Where is funding going to come from? Are previous funding sources secure?](#)

Jenna Ray: Generally for org and with Marin HHS, no impacts on programming. Keeping an eye on CalFresh / SNAP for impacts on older adults and nutrition, would have implications for home delivery and congregation.

Camille Jolly: Watching, waiting, ready to be flexible and address needs as they arise. At this time, forging ahead with activities, including working on public assistance and CalFresh.

Michael, ExtraFood: No major structural changes, have applied for federal opportunities that have been paused and not optimistic they will be revived, focusing on improved budgets for social services for already appropriated funds. [Watching to see if there is a reduction in participation at food pantries due to immigrant populations being discouraged from using food pantries](#).

Julia Van Soelen Kim: Also concerned about impacts on immigrant populations and possibility of unenrolling in formal food security programs.

Julie Young (SGVCC): SGVCC has a large patronage from across Marin. Only questions asked of recipients: 1) How many people are you picking up for? and 2) How big is the household? No information that can be tied back to the recipients. Trust is built. ~200 cars a day coming through the food bank. People know it's a safe place to get needs met. Trying to consider impacts of the possibility of ICE coming through, but so far not something they've had to deal with.

Julia Van Soelen Kim: **Action Item:** [Flagging \[supporting undocumented food program recipients\] as a spring or summer learning - what is the impact locally, and knowing what we know from previous time that we've had to be sensitive, what are the practices and models that we will need to roll out again?](#)



Julie Young (SGVCC): Might reimplement home delivery if there are concerns about coming out into the community in more public spaces.

Jesica Rodriguez: There haven't been any ICE sightings in Northern CA yet but they are there in Southern CA and community organizations are organizing to respond. There is also concern in the Canal in San Rafael, and there is organizing happening there around how to mobilize and protect the community.

[There is a CAFF workshop on what to do if ICE comes to your farm.](#)

Julie Young: We have been participating in "Friends of Immigrants" talks with Fernando on Tuesday evenings for an hour and a half. Lawyers in attendance to assist with role playing, teaching people how to be advocates, filming interactions, etc. Description and Zoom link are below.

**West Marin Friends of Immigrants** is a dedicated community group focused on fostering education, awareness, and advocacy to better serve and protect immigrants living, working, or studying in the West Marin area. Through outreach, workshops, and collaboration with local stakeholders, the group empowers community members with the knowledge and resources to support immigrant rights, safety, and well-being.

By building bridges of understanding and solidarity, West Marin Friends of Immigrants works to ensure a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable environment for all who call West Marin home. Fernando Barreto is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87879243827?pwd=GFJrP7W4v7VeNi0hZtO1l0aSJhBiQA.1>

Meeting ID: 878 7924 3827

Passcode: 986410

—

**Focus Area(s) for 2025:**

- Community Food Security
- Food Businesses
- Food Assistance Policy
- Climate
- Gardens/ Urban Ag
- Other

In the January meeting, brainstormed themes for 2025—can span a wide range as well. [Grouped here in rough buckets.](#) MFPC will keep the 2025 themes open for a week for people to

contribute to, then will narrow down and incorporate. MFPC tries to narrow to 2–3 themes to focus on for the year.

Rhonda Lynn Kutter noted that the sticky note “Impact on end of PRNS ranching in West Marin community” might not be entirely accurate—not clear that all dairies will be shut down.

Orlena Yee: Upcycling food/reducing food waste—tied to SB 1383 is an exciting sticky note. Opportunities due to mandates from SB 1383 legislation. Looking at compost as a link.

MFPC hasn't fully examined impacts of SB 1383 since it passed.

Sonya Hammons: I am very interested in the sugar sweetened beverage tax topic as a possible way to support food systems in the county. Liana seconded, AIM is interested as a source of income for local nutrition work. Also supported by Jesica.

### **Policy Updates:**

Local, State, Federal policy updates

MFPC is looking for new Steering Committee members to attend quarterly meetings. Reach out for more information.

## January 2025

### **1/21/2025 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** *Althea Armada (Agricultural Community Events farmers markets), Angela Robinson Pinon (City of San Rafael), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Debbie Harris (CAM, Food and Climate Justice Director), Ida Green (Marin HHS coordinating Southern Marin hub), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Judy Cervantes-Connel (CAM, Head Start programs), Kirsten Beckwith (community volunteer), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Tuyen Fiack (YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Intros, timely events, accomplishments & updates shared in the chat
- Angela: City of San Rafael is working on food vending within the city, looking for collaboration and partnership opportunities. San Rafael is considering a sanctioned vending location or food park - if you are interested in participating in an hour-long discussion about the topic sometime in the next month, contact Angela at: [angelar@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:angelar@cityofsanrafael.org)
- Debbie: CAM is looking for small-scale food business interested in using the CAM commercial kitchen as an incubation space. If interested, contact Debbie at: [dharris@camarin.org](mailto:dharris@camarin.org)

- [MFPC Policy Platform](#) and [Local Policy Platform](#)
- [Daily Schedule - Bioneers Conference](#): conference in Berkeley, most workshop topics hosted are interdisciplinary, but live at the intersection of climate/food/racial justice

### **Relationship Building Activity: Breakout Groups** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- What do you hope to get out of your participation in the MFPC this year?
- Collaboration (build new and deepend current) to serve vulnerable populations and support systems working with food insecurities across all levels

### **Focus Areas for 2025** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Recent themes: small-scale food businesses, older adults, CalFresh & federal food assistance programs, climate change, racial equity and food justice
- Invite to join MFPC steering committee to have more input and role in guiding direction of the council
- [Brainstorm](#) priority topics for 2025
  - Support for food entrepreneurs
  - Maintain SNAP funding
  - Neighborhood Farmers Markets
  - Food sovereignty in local communities
  - Community-Based Solutions for Expanding (Affordable, Nutritious) Food Access (less federal government based)
  - Education and outreach on state and federal assistance programs for low income families
  - Supporting Urban Agriculture in Marin County
  - Microlending program for food entrepreneurs
  - Expansion of School Gardens
  - Leaning into communities' food security in Marin as a protective measure in politically uncertain times
  - Best practices for models of expanding food access
  - Identify possible locations for sanctioned food vending
  - Food System Master Plan for Marin
  - Understanding and responding to the diverse food security needs of communities of color
  - Upcycling food/reducing food waste?
  - Understanding fragility in our local food system, in time of disaster or as a result of climate change
  - Joint application opportunities to support climate/food insecurity efforts
  - Impact on end of PRNS ranching on local West Marin community

### **Policy Updates** (All)

- Significant changes to policies around ranching on the Pt. Reyes Seashore, of huge importance to the local food system: interest in being a theme for future learning (ripple effects for farmworker communities and local ag landscape)
- Federal change in administration and potential for many ripple effects and impacts on local communities

- Email Julia, Liana, or Bonnie a week before a meeting if there's a policy opportunity you would like to share with the Council. You can also bring it directly to a meeting if time dictates.

#### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Steering Committee Update: please let Julia, Liana, or Bonnie know if you are interested or would like to nominate another Council member
- New Steering Committee functioning: meeting quarterly rather than monthly
- Call for new member presentations (brief 5 minute intro)
  - Meetings are always open to the public
  - [Apply to be a member here](#)
- Either the banFebruary or March meeting will be hybrid in-person... stay tuned!

**Meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## December 2024 - No meeting

## November 2024

#### **11/19/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Althea Armada (ACE farmers markets), Aneet Dhillon (UCSF, [Aneet.Dhillon@ucsf.edu](mailto:Aneet.Dhillon@ucsf.edu)), Anuki Edirimuni (UCSF, [anuki.edirimuni@ucsf.edu](mailto:anuki.edirimuni@ucsf.edu)), Autumn Johns (Ceres), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Casey Fritz (Zero Waste Marin), Erin Hawkins (CAM), Fernando Barreto, (Aide to Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, District 4), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jennifer Do (UCSF student, [Jennifer.do@ucsf.edu](mailto:Jennifer.do@ucsf.edu)), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (SGVCC), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Josephine Doan (UCSF, [Josephine.doan@ucsf.edu](mailto:Josephine.doan@ucsf.edu)), Kirsten Beckwith (Community volunteer), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon Project), Raissa de la Rosa (County of Marin Economic Vitality, Office of the County Executive), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Wendy Tobiasson (Conscious Kitchen and Innovative Health Solutions)

#### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- [Request for Proposal \(RFP\) for a Microenterprise Support Program](#), \$250,000 in funding to cover a 2-year pilot period.

- CAM's [Good Food For All](#) event this Saturday, November 23 from 10am to 12pm at Old Gallinas Production Farm in San Rafael
- Please join me at a virtual Community of Practice Convening for the North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership tomorrow 11/20, 10am-12pm. This quarterly meeting is an opportunity to share the work Marin is doing around food equity and the development of an emergency feeding plan, as well as learn from communities across the North Coast about emergency feeding efforts. Contact Karina Lundahl <klundahl@ucanr.edu>
- Ida Green elected to Tamalpais School District
- Wendy: Marin Co Office if Edu survey (FARE grant) of all school food programs across county; school districts will be asked to participate in January to collect info about school food programs and assess options for partnership

### End of year recap and reflections (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

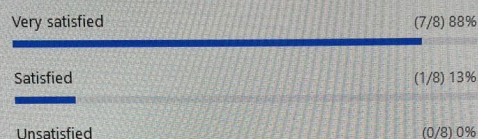
- High level accomplishments:
  - 11 meetings with 4 in-person meetings held quarterly with food from small scale food businesses
  - Continued learning around equitable access to small-scale good businesses
  - Visit to the capital to advocate to reinstate funding for Market Match (\$35 million budget line item)
  - Updated Local Policy Platform
  - Created a ripple effect map and infographic
- Pair and share, followed by whole group discussion
  - Q1: What did you learn as a result of the Marin Food Policy Council this year?
  - Q2: What connections did you make as a result of the MFPC this year?
  - Q3: What was a highlight of the year?
  - Takeaways: Incubator programs for new food providers, CAM tour, prioritize making connections to advance our work, bring awareness to different food issues (ie climate smart agriculture),
- Evaluation poll
  - Takeaways: Stay virtual/hybrid with quarterly in-person/hybrid; satisfied with opportunities for networking, learning opportunities, policy opportunities (email us with suggestions for improvement); welcome thoughts and feedback about how to reach more diverse communities of Marin

## 1. MFPC Meeting Logistics 2024

1:42 | 6 questions | 8 of 16 (50%) participated

1. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's ADMINISTRATION (Steering Committee leadership, governance, staff support, communication): (Single choice)

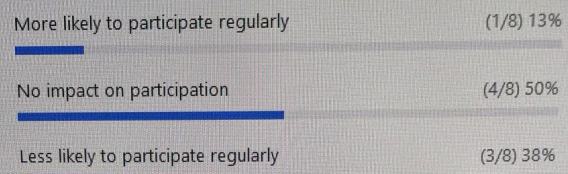
8/8 (100%) answered



2. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's FACILITATION: (Single choice)

4. For 2024, how would meeting IN-PERSON impact your participation? (Single choice)

8/8 (100%) answered



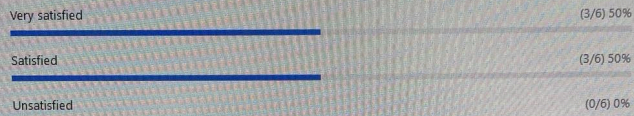
5. For 2024, how would meeting VIRTUALLY impact your participation? (Single choice)

8/8 (100%) answered



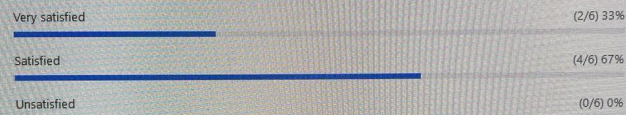
## 2. Satisfaction with MFPC's ability to provide:

1:10 | 4 questions | 6 of 16 (37%) participated



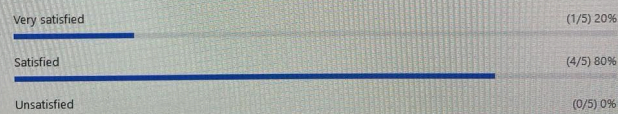
2. A venue for LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: (Single choice)

6/6 (100%) answered



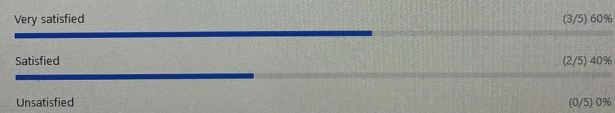
3. A venue for POLICY OPPORTUNITIES (engaging in local, state, and federal): (Single choice)

5/6 (83%) answered



4. A venue for SYSTEMS THINKING: (Single choice)

5/6 (83%) answered

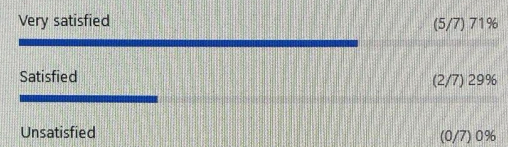


## 3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 2024

0:50 | 3 questions | 7 of 16 (43%) participated

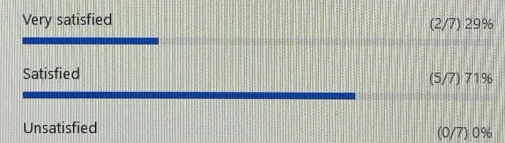
1. Please rate your satisfaction with the MFPC's ability to provide a SAFE AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE: (Single choice)

7/7 (100%) answered



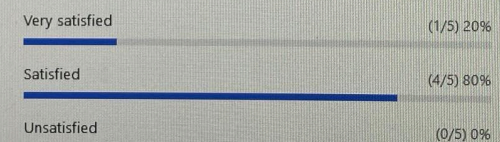
2. Please rate your satisfaction with the MFPC's ability to bring different kinds of FOOD SYSTEMS STAKEHOLDERS together: (Single choice)

7/7 (100%) answered



3. Please rate your satisfaction with the MFPC's ability to attract and retain DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP: (Single choice)

5/7 (71%) answered

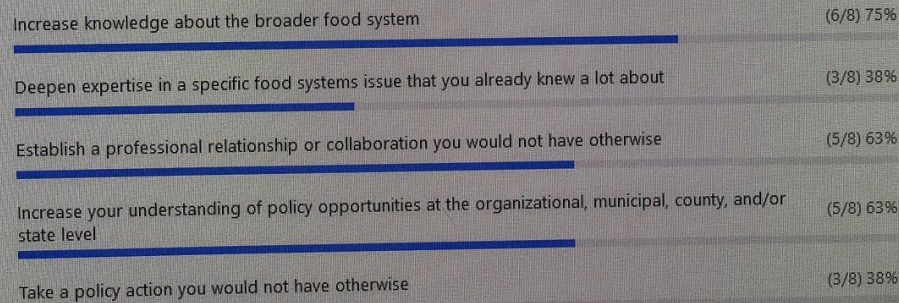


## 4. Meeting Outcomes and Impacts 2024

1:05 | 1 question | 8 of 16 (50%) participated

1. Because of your involvement in the MFPC, did you/your organization: (Multiple choice)

8/8 (100%) answered



### Policy Updates (All)

- **Local:** Measure J in Sonoma County (not passed)
- **State:** Prop 4 (passed)
- **Federal:** Farm Bill still languishing, stalled out currently, still to watch
- **Federal:** Question how do fed changes to universal school meals affect CA? Need to know the timeline for 2025.
- **Federal:** Organizational reflection on election results
  - Having some way we can track uptick in need, or publicize dropoffs if there are any?
  - Do we need to create new programs to replace government programs people are no longer engaged in?
  - Mirror partnerships created during the pandemic?
  - BOS is still committed to priorities identified and partnerships created
  - County govt stands with undocumented immigrants
  - We do have power (locally and state), so we can try not to assume that only bad things will happen, but we can work to prop each other up and stay positive.
  - Policy can be organizational, local, state, and federal - MFPC works less on federal level and has opportunities on all levels.
  - Everyone is welcome to bring forward policy issues for council to learn about and potentially take action on.

### Proposal for New Steering Committee Structure (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Vote to approve new SC format in [Governance doc](#): approved
- **Looking for 5 people, please email Julia, Liana, Bonnie if interested**
- Proposed Steering Committee schedule:
  - Jan 21: MFPC votes in new slate of SC members



- Jan 23: onboard new SC members & plan year themes
- Apr 17: plan content for quarter
- July 17: plan content for quarter
- Oct 23: close the year, reflect on accomplishments
- **\*\*NOTE:** perhaps coincide with in-person meetings?
- **\*\*IDEA:** intern/volunteer call people and ask about interest?

#### **Overview:**

- Subset of 4-8 members
- 1 year term, with renewals allowed
- SC members may self-nominate, or be nominated by the SC or full Council, striving for a representative group.
- The full slate of SC members are affirmed annually by the full Council.

#### **Roles/Responsibilities:**

- Participate in MFPC meetings and quarterly SC meetings to jointly set agendas.
- Assist with identification of annual theme(s)
- Represent the Council to other collaboratives, the Marin County Board of Supervisors, and the public.
- Help recruit stakeholders, especially stakeholders that are under-represented.
- When needed, help make decisions on behalf of the Council

#### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- **NO December meeting - next meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, January 21**
- Food Systems Plan question from August meeting: who is the right department/organization/agency to lead this effort? Does it need funding to staff a robust plan? MFPC would be interested in contributing to this process but don't have the capacity to take and lead the effort. FARE grant opportunity? Discuss next year (January/February meeting?)

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be **virtual on Tuesday, January 21** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## **October 2024**

#### **10/15/2024 - MFPC Meeting**

**Attendees:** Air Gallegos (Canal Alliance), Alexandra Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Althea Armada (ACE farmers markets), Angela Robinson Pinon (City of San Rafael), Axel Flores (Canal Alliance), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Erin Hawkins (CAM), Jamilah Jordan (County of Marin Office of Equity), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (SGVCC), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Lara

*Rajninger (Kids Cooking for Life), Lauren Betts (AIM), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Miriam Hope Karell (SBDC), Rhea Brown (Commission on Aging), Tuyen Fiack (YWCA), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

### **CAM Central Kitchen Tour**

### **Old Gallinas Childcare Site Garden Tour**

### **Meeting mapping Marin small food business support programs & services**

In addition to working on follow-up next steps, we gathered a short list of resources and guides related to the discussion and content from Tuesday's meeting:

- County of Marin Environmental Health webpage for Food Programs: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/environmental-health-services/food-program>
- Grown In Marin "Getting Started in Farmers Markets for Farmers" factsheet: [https://ucanr.edu/sites/Grown\\_in\\_Marin/files/236055.pdf](https://ucanr.edu/sites/Grown_in_Marin/files/236055.pdf)
- CAM Kitchen Rental: <https://camarin.org/program/central-kitchen/>
- YWCA website: <https://yourywca.org/employment-programs/>
- SBDC website: <https://www.marinsbdc.org/>

### **Notes from the Marin Small Business Development Center:**

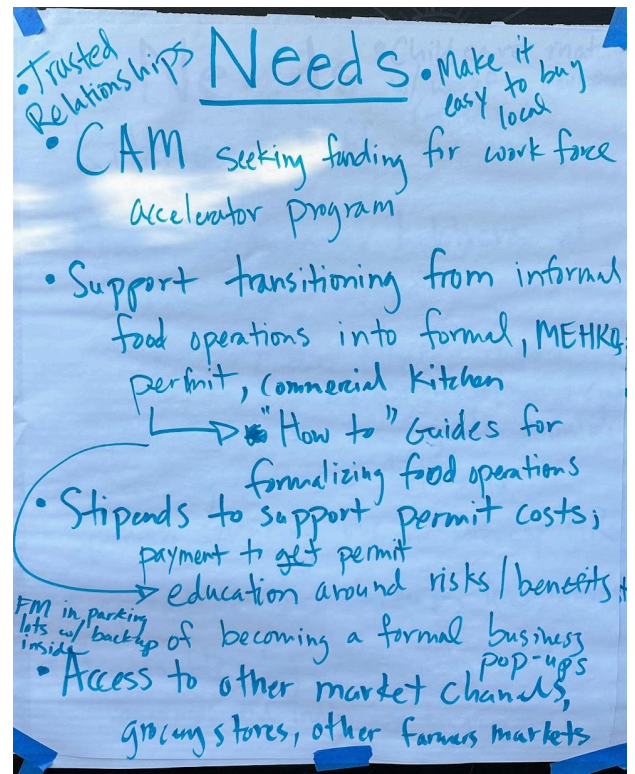
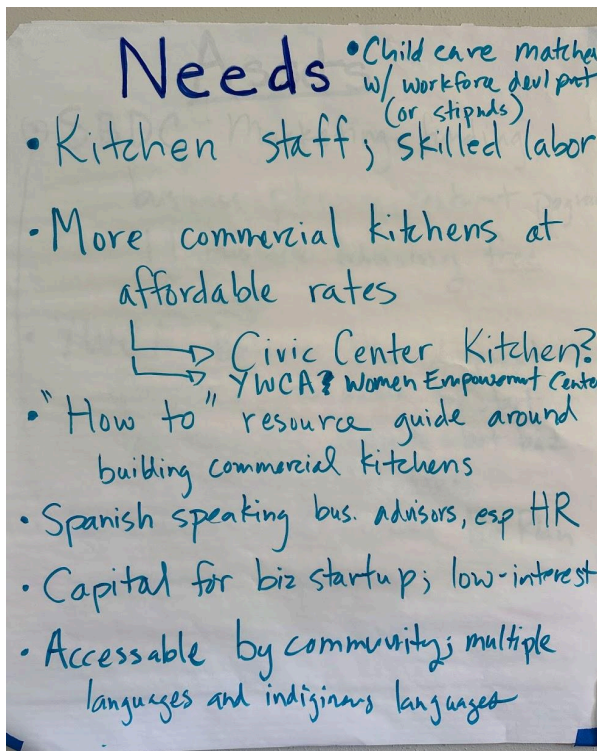
- The Marin SBDC business advising services are no-cost to small business owners with 500 or fewer employees. If you know a business owner who would like to receive support in marketing, funding, HR, strategy or other business needs, you can have them sign up to meet with Jode Hamilton, SBDC Program Specialist: <https://calendly.com/jode-marinsbdc/new-client-conversation>.
- If a client needs advising in Spanish, please have them go here to sign up: <https://www.marinsbdc.org/inscribirse/>
- All Marin SBDC upcoming workshops are here: <https://www.marinsbdc.org/events>

### **Flip chart notes from meeting discussion:**

#### **Needs:**

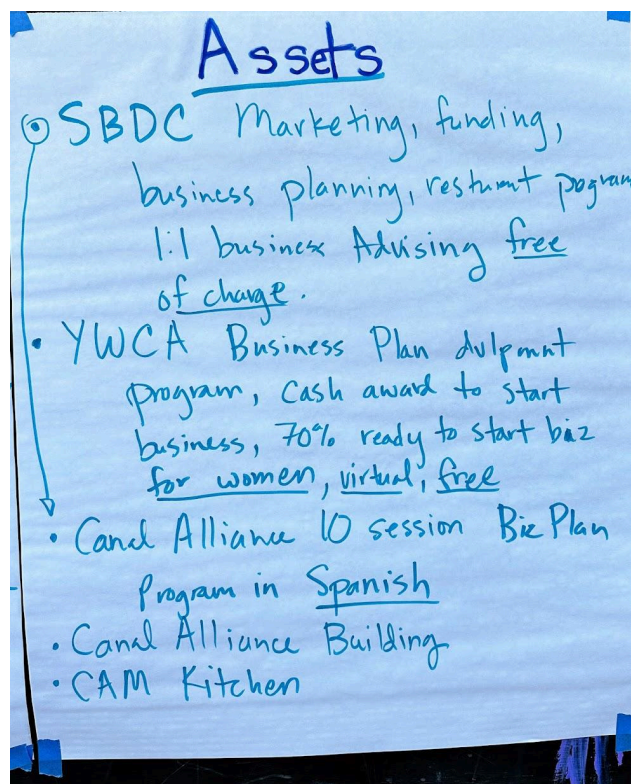
- Kitchen staff, skilled labor
- More commercial kitchens at affordable rates
  - Civic Center Kitchen?
  - YWCA Women Empowerment Center
- Childcare matched with workforce development (or stipends)
- "How To" resource guide around building commercial kitchens
- Spanish speaking business advisors, especially HR
- Capital for business startup, low-interest
- Accessible by community; multiple languages and indigenous languages

- Trusted relationships
- Make it easy to buy local
- CAM seeking funding for workforce accelerator program
- Support transitioning from informal food operations into formal, MEHKO, permit, commercial kitchen
  - "how-to" guides for formalizing food operations
  - Education around risks/benefits of becoming a formal business
- Stipends to support permit costs payment to get a permit
- Access to other market channels, grocery stores, other farmers markets, etc.



#### Assets:

- SBDC marketing, funding, business planning, restaurant programs, 1:1 business advising - all FREE of charge
- Canal Alliance 10 session Program in Spanish
- YWCA Business Plan development program, cash award to start business, 70% ready to start business for women, virtual, FREE of charge
- Canal Alliance building
- CAM Kitchen



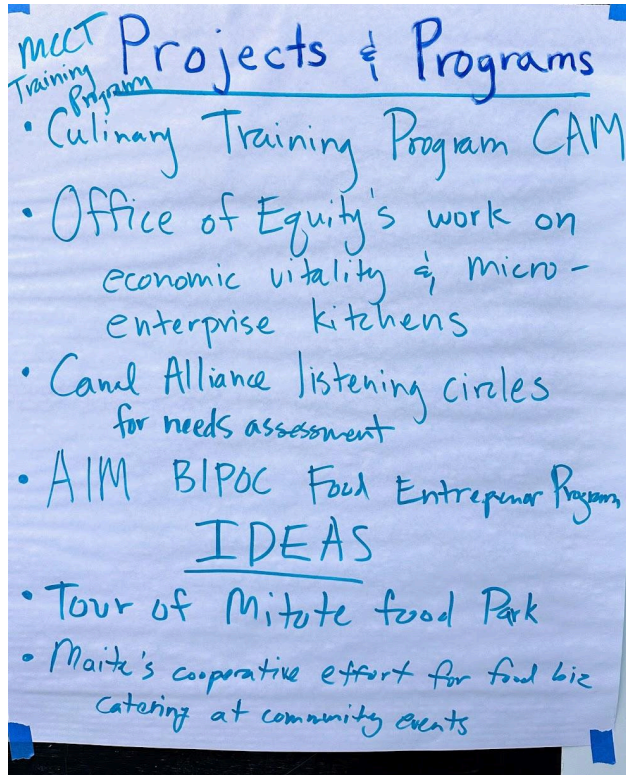
#### Projects and Programs:

- CAM Culinary Training Program
- MCCT Training Program
- Office of Equity's work on economic vitality and micro-enterprise kitchens
- Canal Alliance listening circles for needs assessment
- AIM BIPOC Food Entrepreneur Program

#### Ideas:

- Tour of Mitote Food Park (Santa Rosa)
- Maite's cooperative effort for food business catering at community events





## September 2024

### **9/17/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Allison Klein (Marin County Ag Dept), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Fernando Barreto, (Aide to Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, District 4), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS), Joe Deviney (Marin County Ag Commissioner), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (SGVCC), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Kirsten Beckwith (Community volunteer), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood), Randi Black (UCCE Sonoma Dairy Advisor), Rhea Brown (Commission on Aging), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Scott Wise (Marin County Ag Dept), Will Ditmar (ExtraFood), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Julia: **October MFPC 15 meeting will be in-person with NO HYBRID option**
  - **CAM Central Kitchen** (Location: 4308 Redwood Highway #100, San Rafael) @ 2pm
  - **Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden** (Location: 251 N. San Pedro Rd. Suite D, San Rafael) @ 3pm

### **Marin County Disaster Feeding Plan** (Will Ditmar, ExtraFood)

- Executive Summary, Feeding Work Group, and [survey](#)
- 2023 Multi Agency Disaster Feeding Plan to guide feeding operations during times of disaster
  - Feeding Work Group of nonprofits and govt partners tasked with formulating and working with County to make sure the overall plan is sound
  - Make sure identify gaps in coverage
  - Executive summary to be sent with meeting notes
- Feeding Work Group surveying partners across the county to assess capacity
  - Analyze Marin County's ability to respond in times of emergency - what are agencies actually capable of doing
  - ONE [survey](#) per organization

### **Marin County Agriculture Update** (Joe Deviney, Marin County Ag Commissioner, and Allison Klein, Marin County Dept of AWM Inspector)

- [2023 Marin County Crop Report](#): mandated by national ag statistics service
- Crop report highlights: Marin Carbon Project
- Main crop is animal livestock, due to climate and topography
- Drought stress on ag: don't have grass, can't afford supplemental feed, thin out herds
- Labor shortage - hard to get help
- Gross value of Marin ag decreased from 2022 to 2023 by 9%, livestock products decreased by 30%, fruit/vegetable crops decreased by 5%, and field crops (hay, silage, pasture, etc) increased by 127%
- 2020 Marin had a record high for the 6 years prior, and since 2020 the total value has been steadily declining across all products total; on farm changes being made in response to a constellation of issues including climate and demand changes
- Historic high of price per head of cattle
- See all of Marin County's crop and livestock reports since 1935:  
<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/ag/crop-reports>

### **Measure J Educational Presentation and Discussion** (Randi Black, UCCE Dairy Advisor)

- Educational presentation of facts, not advocacy
- For more information, see: Yes on Measure J at <https://www.endfactoryfarming.vote/> and No on Measure J at <https://www.noonmeasurej.com/>
- Measure J overview: goal to prohibit concentrated animal feeding operations by setting a limit on the number of animals confined in one facility
- Measure J language:
  - Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) has to be an operation where animals are stable or confined for 45 days or more in a 12 month period.
  - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) defined by numbers. Some facilities in Sonoma County could meet the medium size CAFO designation.
  - Aggregation: 2+ lots/facilities that collectively meet the definition and are on adjoining facilities or share a waste disposal system.

- Measure J schedule: if it passes, they have 3 years to phase out using best management practices developed in collaboration with CA based humane society or CA based society for prevention of cruelty to animals. After this phase, violations and fees occur are daily. Worker retraining program to train employees in phase out period
- Measure J economic impact:
  - Total affected farms: 31% that meet the medium and large CAFOs (dairy and poultry in Sonoma) and 32% of milking cows in Sonoma. 8 dairies in Sonoma would be impacted. CAFO is a federal definition so unlikely to be changed.
  - Estimate 80+ businesses would be impacted (mostly farm supply)
  - Chico State economic impact statement assuming animal agriculture leaves Sonoma County given that it couldn't sustain if it lost 30%: 701 jobs lost, 469 more from accessory businesses, 211 more jobs lost from loss of spending due to previous jobs lost = total impact of 1,381 jobs lost and \$225,069,000 lost. This info can be found on the May 14 BOS meeting (last agenda item).
  - If we remove 30% of our food system, it will be immediately replaced by food from other (not local) sources.
  - This ballot is a pilot, with the hope to pass this in other counties (potentially Marin next). Plan to eliminate animal agriculture from the country.
- Questions: email Randi Black at [rblack@ucanr.edu](mailto:rblack@ucanr.edu)
- Possible implications for Marin if Measure J passes in Sonoma?
  - Animal ag system is across the county, one food supply system. 50 dairies in Sonoma and 18 in Marin. If lose 30% in Sonoma, it's the same vets and services who serve Sonoma as Marin, services could increase in cots, etc.
- Discussion questions:
  - Has your organization signed on for or against Measure J?
    - AIM's Board voted to have AIM join No on J. Blog post from AIM's website <https://www.agriculturalinstitute.org/blog/agricultural-institute-of-marin-opp-oses-sonoma-county-measure-j>
    - CCOF: <https://www.ccof.org/news/sustainable-agriculture-local-food-environment-al-groups-oppose-measure-j/>

## Policy Updates

- CFFN meeting presentation on Prop 4 climate bond - exciting win for agriculture is that advocates working on creating an agriculture bond were able to negotiate funding into the climate bond. Vote on Prop 4 in November.

## Council Business (Liana Orlandi)

- **Steering Committee Nominations:** recruiting for new 1-3 members. Welcome self nominations or nominating others.
- **Tuesday, October 15 in-person MFPC meeting at CAM Central Kitchen & CAM Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden:**
  - **TOUR: CAM Central Kitchen \*optional\* @ 2 - 2:45pm**



- Location:** 4308 Redwood Highway #100, San Rafael
- **MFPC Meeting at the CAM Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden @ 3 - 4pm**  
**Location:** 251 N. San Pedro Rd. Suite D, San Rafael
- **TOUR: Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden @ 4 - 4:30pm**  
**Location:** 251 N. San Pedro Rd. Suite D, San Rafael

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be in-person with no hybrid option on Tuesday, October 15 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

- **TOUR: CAM Central Kitchen \*optional\* @ 2 - 2:45pm**  
Location: 4308 Redwood Highway #100, San Rafael
- **MFPC Meeting at the CAM Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden @ 3 - 4pm**  
Location: 251 N. San Pedro Rd. Suite D, San Rafael
- **TOUR: Old Gallinas Children's Center Garden @ 4 - 4:30pm**  
Location: 251 N. San Pedro Rd. Suite D, San Rafael

## August 2024

### **8/20/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden), Bayley Bauer (Children for Change), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (Marin County Nutrition Wellness Program), Fernando Barreto, (District 4 BOS), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS), Joe Deviney (Marin Dept of Ag Weights and Measures, [Joseph.deviney@marinCounty.gov](mailto:Joseph.deviney@marinCounty.gov)), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), June Farmer (Marin City Golden Gate Village Residents Council), Kelly Smith (ACE Community Events Farmers Markets), Kevin Wright (Marin County Parks), Kirsten Beckwith (Community Volunteer, [ksbeckwith@icloud.com](mailto:ksbeckwith@icloud.com)), Lara Rajninger (Kids Cooking For Life [lara@kidscookingforlife.org](mailto:lara@kidscookingforlife.org)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Madeline Nieto-Hope (West Marin Community Services), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Michael Delafield (ExtraFood, [Michael@extrafood.org](mailto:Michael@extrafood.org)), Rhea Brown (Commission on Aging), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Sonya Hammonds (Marin County Parks), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Conscious Kitchen and Innovative Health Solutions)

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

FARE grant recipients (focused on food and ag projects) participating in today's meeting:

- Liana: AIM received FARE grant to work on Incubator program - booth space at markets for beginning entrepreneurs, also technical support
- Julia: grant to work with coordinating community and school gardens around resource sharing and access to free resources, building networks and communication

- June: Marin City Golden Gate Village Residents Council: grant to hold educational classes in the garden, renovate the garden
- Wendy: school garden work at Lagunitas; and another assessing school food across the county
- Steve: grant to look at list of properties owned by faith groups that could be farmed; also working with Buddhist Enlightenment Center in Novato on Community garden and farm lease to veggie farmer

### **FARE Grantees and Projects** (Sonya Hammons and Kevin Wright, Marin County Parks)

\*presentation\*

- **Background and context:** FARE = Food, Agriculture, and Resilient Ecosystems
  - New funding program created by voters in June 2022 using sales tax dollars (Measure A)
  - 80% funds parks and open space, 20% supports sustainable ag originally, in 2022 public wanted more funding towards sustainable ag. Of the 20% sus ag funds, 30% to FARE grants. Local food supply sustainability, farmland access for underserved communities, community gardens, etc.
- **Full list of FARE grantees:** <https://www.parks.marincounty.org/about-us/fare-grants>
- **How this program started:**
  - Community engagement Sept 2022 - Sept 2023, applicant support Oct - Dec 2023, applicant follow-ups Jan - Mar 2024, grant agreements finalized Apr - June 2024
  - 200+ workshop participants at 20 workshops
  - 96% applicants requested and received tech assistance
  - 4 of 5 county districts host recipients
  - \$1.58 million available to award; 47 eligible applications received totaling \$7.5 million in requests!
  - Areas of applications: food access, comm/school gardens, food entrepreneurs, regenerative ag, education focused, access to farming opportunities
- **How the first year of grantmaking went:**
  - Staff questions, applicant calls, site visits, technical review by subject matter experts
  - Priority communities: we invited applicants to describe how their project would address inequities. Applicants could describe what kinds of inequities their work would address.
  - Stressed the importance of spreading the money around - range of both topics as well as geographies
  - Fill gaps in funding; for this funding source to provide opportunities where other funding sources weren't available
  - Working with a wide range of applicants, some haven't had funding opportunities before, so spending time discussing logistics, permitting, etc. Lessons learned, should be able to move more efficiently next time, but still will be a lot of education involved in the process.

- **Grant examples:**
  - Adubon Canyon Ranch: working on planning phases of prescribed fire on Marin ag land. Model that has been working successfully in Sonoma, met gap in funding selection criteria
  - Next Generation Scholars in San Rafael, serves SR, Novato, and beyond: reactivate garden space and look at a new model - offer stipend support for families interested in leading garden program. Food produced will go to Next Gen Scholars families.
  - MCOE: looking at 17 Marin school districts to explore more scratch cooked and local food into schools (working with Conscious Kitchen).
- **Next:**
  - Learning network for grantees and beyond
  - Grant rounds will take place multiple times over the next 8-10 years, but not on a fixed/annual cycle. Next round timing is currently unclear; depends on feedback
- **Questions to inform the next steps of the program:** email input to [Sonya.Hammons@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Sonya.Hammons@MarinCounty.gov) or [Kevin.Wright@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Kevin.Wright@MarinCounty.gov)
  - **Would it be valuable to have a food systems strategic plan and action plan in place for the FARE grant to then prioritize based on that plan?**
    - Yes, it would be helpful.. Also there are so many planning docs out there already, how to cull through?
  - **What do you think about open call application verses focusing on specific topics?**
  - **Should there be a focus on smaller grants (\$5-15k rather than over \$100k)?**
    - Think that grants of larger amounts can have a bigger impact, and thus is important. Ability of people to talk about what is going on with the grants will increase understanding of projects and help drive where the next batch comes from.
    - So much interest in school gardens, could there be a giant grant that's county-wide? Share that perspective as part of MCOE grant at a public meeting input session or advisory group.
    - Smaller amounts as the process gets more streamlined? Want to be efficient and not waste resources. Come to a MEasure A Oversight Meeting and talk to the auditors!
    - Would you consider collaborative grants in the future? Help smaller orgs without grant-writing capacity?
- **To join FARE email list** send a quick note to [FAREgrant@marincounty.org](mailto:FAREgrant@marincounty.org) - we share info about this grant program, as well as other news related to food, agriculture, and grants
- **Any grantees/orgs/work they think MFPC should be aware of?** Will reflect. How can FARE work to convene in a way that new relationships are made?
- **What MFPC should watch out for:**
  - Mcoe grant public input sessions to suggest and implement next steps (could relate to policy)

- Countywide food systems plan interest
- Seat on the FARE Oversight Committee? Mainly doing audits... or Parks Commission (makes final decisions on grants)

## Policy Updates (All)

### ● Federal:

- Full CNIP Market Match funding was restored (\$33 million back in the budget!)
- CDFA just released call for applications for CNIP program, deadline Oct 11: [https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/cnip.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/cnip.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
- Some reduction in the Senior farmers market program
- Invitation for Bids for food vendors for congregate meal and home delivered programs, deadline Monday Aug 26 (for anyone who is able to meet nutrition and food safety requirements of the program). The Congregate Meal Production IFB: <https://www.marinhhs.org/rfp/2024-18> and The Home-Delivered Meal Production IFB: <https://www.marinhhs.org/rfp/2024-19>.

### ● Local:

- Measure J in Sonoma County, with implications for Marin, on the November ballot. Local initiative to ban factory farming in Sonoma (federal definition with impacts on animal operations in Sonoma and Marin). Would impact local food supply in a meaningful way. Likely to start in Sonoma and keep going (to Marin). MFPC interested to learn more or are we informed enough already? First time there is unity within the ag community (small farms, larger operations, organic, etc, as well as Farm Bureau, CAFF, CCOF, and other Ag orgs). **Interest to learn more on a future agenda item.** Please suggest orgs you would like to hear from!
- <https://www.noonmeasurej.com/> (No on J) and <https://www.endfactoryfarming.vote/> (YEs on J)

## Council Business (Liana Orlandi)

- Steering Committee Nominations: Monica with ExtraFood has served her Steering Committee term. Invite folks to self nominate or nominate other members. Looking for 2-4 additional Steering Committee members. Meets the Thursday after MFPC meetings @ 11am for ~1 hour to plan agendas, invite speakers, make time sensitive decisions, etc. Can move the time or length of this meeting for accessibility. Require: MFPC member in good standing. Will vote on the full slate of SC members this fall.
- Save the Date for an **In-Person Meeting Tuesday, October 15th**. Location: CAM San Rafael kitchen and office.

Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be **virtual** via Zoom on Tuesday, September 17 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# July 2024

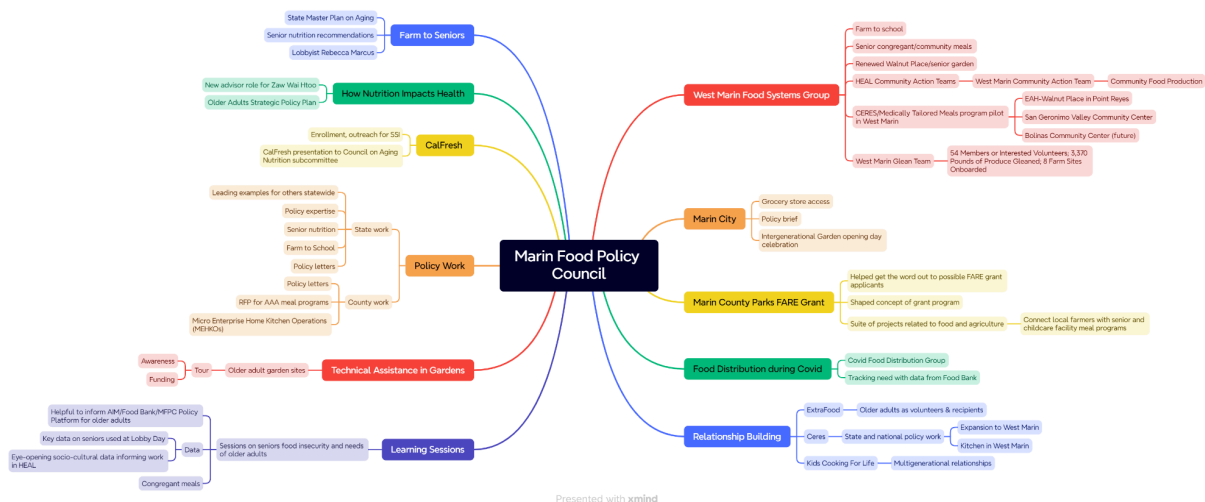
## 7/16/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Amy Dietz (Marin Area Agency on Aging), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Cat Woods-Williams (Marin Area Agency on Aging, [Catherine.WoodsWilliams@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Catherine.WoodsWilliams@MarinCounty.gov)), Darien Malekos (AIM), Fernando Barreto, (District 4 BOS), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin County AAA), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (SGVCC), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin, North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Lisa Bellini (AHA), Michael (ExtraFood), Rhea Brown (Commission on Aging), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems)

## Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)

## Ripple Effect Mapping Exercise Reflection (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Reflect on our collective work supporting older adult nutrition in Marin
- Participatory evaluation method to reflect on MFPC accomplishments



## What is most interesting to you?

- Farm to seniors looks like a small bucket, but it is woven into many of the buckets on the map
- Left side of the map stacked with more topics with relevance to older adults work
- To add:
  - 4 food banks in Marin City
  - Brown bag distribution to older adults who have signed up for delivery by Senior Center in Marin City.
  - Brown bag distribution to older adults also in San Geronimo by SGVCC
  - Bolinas Feed the People meals used by seniors

- West Marin Senior Services provides home - delivered meals directly to seniors 60 years and older in WM who are nutritionally at risk or homebound
- **If you have more to add, email Bonnie: [banielsen@ucanr.edu](mailto:banielsen@ucanr.edu)**

### What themes stand out to you most?

- Relationship building and the subtopics within, how they connect to all other buckets; great to see the cross-pollination - make the theme pop more on the map?
- Marin City and West Marin are featured predominantly, but Canal and Novato aren't - gap in the map and in MFPC membership (**please invite contacts from those areas to join MFPC!**)

### Updated version from today's meeting:



### Reflections & Discussion on Policy Platform

- MFPC Policy Platform: highest level policy objectives/themes that MFPC has worked on together, is well versed in, and wants to further work in
- Working on similar document for local issues - Local Policy Platform - over the last 1.5 years (AIM, SF-Marin Food Bank, UCCE Marin, and MFPC)
  - Internal purpose: we are ready to take actions easily, and external purpose: tells others what MFPC works on. Hope to have more impact as a council by naming these focal issues.
- Some sections are signed off on, some sections could still use a review
- Addition that MFPC strives to be an anti-racist group
- Existing thematic buckets: Food Assistance Programs, Climate Change
- **New thematic buckets: Racial Equity and Food Justice and Small Scale Food Businesses**
  - **Racial Equity and Food Justice:** helpful to hear from the communities where people are affected, invite them to join MFPC meetings and the council. 1) Add

the objective of engagement with communities of color, and 2) Bring draft to BIPOC communities for feedback

- **Small Scale Food Businesses:** helping to ensure that our priority communities are informed when there are policy changes that might benefit them? Be more explicit about accessibility (ie language barrier)?

### **Policy Updates (All)**

- **State**

- Market Match and CNIP funding updates: state has reinstated funding for market match (\$35 million budget piece is back in the budget)

### **Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Funding Update for 2024-2025, 2025-2026: County approved MFPC funding through UCCE Marin office. Two years funding is luxurious (MFPC has until now been running on one year at a time of funding)! AIM also received 3 years of funding for policy work, can put towards MFPC
- Steering Committee updates: Monica served her full 1 year term on the Steering Committee and is now stepping down, so there is space for 1-2 new members
  - 1 year term with renewal allowed, may self nominate or nominate others
  - Duties: participate in MFPC meetings and monthly SC meetings to set agendas
  - Make decisions on behalf of MFPC when needed
  - Represent MFPC in other collaboratives, BOS, and the public
  - Proactively ID And recruit stakeholders, especially in priority communities to broaden engagement with diverse individuals and communities
  - Assist in organizing speakers, panelists, logistics, and presentations
  - Assist with ID of funding opportunities
  - Assist with ID of annual themes to be agreed upon by the full council each year
  - Will bring the topic back next month
  - **Welcome to email offline: Cat, Lisa interested to follow up via email**

**Meeting closed at 4:08 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be **virtual** via Zoom on Tuesday, August 20 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## **June 2024**

### **6/18/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Amy Dietz (Marin Area Agency on Aging), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Cat Woods-Williams (Marin Area Agency on Aging), Daeja Tillis (Marin county nutrition wellness program), Jesica Rodriguez (HHS Nutrition Program), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin, North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership), Lara



*Rajninger (Kids Cooking for Life), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Rhea Brown (Commission on Aging), Sonya Hammonds (Marin County Parks), Susan Clark (Common Knowledge), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions & Conscious Kitchen), Zaw Wai (UCCE Marin)*

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Food provided by Alexis Haynes of Fully'z VeSoul Cafe
- Sonya: Opening celebration for Marin City Intergenerational Garden is Saturday June 29

### **Ripple Effect Mapping Exercise** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

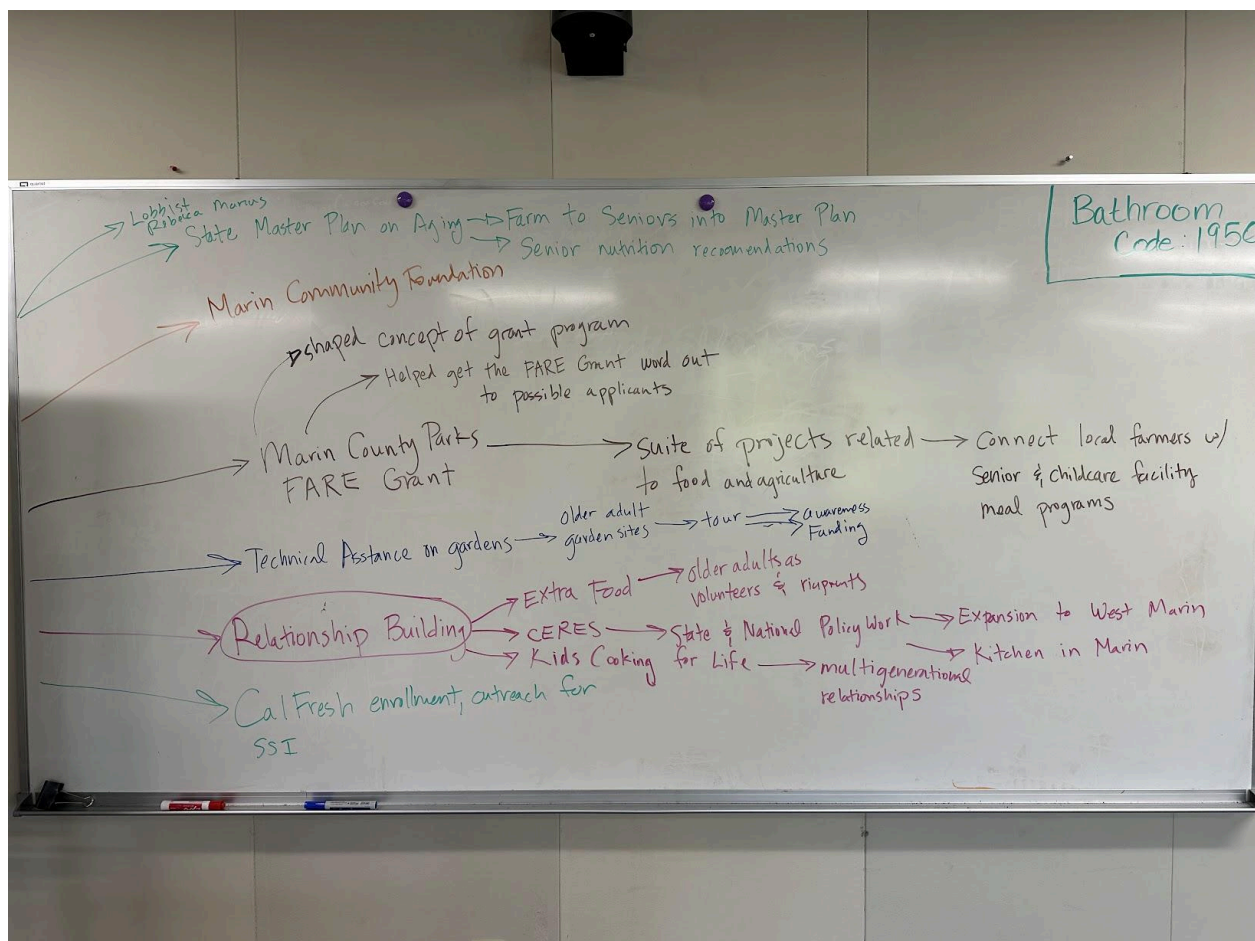
- Reflect on our collective work supporting older adult nutrition in Marin
- Participatory evaluation method to identify what's working well in a collaborative effort, and to visually document impacts of a group effort
- **4 core elements in Ripple Effects Mapping:**
  1. **Appreciative Inquiry:** participants interview each other in a process that inquires into, identifies, and further develops the best of what is in organizations in order to create a better future
  2. **A Participatory Approach:** integrates program stakeholders actively in the evaluation process
  3. **Interactive Group Interviewing and Reflection:** helps generate new knowledge regarding the kind and extent of program impact
  4. **Radiant Thinking (Mind Mapping):** allows participants to use data visualization to inform their judgments during the data collection process and gives participants who are visual learners an opportunity to view both the big picture and specific details simultaneously
- Peer-to-Peer Share on Zoom and in the room
- Group share out of interviews
  - Reba Meigs, Rhonda Kutter, and Susan Clark: food systems in West Marin, farm to school huge traction in the last year and a half. Importance of the work the team has done to help encourage a grocery store in Marin City so quality food is available without transportation issues. Connecting county work to statewide policy, including: Steve's work with senior nutrition and Lori's work with farm to school. Helped set up a framework for food distribution tracking during Covid and tracked and disseminated data to others in the network, and other emergency response conversations. Having our farm to senior and senior nutrition recommendations added to the state Master Plan on Aging at the state level. MEHKOs being supported in MFPC meetings (via learning panels and supporting food entrepreneurs) and beyond.
  - Wendy Tobiasson and Amy Dietz: Amy Dietz has presented @ older adult food insecurity (Needs Assessment data) at a MFPC learning session with good attendance and resulting networking. Marin Area Agency on Aging releasing request for proposals (including intergenerational activities). Perhaps a basic datasheet of stats on older adults in Marin. ExtraFood serves lots of people not

only with food but also with volunteer opportunities (for older adults and others). Relationship building in MFPC meetings is a highlight and important feature. Expansion of Ceres in West Marin was a specific gain for seniors, plus other Ceres work.

- Liana Orlandi, Sonya Hammonds, and Rhea Brown: Needs Assessment data shared at Lobby Day in Sacramento. Hearing others' work reinforces that we aren't working alone. Value of the presentation from Jeanne Merrill highlighted work going on and identifying gaps in CalFresh coverage, which informed thinking of how to elevate education and program implementation to fill these gaps. Improving CalFresh enrollment and outreach for SSI. Expanding garden sites throughout the county, focus on older adult sites. Opening celebration for Marin City Intergenerational Garden is Saturday June 29 (received technical assistance from the council and the HEAL collaborative). MFPC was an important group for shaping the concept of the FARE group, and helped share the work with other organizations. Marin Community Foundation has been a funder of MFPC for 6 years. One recommended FARE project is to connect local farmers with providers of free childcare meals and senior congregate meals (CAM).
- Jesica Rodriguez, Karina Lundhal, and Marchon Tatmon: this year there's been 2 learning sessions on older adults needs, panels were informative in helping the SF-Marin food bank identify which policy platform they want to focus on in terms of supporting older adults (first time focus for Marin). SF-Marin food bank has brought policy action to MFPC multiple times, as well as has policy expertise. Policy document MFPC created was shared at statewide meeting and other food policy councils used it as a template and followed the example, as well as allowed for the identification of overlap across the state. Learning sessions were very informative, including stats, datapoints, and needs around the aging population in Marin (example of social value of food for older adults and the socio-cultural factors around dietary needs). Mixed age cooking classes with Kids Cooking For Life, benefits both sides for youth and older adults to interact around food.
- Cat Williams and Zaw Wai Htoo: Zaw Wai working in a new UCCE advisor role on how nutrition impacts health.
- Key themes:
  - How nutrition impacts health
  - Importance of data
  - Relationship building and importance of connections
  - Food insecurity
  - Policy work
- Next Steps
  - Move info to a virtual version
  - Follow-up interviews with longstanding members and collaborators to capture their ripples and integrate into the virtual version

- Steering Committee will take a first pass at highlighting primary, secondary, and tertiary ripples
  - Share these with the council and with MCF





### Policy Updates (Liana Orlandi)

- Market Match and CNIP funding update: nutrition incentive program that funds market match dollars (\$35million) had been cut in the governor's budget, has been reinstated in the legislators' budget - great news! Now waiting to see what the governor decides, but it's optimistic. Legislators are negotiating right now with the governor, should know by the end of this week.

### Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Funding Update for 2024-2025, 2025-2026: this is the last of six years MFPC is funded by MCF; Council very likely to be funded by Marin County for two years

Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be **virtual** via Zoom on Tuesday, July 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## May 2024

**5/21/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Andy Naja-Riese (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Autumn Johns (Ceres), Bayley Bauer (Children for Change), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (Marin county nutrition wellness program), Darien Malekos (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Ida Green (Marin HHS, social services), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (San Geronimo Valley Community Center), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin, North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership), Kelly Smith (Agricultural Community Events Farmers Markets), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Masako Watanabe (guest), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Sousiva Ing (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Suzi Grady (Petaluma Bounty), Zaw Wai (UCCE Marin)

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Julia: JOB OPPORTUNITY: Community Action Marin, Director of Food and Climate Justice:  
<https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs/ViewJobDetails?job=103154&clientkey=B05B3766D8C2D49D5E292F051AAE7D83>
- Darien: AIM's Downtown San Rafael Summer Market has officially started! Every Thursday evening, 5:30-8:30PM on Fourth St. between A St. and Loutens
- Bayley Bauer with Children for Change: youth advocacy in Marin, works with schools  
[Bayleybauer@gmail.com](mailto:Bayleybauer@gmail.com)
- Ida: had the wonderful opportunity to view the screening of Rhythms of the Land thanks to HHS Nutrition (thanks Elaini). It's truly worth viewing and sharing.  
<https://www.rhythmsoftheland.com/>

### **Farmers Market Nutrition Incentive Panel for CalFresh Awareness Month** (Liana Orlandi)

- May is CalFresh Awareness Month, hence today's meeting is focusing on nutrition incentives; program strengths, challenges, current status, and policy needs
- **Kelly Smith, Agricultural Community Events Farmers Markets Executive Director and market manager.** 3 markets in Marin and 7 in Sonoma. Some private funders will fund only certain markets, which makes competition for market organizers, working to make the process more inclusive and less competitive.
  - Policy barriers to the work: electronic version of WIC does have benefits, but will leave behind customers who aren't as tech savvy, don't use smartphones, etc. Concern of not having enough senior checks for everyone. Expensive database is only in English, not multilingual.
- **Suzi Grady, Petaluma Bounty.** Farm based community food security projects. Comm gardens, food recovery, emergency food response, work with farmers markets on nutrition incentives. Third party operator, supporting 15-18 farmers markets across the county. Work connects to CalFresh/EBT, market match, WIC, senior farmers market nutrition program, and have initiated a few locally funded initiatives (Meat Dairy and Eggs incentive, produce prescriptions, and senior bounty box program). EBT and market match relies on the Ecology Center working at the state level on CNIP (CA Nutrition Incentive Program) and Farm to Fork through CDFA. Senior bounty bucks are funded through an additional grant last year, but the Meat Dairy and Eggs is funded through

one-time Sonoma County funding for local farmers. Produce RX has been funded by healthcare in the past. Always identifying new funding sources and repackaging the program to tailor to new funders.

- Policy barriers to the work: there was a lack of equitable access to pilot the WIC electronic rollout - thus only some farmers have the WIC machines. There's a push for farmers markets to move toward each vendor having machines that accept WIC, EBT, credit cards, and other payments. CA through the dept of social services has paid a contract for machines for small scale farmers and markets... seems this contract is phasing out now, unclear what CDSS (CA Department of Social Services) is going to do regarding the cost of using these machines and if the cost will be passed on to farmers. Availability of information varies county to county, and no willingness to discuss equitable distribution of checks. Shift to electronic includes CDFA increasing the regulatory burden on the producer; will push out farmers with less access to resources, literacy, documentation status, immigration status, etc.
- **Darien Malekos, Agricultural Institute of Marin market manager of Sunday SR civic center farmers market.** Work connects to CalFresh/EBT, WIC, and senior farmers market nutrition incentives. Also EatSF in SF farmers markets (vouchers for veggies) and work with Fresh Approach in Contra Costa that provides veggie RX nutrition vouchers for folks in hospital.
  - Policy barriers to the work: WIC used to be available in checks and now is debit card - each producer needs their own device to accept these cards (as opposed to the market accept EBT cards) - vendors don't necessarily have the WIC machines. Also, both WIC benefits and senior market nutrition benefits need farmers to be WIC authorized = more confusion. Language barrier compounds this issue - hard to explain to shoppers that only some producers accept WIC. Also it is confusing that different markets allow different matches, and hard to explain with a language barrier. Currently AIM can match up to \$15, but other market orgs give different amounts (ie: Napa market has no limit). Certain counties are transferring the certified producer system to an online system that has hiccups. Switching to electronic is hindering people more than helping.
- **Andy Naja-Riese, Agricultural Institute of Marin CEO.** The Rollin' Root is now offering unlimited match. We'll provide 50% off purchases of fruits and vegetables for CalFresh cardholders at the mobile farmers market.
  - Policy barriers to the work: echoes the WIC and senior nutrition program concerns - anticipate the switch from paper vouchers to electronic systems will lower redemption rates (same happened with EBT). When SNAP went to EBT (in 2008?) markets saw a decline in EBT use at markets. Bonus Bucks will also be electronic in the future. Two different agencies have different policies and practices rolling out on different timelines, very complicated for farmers, participants, and shoppers. State is planning to increase fees more to support the electronic database, and whenever fees go up, farmers drop off. Someone who is

not a citizen applied for a certified producer certificate, and it was a success (situation where a farm business was transferred to non-citizen farmworker).

- State-level policy update: challenging year at the state level regarding policy, MFPC could make a difference in protecting market match because Senator McGuire is in a key role - MFPC could have a focused effort to prioritize market match with Sen McGuire. Currently CA Nutrition Incentive Program funds market match (since 2007). SF Assemblymember Teng has supported CNIP and market match. Last year's budget \$35 million was secured in one-time funding to secure market match and enable CA to apply for federal funding. This year Governor Newsom included only \$1.8 million instead of the \$35 million in funding. Federal funding wasn't applied for due to this cut. **See Save Market Match for more information** <https://savemarketmatch.org/>. Since then a state coalition has been working to reject the governor's cuts so CNIP market match program can continue. As of now, there is a contract in place until December 31, 2024, thinking of ways to stretch funding (match will drop from \$15 to \$10) to stretch funding through August 2025. Advocating for budget leaders to obtain additional funding, trying for \$15 million sufficient to continue the program and allow application for federal cost-share program. Lots of support from the Assembly (including members Rivas and Connolly), but need more support from the Senate (including Senators McGuire and Weiner). \$15 million one time budget bill with the condition that CNIP will fund the program permanently going forward. Encourage MFPC coordinated approach with Sen McGuire. Also social media, petitions, etc. Another program introduced in CA: fruit and veg supplemental benefits (\$60 on EBT cards for farmers markets) but it's young, poorly designed, limited in scope, and allows for produce grown anywhere in the world. Unfortunately these two programs are getting pitted against each other in the legislature. Also attempts for the CalFresh minimum benefit to be raised to \$50/month. **Here's a social media toolkit about the Governor's May Revise budget:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCYchMP2Pt0ljUwgrn7xGfFo-hiXgfcQNbhjgmmMtunQ/edit>

- What is the unique strategy for MFPC?
  - Communication strategy for working with Sen McGuire. **Thus far MFPC has written LOS for the cuts to be reinstated, and worked with County legislative dept to have County BOS provide a letter. Can take these two steps again.** Welcome thoughts of ideas of how to reach out to McGuire. Perhaps invite McGuire to a market to see market match in action to see how vital the program is? Tie in how the programs help support children - nutrition as well as community experience (only two aspects of the budget that didn't get cut are two supporting children).
  - **Organize a policy tour for representatives to help understand the importance of nutrition incentives programs.** Petaluma Bounty worked with NorCal Center for Wellbeing to give tours of farmers markets. Impactful engaging



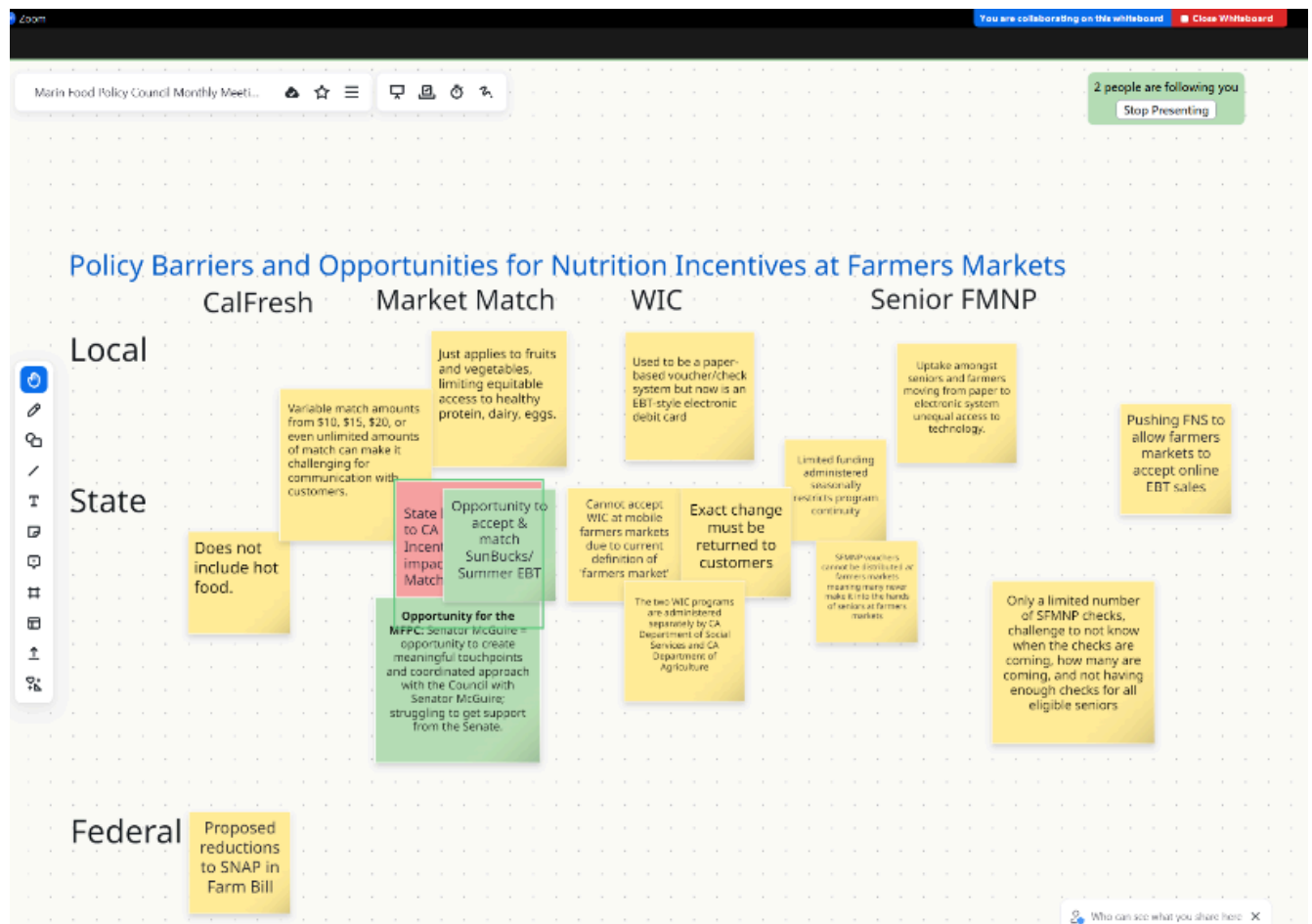
with social service providers to help them learn about the process. Could leverage this model and process to invite elected officials so they understand the programs and their impacts. Hoping to schedule this type of tour soon.

- Variable match amounts are dependant on different organizations receiving different grant amounts of funding
- AB 2786 Mobile Farmers Markets (Mobile WIC)
  - Barrier: cannot redeem WIC farmers market nutrition program benefits largely because there isn't a definition of mobile farmers markets in state code. Written a bill, unanimous support every step of the way: 57 votes yes on the Assembly floor voted just today! Now the bill heads to the Senate. Goal is for the bill to be written into law so mobile farmers markets can accept WIC And senior market nutrition incentives. Help serve communities that lack access to farmers markets or have transportation barriers.
  - Will online sales be allowed at farmers markets? No, foresee that needing its own advocacy push. Look to the new Farm Bill proposed in the House. Our food systems are changing, and it's important we advocate based on the needs of our farmers and communities.

## **Policy Updates (All)**

- **Federal**

- Potential cuts to SNAP in Farm Bill: Democrats and Republicans are butting heads. Senate (Dem head) is proposing to strengthen SNAP over time; whereas the House is proposing cost-neutral reevaluations which will prevent USDA to make much needed updates to account for cost of living etc, which leads to SNAP cuts. This would cut SNAP benefits by \$30 million over the next few years by not accounting for inflation, cost of living, etc. Californians will bear the brunt of the cuts, up to \$6.4 billion in economic activity in the food sector across the state. SNAP covers about \$6 per person per day - not much! And proposed cuts will hurt this even more. Also creating ways to cut the program which will make it harder for people to see what's going on. The Farm Bill should have been authorized a year ago - we are late, past the original deadline, so talks right now are serious! Also proposing cuts to Sun Bucks = Summer EBT food benefits for low-income school age children and TEFAP = Emergency Food Assistance Program for food banks. Should use our effort to reach out to Republicans (Democrats will more likely already be supportive).



### Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Funding Updates: MFPC funding ends at the end of June, our request to BOS for 2 years of funding is looking good but we don't know for sure - BOS delayed their decision to wait for the Governor to release the state budget. May be a funding gap in July but we won't stop meeting, will figure it out if we get there.
- **Next Meeting will be in-person/hybrid on June 18th at the UCCE Marin Office - Suite 201 at 1682 Novato Boulevard, Novato**
  - **Meeting focus:** coming to the end of many years of funding from MCF to focus on food security needs of older adults, and will take the opportunity to reflect on MFPC work over the last few years around senior nutrition - and other work. Collaborative evaluation called ripple effect mapping around the direct impacts as well as secondary and tertiary to communicate the story of MFPC impacts over time as a collaborative. The map we will create is only going to be good if enough long standing members are in the room to contribute; also a great opportunity for newer members to get a sense of what the Council is about.

Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be **hybrid: IN-PERSON with option to join virtually** via Zoom on Tuesday, June 18 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## April 2024

### **3/19/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Cruz Avila (Alcohol Justice Executive Director), Gary Besser (Strategic Projects Manager, County of Marin), Jenna Ray (Marin County Aging & Adult Services/Area Agency on Aging), Jessica Rodriguez (HEAL Collaborative & Nutrition Wellness Program, HHS), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Raissa de la Rosa (Economic Vitality Coordinator, County of Marin), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Sonya Hammonds (Marin County Parks)

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Julia: In-person meeting of North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership in Hopland, Mendocino County on May 15, email Julia with questions or interest
- Marchon: SF-Marin Food Bank just released [2024 Policy Agenda](#)

### **Marin County Race Equity Action Plan** (REAP) - **Implementation Strategy** (Gary Besser, Strategic Projects Manager, County of Marin) \*[presentation](#)\*

- Updates regarding micro food business
- County is doing a great job aligning multiple initiatives to the same end goals, of more equitable outcomes in Marin
- \$1.7million (from ARPA, American Rescue Plan) towards equitable outcomes in our County. Committee of individuals across Marin with focus on Marin City, Canal, West Marin, and Novato
  - Three areas of focus: economic opportunity, mental health services, and housing
  - Marin is third most racially inequitable county in CA
  - Score less than 70 are usually communities of color
- Highlights of economic opportunity: implementation of \$18/hr minimum wage by 2025 with wage pacing going forward, AND establish county-wide support program for low income micro businesses and support centers to help these businesses access customer base (Civic Center and other locations)
  - Design and implement micro enterprise support program, develop county-wide support for BIPOC entrepreneurs and immigrant entrepreneurs. Also looking for a county site for a no or low cost commercial kitchen as well as low cost vending space.

- BOS accepted recommendations on Race Equity Action Plan, now hosting listening forums (April and May) to hear from community members and service community to help inform what a support system should look like, this will inform RFP and Scope of Work with a local non-profit provider. Goal to release RFP by July/Aug 2024. 2025 Support Coordinator in place with funds allocated.
- Assist unpermitted vendors to become permitted and licensed (same for landscaping and other businesses).
- Contact with any questions: Gary Besser. Marin Office of the County Executive.  
[gary.besser@marincounty.gov](mailto:gary.besser@marincounty.gov)

**Marin County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan** (EVSP) - Raissa de la Rosa, Economic Vitality Coordinator, County of Marin

- Developed in 2021, led by Marin Economic Forum, approved and adapted by BOS in Aug 2022, Raissa hired in Dec 2023.
- Meant to be a collaborative partner-based plan.
- EVSP is business focused, doesn't take into account health equity as much as REAP; both conceived and developed during the pandemic (when existing disparities were made worse)
- Create a more dynamic economy with access to jobs, to serve the goal of high quality of life for all Marin residents, focusing on affordable quality housing, economic opportunities, educational opportunities.
- Contact with any questions: Raissa de la Rosa, County of Marin Economic Vitality Coordinator - [Raissa.delarosa@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Raissa.delarosa@MarinCounty.gov)

**Questions & Discussion**

- Feasibility study on using Civic Center cafeteria as commercial kitchen space, if cannot happen, will be looking for a centrally located space. Also considering the Dance Palace in Pt Reyes, other spaces in San Rafael
- Need to enable street vending and people doing entrepreneurial activities within the urban environment, working closely with CDA
- Don't currently have the budget for stipends for entrepreneurs working with them; one idea behind commercial kitchen came from La Cocina in SF (operate commercial kitchen for women from immigrant communities with cafeteria & vending space) - want to reproduce this model.
- Having conversations with SBDC around opportunities for free to low cost bilingual business development classes.
- Stipends for travel to forums? Or Zoom option so access to all to join?
- Possible to use public school kitchens? Such as MLK Jr. Academy kitchen? Could provide long term food storage? Or churches or Community centers? Yes, conversations around school kitchens \$566,000 dedicated to this, of this about half is dedicated to funding the support position, leaving \$316,000 for setting up infrastructure for the micro businesses looking to support. Lots of coordination work to be done county-wide. Looking to begin with a model that can later be replicated.

- Opportunity for MFPC to contribute? Would love to see members at workshops/forums (first week of May and middle of May, email invite to follow) - looking to leverage the expertise of non-profits, business community, and individuals (food is just one component of the businesses looking to support, but an important one). Always interested to hear issues that come up that gov't might be able to address; ideas are always welcome. Raissa de la Rosa, County of Marin Economic Vitality Coordinator - [Raissa.delarosa@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Raissa.delarosa@MarinCounty.gov) and Gary Besser. Marin Office of the County Executive - [gary.besser@marincounty.gov](mailto:gary.besser@marincounty.gov).
- Are they aware of any policy barriers at local or state level that MFPC should watch or work on? The bulk of Marin County's residents live in incorporated cities (own jurisdictions with independence re: land use), so there has to be a dual system approach. Through land use, code, and planning, how do you break down the barriers in an urban environment regarding gardens and farm-to-table issues? Likely begin with San Rafael and Novato to identify which land use issues would prohibit the more immediate access and delivery of food to people.
- Multiple goals with REAP: 1) creating an economic engine in lower income communities (self-employment especially for mothers is one of the most powerful engines in a community), and 2) want to see all vendors lawfully permitted and doing businesses legally (so they don't incur fines); CDA exploring how to provide better outreach about regulations and process, reassessing the ways they inspect and issue licenses. Advocate for permitting systems that are fair and robust but don't create undue burdens on entrepreneurs.

### **Reflections & Integration**

- Question of permitting: has been tricky to learn about. Do the targeted communities want this? Outreach and education efforts that are sensitive to undocumented concerns is helpful.
- Another obstacle for entrepreneur: how to get money to the entrepreneur to pay for services. Could there be a way to loop those funds in as entrepreneurs build their infrastructure on the other side?
- There's a big jump from being a home cook in a home kitchen and small informal kitchen, to stepping into a commercial business and becoming permitted and starting a business. This step can feel huge to certain people, support needed to making the leap, while also not negating ways in which people have made money in an informal economy.
- Government needs to assess what they are good at and what they need support with! We know that certain communities don't show up at the SBDC and don't show up for certain resources. Looking for someone who has a trusted relationship with the community, invaluable in helping businesses make the transition.
- Small group of folks working offline to build out the MFPC Local Policy Platform adding a new section on micro food businesses, hope to wrap up this work this summer.

### **Policy Updates (All)**

- **Federal**

- SF-Marin Food Bank [2024 Policy Agenda](#) (Marchon): every year FB comes out with a Policy Agenda with a bucket of topics to focus on. This year's Policy Agenda is supporting: Market Match, food bank funding, CalFresh, tax credits, school and child care meals, food as medicine, SSI/SSP for older adults, sustainable food systems, and more. Start sending out support letters now that Policy Agenda is out, to use leverage in state government. [Website](#) for more info.
- **State**
  - Lobby Day update (Liana): governor's budget in January had cut almost all CNIP \$35million for Market Match. Group of orgs has been advocating to get the funds reinstated in the May revision of the budget. Last month 70 people attended Lobby Day, Senator Damon Connolly spoke in support. Many meetings with legislators supportive of reinstating this funding - this funding was not in the list of definite cuts yet. Stay tuned as it gets closer to May. Liana will share more opportunities for advocacy as they come up.
- **Local**
  - Local Policy Platform: continuing to build out the new section this spring on micro enterprise home businesses, hope to finish in the next month or two.

#### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- Funding updates: end of June wraps up MFPC funding from MCF. MCF has released a new Strategic Plan with new funding opportunities (more broad areas). AIM applied for a community power grant under food access work. Another opportunity is a funding request through UCCE Marin to BOS. Should know within a month; it would be 2-year funding. If we don't get funded this year it would just be a funding gap and we would pursue more funding opportunities next year - MFPC meetings would still continue. Interested in a larger strategy of multiple funding sources spanning years to provide more sustainability to the Council's work.
- May or June meeting will be in-person, stay tuned!

**Meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.**

**Next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, May 21 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

## March 2024

### **3/19/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Alexandra Morehouse (CAM, Marin Council on Aging Health & Nutrition Council), Autumn Johns (Ceres), Amy Dietz (Marin Area Agency on Aging), Blythe Young (American Heart Association), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Ida Green (Marin HHS, social services), Jenna Ray (Marin County Aging & Adult Services/Area Agency on Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (HEAL Collaborative & Nutrition Wellness Program, HHS), Julia Young (San Geronimo Community Center), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon



(SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems)

#### Area Agency on Aging Needs Assessment (Jenna Ray)

- Needs Assessment every three years (last time was 4 years ago). County invested: this is what older adults in Marin County think.
- See [Needs Assessment Executive Summary](#) and [Needs Assessment Full Report](#)
- Food security definition, low income definition (at Marin 7% fall below federal poverty level, 1 in 4 fall below economic self-sufficiency. Almost half of older adults say it's hard to live on their household income. **Over 30% of Marin residents are over 60 years old, and food insecurity is on the rise among older adults since 2019:** the number of food insecure adults doubled since 2019. Groups more likely to report food insecurity: women, hispanic, black, and older adults. Age 60-64 is the most financially and food insecure. non-caucasians are twice as likely to be food insecure as caucasians. The rise in this group could explain the jump in the overall data. Unclear if this trend will continue. Long-standing impacts of covid and the pandemic could also be part of the cause of the jump in food insecurity.
- **Eating alone:** nearly 20% of older adults eat alone all the time, this has increased significantly since the pandemic.
- **Action steps from a Needs Assessment:** NA is a call to action for work that needs to be done. Older Americans Act funds limited programs: home delivered meals and congregant meals. Some discretionary funding for things like grocery bag delivery. Hope that everyone can use this NA to inform the work they do.

#### **CNIP - Market Match Lobby Day** (Liana Orlandi & Steve Schwartz)

- Rally to show support to reinstate funding in Gov's budget for the market match program (budget took out \$33million that had been directed towards market match - plus \$33million that the federal gov't matches, totalling \$66million!!). Greatly increases sales for small farmers in addition to helping SNAP recipients afford more fresh food. This program is an important safety net program, plus takes advantage of federal dollars that would otherwise disappear.
- Coordination for Lobby Day (tomorrow) March 20. Liana is meeting with Damon Connolly and others on the budget committee to get their buy-in, as well as McGuire. Monica/ExtraFood, Steve/Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, and Marchon/SF-Marin Food Bank will all be there, and Liana is participating tomorrow on behalf of MFPC, along with other advocates from orgs and farmers, all MFPC members are welcome to join. If interested, contact Liana ([liana@agriculturalinstitute.org](mailto:liana@agriculturalinstitute.org)) to connect with Steve Schwartz for a ride on the bus to Sacramento.

#### **Policy Updates** (All)

- **Federal**

- MFPC signed onto a support letter for Climate Bond (around for couple years, MFPC has signed on in the past). Current LOS urges investments for farmers markets, farmworker housing, infrastructure projects, and more)
- **State**
  - AB1967 Food Insecurity Officer: create cabinet level position within dept of Social Services dedicated to ending hunger in CA. Officer to engage with state entities, if passed, CA will be one of only 3 states (NJ and Maine are the others) in the nation with this roll. SF-Marin Food Bank asks for MFPC endorsement. Going through amendments, including Food For All campaign, and adding CalFresh enrollment for college students. First hearing is April 18, final amendments need to be in a week prior. If passes, SF-Marin Food Bank hopes to have a relationship with this officer. Fits within the MFPC wheelhouse and policy platform, and what the council has supported in the past. \*\*VOTE: approved. Would be helpful for more organizations to sign-on as well, contact Marchon ([mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org)) if your organization is interested.
  - AB 1967 [Factsheet](#); Assembly Committee on Human Services [background](#); and AB 1967 support [template](#).
  - Will share about priority bills from CFFN at next MFOC meeting

#### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- New Member Presentations: Ida Green and Rhonda Kutter
  - Rhonda Kutter: West Marin Food Systems group (project of Innovative Health Solutions; team includes: Reba Meigs, Madeline Nieto Hope, Heather Mickely, and Rhonda Kutter). Works with schools, non-profits, other orgs trying to bring food to all, focusing on West Marin. Funded by MCF, West Marin Fund, and Marin HHS. Currently 3 areas of focus: School Wellness, Community Meals, and Farms & Gardens. To find out more: [www.westmarinfoodsystems.org](http://www.westmarinfoodsystems.org)
  - Ida Green: Marin HHS, social services. Working in the county to help establish a hub in southern Marin for folks to tap into services. Food insecurity is a real thing; Ida works at a variety of food banks and sees the lines out the door; food banks close hours early due to running out of food. ExtraFood is working with the Grocery Outlet in Marin City on donating food to food banks.
- Funding opportunities:
  - [West Marin Fund Collaborative Impact Grants](#)
  - [Marin Community Foundation Climate Justice Initiative](#)
  - [Marin Community Foundation Community Power Initiative](#): more broad, for general funding for your organizations
  - MFPC researched funding opportunities, met with Sup. Rodoni, applied for some funding through the county, will report back asap

**Meeting closed at 4:05 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual** via Zoom on Tuesday, April 16 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# February 2024

## **2/20/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**In-person:** *Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Curtis Aikens (MCCT / HEAL Collaborative in Marin City), Jenna Ray (Marin County Aging & Adult Services/Area Agency on Aging), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Karina Lundahl (UCCE Marin), Raissa de la Rosa (Economic Vitality Coordinator, County of Marin), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Shane Valentine (American Heart Association), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions & Conscious Kitchen), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

**Zoom:** *Daeja Tillis (Marin Nutrition Wellness Program, HHS), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Jesica Rodriguez (HEAL Collaborative & Nutrition Wellness Program, HHS), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Shayne Paff (TCP-Marin HHS)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Attendees are welcome each month on the 3rd Tuesday and are invited to apply for formal membership using the link in the email sent out after the meeting.
- We host 2 types of meetings - learning and policy updates. Members are always welcome to bring policy priorities to this meeting. We welcome participation. Today's meeting is policy-focused.
- MFPC members are invited to a virtual event: North Coast Emergency Food System Partnership tomorrow from 10am - 12 noon. Focused on building a more resilient local food system that can respond in times of emergencies. Topics will include: disaster response, emergency food systems and feeding plans, local food resilience.
- Snacks today from MCF wellness funds. Broader than Marin County's disaster feeding plan efforts, looking to neighboring counties as well.
- Curtis: MCCT / HEAL Collaborative in Marin City, working on MLK and other gardens. Plan to set up volunteer days on 2 Thursdays and 2 Saturdays a month in the gardens.
- Zaw Wai: senior centers and services; contact Zaw Wai with any needs for programming or services
- Wendy: pilot in Solano county providing medically tailored meals, just got good results in health metrics after 12 weeks of meals. Working on ways to pay for this instead of via health care channels.
- Rhonda: Share the Bounty and West Marin Glean Team. Encouraging volunteers to look into programs through ExtraFood.org.

### **Year-End Evaluation Poll (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

### Relationship Building Activity (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Name, org, years with MFPC
- Project, activity, or service that relates to local food policy platform areas: 1) food assistance programs, 2) climate change, 3) racial equity & food justice, or 4) small-scale food businesses
- Local policy needs, challenges, or opportunities
- Aim for local control to move the needle, entryway to effect policy change. A lot of policy takes place at the state or federal level, so we want to think where we are well-positioned and well-equipped to make a local impact. This will get acquainted with where our members' work is aligned.

### Discussion:

- Julia : Emergency Food Assistance Program, Local Policy Need: in disasters, when food provisioning is given to evac sites, shelters, etc. there is no way to give preference to local food purveyors, local businesses, local farmers. No way to ensure that FEMA dollars are flowing into our local economy.
- Raissa (3): interest in small business development and resiliency. Local Policy Need: writing unincorporated counties minimum wage up to \$18, looking into how that effects farmworkers and the ag community at large, and organizations serving the unincorporated area, is there an issue she's not thinking about. Specialist at UC Berkeley working on this.
- Wendy & Rhonda, West Marin Food Systems: school food programs. Movement in West Marin to make further changes to school food programs, money coming from state to support local purchases that most school districts received, hoping to set up systems to continue when money ends. New CDFA grant for farm to school programs due April. Policy need: ways people can work together across the county, i.e. change the way we are purchasing from vendors, how to make sure everyone is aware of these opportunities. West Marin schools want to learn from Marin City schools, but Marin City is recently saying they can't continue the Conscious Kitchen program. Policy to allow whole milk in schools. **Federal policy - how quickly can we let people know about this? Clover and Straus both looking to get bulk milk.**
- Curtis, MCCT & Marin human rights commissioner: every day need to try to buy as local as possible. We need to speak as a group for the kids who can't - don't take organics out of schools, out of Marin City. OK to prioritize 1) fresh food (over unhealthy food) and then 2) organic food? There are pockets in Marin County with kitchens that make maybe 20-40% fresh and still buying packaged. Cost and labor are both issues. We need to find out what's being grown in the County, there is likely organic - but not certified - that we should know about. CDFA is promoting "CA-grown fresh local food" right now, movement from the top down.
- Shane: workforce equity, help workforces be their healthiest selves. How to prioritize local procurement for food? AHA does policy work at the state and national level, has access to small grants and funding to help small communities with policy changes.

### Summary of highlights:

- FARM TO SCHOOL is a common theme. Currently there is a lot of state funding and increased capacity at the local level to do innovative programming and see change. Perhaps National director of Farm to School Coalition Miguel Villareal could speak/present on model programs?
- Garden and culinary education
- Policies impacting farmworkers in unincorporated areas
- Local procurement preference in disasters
- Food waste and gleaning
- Food equity and food justice: Marin ranks third last (of 58 counties) in terms of CalFresh participation
  - Early on in MFPC history, early policy action was CalFresh Resolution around low participation rates - need to keep our eye here
- Work with small food vendors, difficulty faced with permits, funding, paperwork, etc.
- RallyMarin project with SF-Marin Food Bank
- SF-Marin Food Bank policy platform
- HEAL Community Action Teams working to support community gardens - is there knowledge to be shared or policy change that could come out of this work? Known number of how many schools in Marin have gardens?
  - UCCE has a community garden map  
[https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/ASK\\_US/SCHOOLCOMMUNITYGARDENS/Map/](https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/ASK_US/SCHOOLCOMMUNITYGARDENS/Map/)
- 2021 UCCE Community Gardens regulations doc & table - Policy Opportunities for Urban Ag

### **Policy Updates (All)**

- Funding for Market Match - CA Nutrition Incentives Program threatened to be taken out of the state budget.
  - CNIP supports Market Match, Senior farmers market nutrition program, and WIC farmers market program. The Governor's budget cut it from \$35 million to \$1.25 million. Working to get this money back. Lobby/advocacy day on March 20 in Sacramento, all invited. Steve on behalf of MFPC made public comment, and also sent LOS to BOS last month to ask BOS lobbyists' help in Sacramento, and if efforts don't succeed, asking aid from BOS to cover some funding that we'll lose from the state. County's legislative/lobbyist team heard this and made note, working on it. Proposed to use some MFPC funds through AIM for policy engagement to pay for a bus to get people to this lobby day - if you're interested in joining, contact Steve at: [steve@interfaithfood.org](mailto:steve@interfaithfood.org). Check if your org is following this: CNIP as umbrella program that funds Market Match.
- AB 2786 on mobile farmers markets. Farmers at farmers markets can accept WIC, not the case for mobile farmers markets. More information on the bill found here: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB2786/id/2930542/California-2023-AB2786-Introduced.html>. AB 2786 to create a state definition for mobile farmers' markets and authorize the State Dept of Public Health to establish criteria for Mobile Farmers' markets to become

WIC vendors. Expands access to mobile farmers markets. Vote for MFPC to send LOS (specifying desire to include senior farmers market nutrition program): APPROVED.

**Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- *Tabled until March*

**Meeting closed at 4:32 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual** via Zoom on Tuesday, March 19 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# January 2024

**1/16/2024 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Kimberly Corona (AIM volunteer- kimberlyacorona@gmail.com), David Thompson (Alcohol Justice - davidt@alcoholjustice.org) Alexandra Morehouse (CAM, Marin Council on Aging Health & Nutrition Council), Rhonda Lynn Kutter (West Marin Food Systems), Daeja Tillis (HHS), Jenna Ray ( Marin County Aging & Adult Services/Area Agency on Aging), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Sonya Hammons, Jesica Rodriguez*

**Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Attendees are welcome each month on the 3rd Tuesday and are invited to apply for formal membership using the link in the email sent out after the meeting.
- We host 2 types of meetings - learning and policy updates. Members are always welcome to bring policy priorities to this meeting. We welcome participation. Today's meeting is policy-focused.

**Review 2023 Accomplishments** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Expanded our Policy Platform on Older Adult Nutrition (April 2023)
  - Added demographic information, challenges, opportunities related to older adult nutrition in Marin County. Created an info-graphic.
- Developed a State Strategic Policy Plan for Older Adult Nutrition (Sep 2023)
  - Worked with a consultant, Jeanne Merrill, to develop a state strategic policy plan. Looked at opportunities and places MFPC could engage to advance equitable access to locally produced food.
  - Focus on the intersection of local food and older adult food access
  - Spent time talking about next steps for MFPC - continuing theme for 2024
- Learned about Equitable Access to small-scale food businesses (May and Nov 2023)
  - Small-scale, often home-based food businesses - needed to learn more about the issue before taking action.
- Held 3 in-person meetings with delicious local food
  - Toured local Novato farmers market



- Enjoyed food from a small food maker from West Marin in the Novato UCCE office
- Signed on to multiple opportunities on behalf of MFPC to engage in policy advocacy
- 2024 Planning: Will focus on in February. Policy Platform and small-scale food businesses. Expect brainstorming and prioritization at next meeting.

### **Year-End Evaluation Discussion** (Julia Van Soelen Kim & Liana Orlandi)

- Will share formal polls at next meeting in February.

#### Discussion:

- Comments about Meeting Logistics?
  - Timeslot?
  - Anything working well or not well?
    - Appreciation for opportunity to meet in-person plus having hybrid and remote options is helpful.
    -
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - Goal for Council is that it's a welcoming space for diversity of thought, geography. Any feedback on how to lean in to this goal more effectively?
    - Is there a way to engage voices of institutional buyers, growers, agriculturalists, food service workers, school food service professionals?
    -
- Satisfaction with MFPC
- Meeting Outcomes and Impacts - each year we focus on issues tied to our membership. Goal to provide learning opportunities, policy advocacy and networking, but this creates tension. Have we balanced these needs? What brings you here today, and what to hope to get from this space?
  - HHS/Marin HEAL Grant - Alcohol Justice - focus to create green space and grow produce. Looking for opportunities to connect Canal residents to fresh produce while waiting for food to grow in new green spaces. Networking.
  - Monica - in-person meetings are a great opportunity to learn food landscape and make new connections.
  - Seeing the synergies between all the stakeholders in the Marin food ecosystem has been a great benefit of these meetings.
- Next meeting we will launch questions related to each of the topics above.
- Please share feedback about MFPC with Julia, Liana or Monica. We build what we want together with your feedback.

### **Policy Updates** (All)

- **Federal**
  - New federal [farm bill marker](#)
  - GUSNIP funding for market match
- **State**

- Any updates re Governor Newsom's 2024-25 state budget proposal?
- GUSNIP funding for market match - Governor's Budget
  - How many people in Marin would this cut impact? Liana check with AIM staff
  - Is there any reason for MFPC not to unequivocally support this program?
  - What would advocacy/action look like?
  - Are there funds at the County level that could replace this funding for Marin residents?
  - Can we get a letter of support from Board of Supervisors in support of MFPC recommendation for Market Match addressed to Sacramento?
  - Context - some farmers markets have fundraised locally to support a local version of Market Match (such as Napa farmers market). Reduces consistency between farmers markets. Can be confusing for consumers. State funding levels the playing field.
  - Market Match helps make farmers market more equitable. Create more opportunities for locally grown food to be shared with local community.
  - SF-Marin FB - lobby week in Sacramento - one priority is to fund Market Match. Also advocating on other issues. Marchon will send sign-on letters.
- SF-Marin Food Bank Priorities:
  - SFMFB gets about \$1mil to buy local produce. Priority to increase this funding.
  - Immigrant food access - Food for All campaign. Pushing to get all people eligible for CalFresh access to benefits. CFAP - Governor approved legislation, but put implementation date out a few years. Trying to implement sooner.
  - Focus on streamlining access to CalFresh benefits - ensuring benefits are adequate. Pilot program to raise minimum from \$23 to \$50. Ending of emergency allotment was challenging.
  - SSI recipients - increase level of federal poverty level
  - School Meals for All - improve and fund the legislation and maximize summer meals with new summer EBT program. Leverage federal summer meals program.
    - Marchon will share link to full policy priorities

- **Local**

- [Save Marin's Food Community Coalition](#) - member updates?
- Short-term rentals Policy meeting - Fernando Barreto - BOS heard feedback from West Marin residents about loss of community due to expansion of short-term rentals through AirBnB and VRBO. Also heard from First Responders about lack of ability to respond because of short-term rentals. Lack of resources - water - for short-term rentals. BOS spent several months thinking about policy - 2 years ago rolled out moratorium on short-term rental licenses. Listened to community. Biggest concern - housing. Limited coastal housing inventory creating shortage to

house teachers, work force and residents. Cap for number of houses that can be used as short-term rentals. New additions to policy: dos/don'ts in case of emergency. Ordinance passed and will go to Coastal Commission for final decision before expiration of moratorium in May 2024. Feel that BOS is providing a balanced number of short-term rentals in County to provide opportunities and space for residents to remain in West Marin villages.

- Intersection of food access, housing, farming has been an area of interest for MFPC over the years. Affordable housing for food and agricultural workers in Marin County one thread of concern. Second, food waste by visitors who come to Marin.

### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Sharing current list of MFPC members
  - Time to update membership for 2024 to help identify which meeting attendees are joining as interested participants versus formal members who will vote on Council priorities/actions.
- New Member Presentation
  - Share about yourself/organization - mission values and relation to food systems work
  - Key partners
  - Funders
  - Any alternates who may come to MFPC in your place
- Alexandra Morehouse - New Member Presentation
  - Working for large health systems - created Thrive campaign at Kaiser & brought farmers markets to Kaiser medical centers.
  - Here on behalf of Marin Commission on Aging Wellness Nutrition sub-committee.
    - Lee Novovich will be alternate.
    - Affordable housing/food go together.
  - Also work with CAM - self-sufficiency and independence in Marin. 1/3 of Marin households struggle to put enough food on the table.
  - Enthusiastic volunteer for ExtraFood and AIM
  - Funding - Marin Commission on Aging - County, CAM - state, local & federal, private donations, grants.
  - On payroll for Banner health and on Boards for health care

**Next meeting:** February - will launch feedback poll at next meeting and firm up priorities for 2024. February or March will be an in-person meeting. Check calendar invite for in-person vs. online for next meeting.

**Closing** (Liana Orlandi)

# November 2023

## **11/28/2023 - MFPC Hybrid In-person and Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project & CA Food as Medicine Coalition), Daeja Tillis (County of Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program, [dtillis@marincounty.org](mailto:dtillis@marincounty.org)), Fernando Barreto (Aide to Sup Rodoni), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jamilah Jordan (Marin County Equity Director), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging Senior Nutritionist), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin County HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Kelly Smith (ACE Farmers Markets, [info@ilovefarmersmarkets.org](mailto:info@ilovefarmersmarkets.org)), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Mimi Scott (guest, intern), Miriam Karell (Marin Small Business Development Center, [Miriam@marinsbdc.org](mailto:Miriam@marinsbdc.org)), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems, [RLKutter@gmail.com](mailto:RLKutter@gmail.com)), Rosa Rodriguez (small food business entrepreneur), Sonya Hammonds (Marin County Parks), Steve Rosso (Marin Environmental Health Services), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Conscious Kitchens & Innovative Health Solutions), Vince Trotter (Sustainable Ag Coordinator, UCCE Marin)*

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Julia: today's meeting is a follow-up for May's meeting on equitable access to healthy food via small food business entrepreneurs
- Food provided by Rosa Rodriguez and Launch for Hire Consultants. 415-446-8587.
- The Food, Agriculture, and Resilient Ecosystems (FARE) Grant Program can fund projects for commercial kitchen space, storage, and business education to support home cooks to become entrepreneurs. Application process ends 12/8 (in one week). More info: <https://www.parks.marincounty.org/about-us/fare-grants>

### **Overview of Equitable Access to Small-Scale Food Businesses** (Mimi Scott, MFPC intern)

- Mimi Scott, review May 2023 and October 2022 meetings \*[presentation](#)\*
- Review on Micro-Enterprise Home Businesses, the CAM Kitchen program, Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, and local food enterprises
- Barriers of entry: cost; need for more kitchen incubator programs and classes/trainings in the county; easing the barriers of the permit application process; language barriers; broadening understanding of types of kitchens (even more informal types have lots of regulations)
- Cottage Food Act and pending opportunity around MEHKOs

### **Panel on Small-Scale Food Businesses in Marin County** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

Jamilah Jordan, Office of Equity, and Sarah Jones, Community Development Agency

- Jamilah Jordan: intersections around food and equity

- Race Equity Budget Toolkit soon to be launched: decision-making model put into place, asking staff and departments to think through integrating equity within their budgets, policies, and processes. Includes a set of questions, equity lens, and set of data matrices. Question to keep asking: what does it mean to embody race equity?
- Sarah Jones and Steve Rosso: CDA was part of the pilot project for the Race Equity Budget Toolkit, will be applying this lens to their budget and programs in the next weeks and months. Thinking about food microbusinesses intentionally from a race equity place. Regulations are not generally there for the purpose of advancing race equity, so now thinking of responsibilities of their department in a way that is explicitly opening up opportunities for people to advance their businesses. CDA and Environmental Health Department have information on their websites
  - Vendor permits: regulate carts and food trucks (recent regulations attempting to make the process easier, but didn't go far enough - cart vendor permit process is still quite difficult). Permit process and costs is an equity issue, trying to figure out a process to make permitting process easier.
  - MEHKOs (Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens): CDA is the agency that will issue permits and do inspections on MEHKOs. AB626 passed in 2019 by CC authorizing counties to issue MEHKOs - each county needs to opt in or opt out. Bay Area counties are tending to opt in, Marin is in the process of developing this (draft ordinance is being reviewed by County Council right now). Once approved, will begin community outreach (will need help to get the info out to the public). Solano County Small Business Development Center helped their county get this passed, if Marin needs help (<https://www.solanonapasbdc.org/mehko-solano/>). Basic idea of what we're trying to enable: MEHKO is the ability for people to cook potentially hazardous food in the house (like a mini restaurant). Limits to production per day and per week, but can do a lot. Can deliver food, people can pick up food or come to your house and eat! MEHKOs are direct sales through the home only (and delivery) - can't sell elsewhere (as opposed to Cottage Food products that can be taken elsewhere to be sold).
  - Why CDA sees this program as important and necessary: food is fundamentally an equity issue. Environmental Health Services is dealing with this every day. Many challenges: costs, access, government interaction and trust, etc. Important mechanism to open up opportunities for people in communities in Marin who are most disadvantaged.
  - Challenges: creating opportunities in multi-family housing where you're dealing with landlords who are calling the shots and hold power over residents. Grappling with how to make sure that renters can take advantage of the opportunity - what's the point if it's only available to people who own homes. Have been hearing concerns from brick and mortar businesses.
  - Once Marin opts in as a county, it will apply to all cities and towns (not just the unincorporated parts of the county). Food permitting will be happening in residential neighborhoods, so cities are a little wary and concerned.

- What can MFPC do? Advocacy with affiliated organizations within the cities if they raise issues and concerns.
  - Difference between code allowing something and something being actually doable. Who might be benefitted from this and who might be burdened?
- Questions: Ceres recently remodeled a kitchen in Novato, Health dept permitting process was rigorous with a lot of hoops to jump through - which is one of the reasons permitting all down the line is expensive. Kitchen is not being used on weekends and looking for people interested to sublease it - email Cathryn at: [ccouch@ceresproject.org](mailto:ccouch@ceresproject.org). Marin County Small Business Development Center has templates of how they have supported entrepreneurs in the past, used to co-run a food incubator program out of a commercial kitchen so can help with training/incubator programs, happy to share info - email Miriam at: [Miriam@marinsbdc.org](mailto:Miriam@marinsbdc.org).
  - Is the county looking to work on the honor basis? Will there be whistle blowers? Does the county think people will float to the top to apply for permits? Marin County doesn't go out hunting for people breaking codes, but rather follows up on complaints.
  - Is regulating enhancing opportunities, or creating unintended consequences (heavier consequences)? People are already currently at risk for fines for unpermitted businesses anyway. Has the design of the program thought about what it looks like when people opt out? Are consequences the same?
  - CDA got into this because they heard that it was wanted from the people. Communities should tell CDA otherwise if they think it won't be helpful.
  - State level legislation on MEHKOs was likely in response to better-resourced individuals.
- Ana Medina: it was a very challenging process to learn online about requirements for food trucks, renting a kitchen, buying a restaurant, etc. What is CDA doing to make this more fair/equitable? How to manage for the competition for those who have gone through the process of buying a brick and mortar establishment? Some built-in limitations, caps on quantity, land use regulation, etc. Permitting requirements and zoning limitations will vary with cities and towns. Hope that the situation doesn't mimic Air bnb - doing a MEHKO rather than brick and mortar - but rather see it as a stepping stone to scaling up to a formal business.
- How can MFPC advance equity work? Brainstorm @ meeting and on whiteboard:
  - MFPC can gather info around how communities can legally sell food - because access to this information and options is a barrier - and make it accessible (factsheet, bilingual, etc). Information tends to not be shared equally, so MFPC can be a vessel to share info more equitably.
  - Perhaps an online directory of MEHKOs so that residents can find them. MFPC members can promote programs among the individual organizations that they work with.
  - MFPC can share model equity-focused MEHKOs Ordinance with other food policy councils in the state.
  - Commercial kitchens - locations, costs, barriers.



- Put more energy into building the pipeline rather than / in addition to MEHKOs as a step.
- Decriminalize small-scale food businesses before or instead of MEHKOs.
- Before going through the effort to design a process to legalize home kitchens, decriminalize them (allow home entrepreneurs to safely explore the business and then stair-step to another model if it feels right without the fear of enforcement)
- Consolidate all food vending info for community use + translation to reduce barriers.
- Brainstorm ways to build trust between underground operations and the county; MEHKOs could opt into Cook Alliance map
- Provide structures so businesses can overcome barriers: reduced fees, tech assistance, language support, trial periods/pipeline development
- Fees waived or reimbursed for low-income applicants
- MEHKO scale program for community kitchen - Marin City can be a model for the state

#### **Policy Updates (All) \*tabled until January\***

- [Public Listening Session](#) on Defining Regenerative Agriculture, Dec. 6, 2023
- [Save Marin's Food Community Coalition](#) updates

#### **Council Business (Liana Orlandi)**

- **No December meeting - Happy Holidays! Next MFPC meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, and will be held virtually via Zoom.**

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual via Zoom on Tuesday, January 16** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## October 2023

#### **10/17/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Alexandra Morehouse (Area Council on Aging, [Alexandra.morehouse@gmail.com](mailto:Alexandra.morehouse@gmail.com)), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden), Aran Watson (Family Wellness Center Coordinator at Bahia Vista Elementary School in San Rafael), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project Policy Coordinator), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Daeja Tillis (County of Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program, [dtillis@marincounty.org](mailto:dtillis@marincounty.org)), Fernando Barreto (Aide to Sup Rodoni), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging Senior Nutritionist), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin County HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Lara Rajninger (Executive Director, Kids Cooking For Life), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Mimi Scott (guest, intern), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems, [RLKutter@gmail.com](mailto:RLKutter@gmail.com)), Stephanie Robison (Meritage)*

## **Introductions & Announcements (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Julia: the Measure A Food, Agriculture and Resilient Ecosystems grant is active and live with a deadline of December 8 - local funding to support a lot of the work of MFPC member orgs and our collective priorities. Lots of application workshops to help: <https://www.parks.marincounty.org/about-us/fare-grants>. Contact: Sonya Hammons (Marin County Parks Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Grant Program) with questions at [shammons@marincounty.org](mailto:shammons@marincounty.org).
- Liana: 40th anniversary of AIM's civic center farmers market
- Julia: November MFPC meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the UCCE office ~ 1682 Novato Blvd. in Novato \*Snacks provided by Marin City Food Entrepreneurs\*

## **State Policy Platform (Julia Van Soelen Kim & Liana Orlandi)**

- Developed MFPC State Policy Platform in consultation with MFPC members
- The policy platform provides an overview of possible state policy opportunities over the next several years to advance the Marin Food Policy Council's goal of equitable older adult access to healthy, sustainable, and locally produced food. The plan also provides some options for potential engagement and education at the federal and county levels, partnering with key stakeholders.
- Currently, MCF funding supports our work (with a focus on older adults) and continues through June 2024
- September MFPC meeting looked at the policy plan in breakout groups and discussed priorities the Council would like to focus on. RECAP of priorities:
  - Area Agency on Aging modernization and opportunity for funding in this area (reimbursement rates for food, eligibility, opportunity to address quality of food),
  - CalAIM (food reimbursement as healthcare, medically tailored meals and healthcare)
  - Improving climate sustainable and regenerative agriculture in Marin County
  - Leverage our collective voice as a council in 2024 - get in front of elected officials
  - Share Marin success stories and pilots, highlight strengths and look at how to institutionalize the successes
  - Want to be relevant to where seniors are in their lives, have a breadth of programs to meet variety of needs
  - Marin County legislative platform and opportunity to work with county and BOS to get MFPC priorities into BOS legislative platform
  - Continued interest in values based procurement
  - Make a one pager document to summarize the policy platform
  - ID orgs that are making progress in these areas and make sure MFPC is following and aligning with these.
- Path forward for 2024
  - Potential role for MFPC: education around Marin food systems, generate data and share about the current climate (food systems accomplishments, needs, etc) with the county

- MFPC has always tried to balance advocacy and policy work with learning and building our own expertise and then spreading our knowledge outward. Different years lean more to either direction. State Policy Plan is an opportunity to lean more deeply into policy work, but that is not the path that MFPC has to take. Do we also want to lean into learning together about issues, educating each other and educating the public? What split of learning and policy focus is ideal? We could also choose to take more policy action and engagement at the local level, and follow issues at the state level and give voice where appropriate.
- Could we submit a grant to help us plan or strategize how we organize
- Where can we partner with other organizations
  - Fruit and Veggie Fest planned by Oscar
  - Line up what's in the state policy plan and invite MFPC partners to share where they are already working on these topics
- Other thoughts for MFPC in 2024
  - Build a couple working groups where people can collaborate (ie: school gardens, medically tailored meals, etc)
- MFPC Steering Committee will go over these ideas and create specific options for implementing state policy plan items and incorporate continued education and outreach, and bring the options back to the full council in January, as the November meeting will focus on microenterprise food businesses

### Policy Updates (All)

- [Save Marin's Food Community Coalition](#): Point Reyes National Seashore and farms and ranches located there. A number of MFPC partner organizations have signed on, but it is not solidly within the MFPC policy plan. Ranching in the park has been an issue on and off for many years. Currently many of the family ranches are at risk of losing their leases (this is a shift in policy, as before they had been promised lease renewal). This effort is being led by Straus Family Creamery. Sup Rodoni sent a letter to parks expressing concern about the lack of information about potential implications of this action. It changes the landscape of the economy and the community when ranches close, even when they change from beef to dairy, for example.
  - Council did not feel educated enough - or that enough MFPC members were present at today's meeting - to officially vote.
  - Historically MFPC has done a learning panel on similarly confusing issues. Not sure if we have the time for that. Can pencil it in for a meeting early in 2024.
- CFFN shared policy wins and losses. Regarding specifics that MFPC supported:
  - SB 348 Health Kids Meals *was signed*
  - AB 1644 Medically Supported Food and Nutrition *did not move forward*
  - Liana is our MFPC member representative of [CA Food and Farming Network](#) (CFFN) - always welcome people interested in joining this. First statewide meeting since Covid is happening in Sacramento on November 7 - let SC know if you are interested in going to represent MFPC. CFFN meets once a month on Friday.

### **Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- **November meeting moved to Tuesday, November 28, and will be held In-person/hybrid @ UCCE office in Novato** (1682 Novato Blvd. Suite 201 upstairs). Will have a panel on micro enterprise food businesses, and tasty food made by local small food producers!

### **Meeting closed at 4:00 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **in-person at the UCCE office (1682 Novato Blvd. Suite 201 upstairs)** and is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 28** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## September 2023

### **9/19/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Alexandra Morehouse (Area Council on Aging, [Alexandra.morehouse@gmail.com](mailto:Alexandra.morehouse@gmail.com)), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project Policy Coordinator), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Blythe Young (AHA), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Daeja Tillis (County of Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program, [dtillis@marincounty.org](mailto:dtillis@marincounty.org)), Jeanne Merrill (consultant), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging Senior Nutritionist), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Jenna Smart (AIM), Julia Keefer (Meritage), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (San Geronimo Valley Community Center), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Mimi (guest), Noele Kostelic (guest), Rhonda Kutter (West Marin Food Systems, [RLKutter@gmail.com](mailto:RLKutter@gmail.com)), Stephanie Robison (Meritage), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions and Conscious Kitchen), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Linda - if you work with older people, and would like to meet others who do as well (from different sectors), please come to AAI's 2023 convening on September 28 - event is free, and full of networking, information and advocacy.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aais-2023-convening-tickets-698562056917?aff=oddtctcreator>

### **Presentation and Breakout Group Discussion:** [Strategic Policy Plan on Older Adult Nutrition](#) (Jeanne Merrill)

- State level strategic policy plan for older adult nutrition: to advance MFPC goal of advancing older adults' access to healthy sustainable food
- Highlights:
  - Federal level: first time since 1988 the fed govt is updating the Older Americans Act (fed legislation guiding fed engagement in senior nutrition programming).

Focus on wanting to ensure that meals and nutrition programs delivered use domestically producer food

- State level: modernize state's statutory work in this area; how MFPC might engage to advocate for improved meal rates; embrace innovation from pandemic (delivery options to increase seniors' access to food such as brown bag options); senior nutrition farmers market [program; farm to seniors pilot program; Cal AIM program (advancing Medicare); infrastructure for agriculture to bolster food supply chains and allow for more local food system work (building connections between this work and how it will improve healthy food access for seniors); state Master Plan on Aging nutrition focus
- County level: improve access to culturally appropriate meals (working with local restaurants on programs); engage with BOS on County investments in older adults' healthy food access; make connections between housing and food security (look at Santa Monica financial relief to seniors in low income housing)
- Vision for value-based procurement
- **Clarifying questions:**
  - Thinking about criteria for thinking about how MFPC evaluates opportunities: page 10 of the plan has table on priorities engagement levels
  - Are there opportunities for MFPC to be a co-lead with other Council members or coalitions
  - When thinking about being a lead on an issue, need to have the resources to do so
  - Consider being a lead on issues where there is a gap/need
  - Strategy: where is it in policy development, what actions are needed to move something/use levers, how would MFPC organize to use these levers
  - Are there things Marin is doing well (and is there data) that we could share for others moving forward?
  - No entity that is focused on the intersection of food access, older adults, and local food systems - MFPC is in a unique place to advocate for policies and programs that touch each issue. There are other players working on each separate issue, less or none working on the intersection.
  - How to balance need and equity? Particularly pockets of need in our smaller pockets of Marin?
- **What policy opportunity are you most excited about and why?**
- Of the state policy activities, which strike you as **high priorities** for the Marin Food Policy Council?
- What **level of activity** do you think the Council should consider its engagement? (Watch, Sign on, Coalition Partner or Lead?)
- Are there any of the federal or county-level policy activities that you think the Council should include in its **2024 plans**? If so, what and to what level of engagement?
- **Wrap-up thoughts:**

- Some of these items can be suggested for inclusion in the BOS legislative platform (in development this fall) - timely to share this document with BOS and their staff.
- Can pull together a one-page talking points doc: food access, local food, climate resilience, health care dollars, etc... to present to all elected officials. Perhaps commit to update them annually on MFPC goals.
- Identify orgs that are making good progress (results, accomplishments, etc) - MFPC brings together players to know what others are doing
- Where we are in legislative cycle: first year of 2 year legislative session just wrapped up, so bills are being considered for signing. CA budget cycle is year-round, budget change proposals are being developed year-round. In terms of advocacy, the fall is a good time to engage in budget issues, to reach out to assembly and senate members to articulate budget priorities, to begin conversations about any legislative work (for MFPC members, for MFPC to lift up). Fall: planning and early communications about efforts in 2024.
- We welcome suggestions as we figure out how to connect the dots as a council and move forward.

#### **Council Business (All)**

- October meeting: Micro-enterprise food businesses, and work on Local Policy Platform
- November meeting: year-end wrap-up
- One of the next two meetings will likely be in-person

#### **Policy Update (All)**

- MFPC signed on to a LOS in support of organics in new Farm Bill
- Question: lots of orgs leading policy work at the state and fed level - how is MFPC making decisions about what the council signs onto? What are we collectively tracking and funnel it in so MFPC can add its voice sufficiently? Liana attends CFFN on behalf of MFPC, we also get sign-on opportunities shared from SF-Marin Food Bank and Ceres. We use our policy platform to inform what we can sign on to.
- Ceres suggestions: Federal Good Food Purchasing Coalition looking at food procurement; Fed policy around how to support whole govt approach to access to food and climate resilience within food systems; National produce prescription. Ceres - and all member orgs - are always welcome to share info on LOS with MFPC Steering Committee - ideally a week before our meetings so we can agendize the topic.

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual** and is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **August 2023**

**8/15/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**



*Attendees: Alexandra Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project Policy Coordinator), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Bronte Edwards (MALT), Daeja Tillis (County of Marin HHS Nutrition Wellness Program, [dtillis@marincounty.org](mailto:dtillis@marincounty.org)), Ida Green (guest), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging Senior Nutritionist), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Jocelyn Mobley (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Lee Notowich (Commission on Aging), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Meg Davidson (SF-Marin Food Bank Director of Policy and Advocacy), Mimi (guest), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Sonya Hammons (Marin County Parks Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Grant Program, [shammons@marincounty.org](mailto:shammons@marincounty.org)), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions and Conscious Kitchen), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

## **Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

### **Breakout Group Discussion: Local Policy Platform** (Liana Orlandi)

- Updated draft of the [Local Policy Platform](#)
- We have grant funding from MCF to create this doc that identifies areas of consensus and strength between AIM, MFPC, and SF-Marin Food Bank, so we're all in the same space when opportunities come up at the local policy level. Specific to Marin County level work.
- This is a living document we update over time, and can change.
- **Three themes** where MFPC has the knowledge base necessary to make a statement in the areas: **Food Assistance Programs; Racial Equity and Food Justice; and Climate Change**. Could add Micro-enterprise food businesses, Urban Ag, and Farmers Markets.
- **Difference between policy platform and policy agenda** (Meg Davidson):
  - Policy platform: document that defines challenges you face, principles you share, and priority strategies you share to address a specific issue. Divided into planks: issue areas within the platform. Ours is focused on Marin issues. Helps groups trying to influence policy because it gives guidelines and provides a framework for policy discussions. Do this for ourselves, as well as others (document can be shared externally as well). Platform is a longer term commitment (3-5 years) than a policy agenda (1 year), needs to be reviewed in that time. Platform is divided into broad categories (planks or buckets), whereas an agenda allows you to look into each plank and talk about specific policies for each. Platform is the foundation for you to be able to build a meaningful agenda. SF-Marin Food Bank reviews their Policy Platform every 3 years, will review in the coming fiscal year. Evolution for MFPC, in the past we have been more issue-focused. As time has gone by we see the opportunity to wield more power at the local level, so policy platform focusing on the local level leans into our strengths.
  - Join the committee to update the Platform if interested, especially if passionate about Micro-Enterprise Local Food Businesses - contact Julia, Liana or Bonnie.

- Goal for breakout groups: make sure everyone is aware of the project, get feedback on if there is anything people would change or anything that is missing. Broad strokes.
- Breakout groups:
  - Breakout group 1: Liana – **Food Assistance Programs** (6)
  - Breakout group 2: Julia – **Racial Equity and Food Justice** (8)
  - Breakout group 3: Monica - **Climate Change** (3)

**Update on the Measure A Community Food & Agriculture Grant Program** (Sonya Hammons) \*[presentation](#)\*

- New program still in the process of being finalized, open app process around October/November.
  - Origins: funded by Parks Measure A sales tax (established more than 10 years ago, renewed in 2022 and created this new program). Residents are involved in Parks Measure A because votes and spending influence community. Most of funding is allocated to parks, 20% goes towards ag. Significant changes to new version of Measure A, including the establishment of this program. 30% of Ag funds go to this program (around \$800,00/year for the next 8 years, when it will be voted on again). Can fund broad diverse range of topics.
  - How will recipients be selected? Project must be relevant; advance Marin's Equity goals (involvement of and benefit to priority communities); looking to fill gaps in the funding landscape.
  - Planning to provide workshops and Q&A sessions in advance of and during application timeframe.
  - Funds should be available for projects to begin around June 2024 - quicker for more simple projects.
  - One year grants? Timing flexibility? Dollar amount and time length of grant awards are both still being finalized. Planning for grant terms to be at least up to 2 years, could be longer. Calendar arrangement might shift for the following year. The types of grant projects are also pretty diverse.
- [More info on the grant](#)
- Share prospective applicant [survey](#)
- Reach out with questions: Sonya Hammons: [shammons@marincounty.org](mailto:shammons@marincounty.org)
- <https://www.parks.marincounty.org/about-us/food-ag-grants>

**Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- Poll: Move November MFPC Meeting Date to Tuesday 11/14, 11/ 28, or 12/5
- Results roughly even across all dates:
  - 11/14: 12
  - 11/28: 11
  - 12/5: 12
- Decision to hold November meeting **11/28 3-4:30pm**. Calendar item to be updated.

**Next steps for Measure A** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Share [HEAL Collaborative Community Garden Concept Proposal](#)
  - 3 Community Action teams have undergone community engagement process to identify priorities in Marin City, West Marin, the Canal - community gardening/local food production a priority for each.
  - UCCE will co-lead a concept proposal on action strategy for all 3 communities for community gardening.
    - Additional funding sources - collective action strategy - shared vision for a project.
    - Goal to expand community food production
    - Concept: most community & school gardens just have volunteers & need paid staff - 1 per community to increase capacity of growing, design, volunteer recruitment, etc.
    - Provide support for a county-wide community garden coordinator to share expertise, peer mentorship, distribute free compost, mulch, seeds & starts, link with UC Master Garden Program & recruit more community residents, collect data & evaluate across all 3 gardens.
    - Proposal leaders: Julia with UCCE, Elaini with HHS & individual community leaders
    - Opportunities to join forces with other smaller groups?
  - MFPC has conducted learning on this topic in past
- Plans for Community Gardens Measure A 'Workshop'
  - Interest in hosting a workshop for community school gardeners who have need for a space to gather/collaborate
  - Make sure school/community gardeners have space to learn about Measure A funding.

### **Policy Update (All)**

- Teaser for September meeting with Jeanne Merrill and Older Adult Policy opportunities, invitation to review document
  - We will hear from Jeanne Merrill about a strategy document that will inform our efforts to impact state level policy that supports the needs of older adults.
  - Thanks to everyone who was able to join the in-person strategy session with Jeanne at the end of July.

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual** and is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 19** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# July 2023

**7/18/2023 - MFPC Hybrid In-person / Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project Policy Coordinator), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Blythe Young (AHA), Ida Green (guest), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging Senior Nutritionist), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Rhea Brown (Marin County Commission on Aging), Sarah Jones (CDA), Sonya Hammons (Marin County Parks Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Grant Program, [sonya@sonyahammons.com](mailto:sonya@sonyahammons.com)), Stephanie Robison (Meritage Medical Network), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Liana: MFPC is working with a consultant helping to identify a strategy to support older adults around food access next Thursday July 27. Lunch meeting 12 noon - 2pm here at UCCE office. RSVP to Bonnie with dietary preferences if you can come. Carves off a different suite of policies regarding older adults at the state level. This roadmap document will help inform our work and actions for 2024.
- Liana: Kitchen Table Advisors (KTA) is hiring 3 Farm Business Advisor Fellows (minimal time). They are looking for people who have a strong understanding of small business coupled with a passion for local agriculture. Farm Advisor Fellows will be hired for each of the following regions: 1) Yolo/Solano/Sacramento Counties; 2) Sonoma/Napa/Marin Counties; 3) Alameda/Contra Costa/San Mateo/Santa Cruz Counties. Please share! [Farm Business Advisor Fellow at Kitchen Table Advisors \(breezy.hr\)](https://breezy.hr/)
- Julia: UCCE is hiring for a [project manager](#) for grant across 6 counties (Del Norte down to Marin) related to emergency food systems

### **Local Policy Platform (Liana Orlandi)**

- Collaborative grant funding to create a local policy platform (MFPC, AIM, SF-Marin Food Bank)
- ID issues for city and county based platform: areas of opportunity where we can take more concrete action. Invite all to join the conversation, will have a few working meetings (usually Thursday mornings) in the future - watch for notice.
- Blythe is interested in joining.
- Present draft priority areas: food assistance programs, climate change, racial equity and food justice, micro-enterprise food businesses. Evolution of current policy platform (federal to state to local) to hone in on issues of local relevance with potential influence.
- **Plan to work in breakout groups at the August MFPC meeting**
- Goal to finish at the end of the year, grant funding ends in February 2024.
- Sarah Jones parallel work on micro-enterprise food businesses within CDA at the County, as well as the Racial Equity Action Plan, collaboration potential. This is the newest topic for MFPC to work on. CDA will plan to come to the Council next month to
- West Marin Food Systems Group working on these issues also, should let them know when MFPC meetings will work on them.

- Question about interface with urban agriculture in the County. MFPC has created an assessment of Urban Ag policies at the municipality level. More direct sales are happening since we last looked, particularly since the pandemic.
- Reasoning to work together with AIM And Food Bank is so we are more aware of each others' work and can be more of a unified voice prepared to work together.
- Opportunity for us to be impactful and pursue tangible policy priorities in Marin County.
- New experiment: policy platforms are typically at the state level or beyond - we are first of our partners (that we're aware of) to be working on the local level.

### Council Business

- **New member presentation:** Sonya Hammons, *Marin County Parks Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Grant Program*. Interest in conservation agriculture and agriculture ecology, along with social impact of food and ag, and how policies can support - or not support - food security and sovereignty. Worked on Farm Bill analysis at the federal level, also worked with Food and Ag org of the United Nations. Recently reestablished in Marin, Marin County Parks created a new position she now has.
- New role in Marin County Parks to support sustainable ag and food security throughout Marin, part of Measure A funds.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Measure A ag funds go to this new grant program rolling out around October/November, inviting grant applications between \$5,000-\$100,000 per year for ~9 years (as long as Measure A is going well). Especially looking to support projects that incorporate racial equity into the design and implementation of programs, and those working to support issues already identified by local orgs, and smaller community based organizations.
- The program can support a broad range of projects related to agriculture food systems including urban agriculture and community gardens. The program actively seeks to support equity, community-identified priorities, and to address funding gaps.
- The application period is expected to open in Fall 2023.
- **Survey is open through Aug 31, available in English in Spanish:** [bit.ly/AgGrantSurvey2023](https://bit.ly/AgGrantSurvey2023). The survey is an informal way for community members to connect to the program before the formal application period. Your participation helps to plan the program so we can support the community's needs.
- Sonya will discuss in further detail at the August MFPC meeting.
- Meeting/workshop in the works for school gardens to learn about grant potential.
- Sonya can share info and/or listen at any meetings of groups that may be interested.

### Community Engaged Research Findings on Farmers Market Access (Julia Van Soelen Kim) \*[presentation](#)\*

- Using Community Engaged Research to expand the customer base of farmers market shoppers.
- **Farmers Market LIFE:** network of markets 18 farmers markets (15 in Sonoma and 3 in Marin) and 4 market organizations to collectively offer CalFresh and Market Match and join together in shared marketing and promotion for small market operators. Different from AIM, as a fully staffed robust org with markets across the region. Market managers

joined together in their commitment to making locally grown fresh food more affordable (CalFresh).

- Distributing CalFresh and Market Match \$1.2 million. For every \$1 market match dollar used, an additional \$3 is generated in the local economy. 2017, 2018, 2019 CalFresh sales had plateaued, even decreased. Knew there were unspent Market Match funds, wanted to understand barriers to CalFresh participation. 2020 pandemic through 2023 = need for CalFresh increased, emergency allotments increased, supply chain shortages all led to CalFresh usage increasing year after year as well. The change in CalFresh allotment levels are showing a current drop in usage.
- Wanted to make sure questions originated in community needs: community members and community organizations involved in the whole process from identification of research questions to development of methods, to collection of data.
- **Research Questions:**
  - Barriers and opportunities for people of color and low-income shoppers?
  - Community derived, locally relevant interventions?
  - Increased promotion of CalFresh and Market Match?
- **Methods:** consumer focus groups and surveys in English and Spanish (for both current shoppers AND people who don't currently shop at farmers markets), modified Delphi method, participant observation.
- Note: spike in CalFresh usage every May during CalFresh Awareness month when participants get double the Market Match dollars at participating markets.
- **Findings/main barriers to shopping at farmers markets:**
  - Lack of awareness of markets themselves (where and when)
  - Lack of awareness of the variety of acceptance of food assistance benefits at markets (most markets in Marin and Sonoma accept CalFresh, most but not all markets accept Market Match)
  - Perception of high prices
  - Lack of clear prices and signage
  - Vendors can't provide change so you need to provide exact amount
  - Wanted more flexibility, ie access to good quality protein (meat, dairy, and eggs)
- **Pilot interventions:** signage about CalFresh at markets; raise awareness about senior farmers market nutrition program; implemented a meat, dairy, and eggs voucher program (very successful, looking for long-term funding for the program); launched comprehensive marketing campaign "Faces of the Market" and worked with a Latinx marketing firm Watza Lab on bilingual and bicultural websites for Sonoma (hosted by Petaluma Bounty and paid for by the grant).
- **Next steps:**
  - Continue marketing campaign
  - Launch a farmers market ambassadors program to increase promotion capacity of farmers market orgs (help vendors accept CalFresh and WIC, etc.)
  - Expand online ordering and delivery options with network of community partner sites



- Comprehensive research report and methodological toolkit will be published this year

#### **Novato Farmers Market Tour** (Kelly Smith, Ag Community Events FMs)

- CalFresh and Market Match presentation
- Tour vendors
- Light dinner/snacks - \$20 of market bucks provided per member\* (*\*many thanks to Wellness funds from the Marin Community Foundation HEAL Collaborative Grant*)

**Meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **virtual** and is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 15** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## June 2023

#### **6/20/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Betsy Bateson (CAM), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Blythe Young (AHA), Darien Malekos (AIM), Erin Hawkins (CAM), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Fernando Barreto (Sup. Rodoni's office), Grace Davis (CAM), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Food Systems), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Rob Palmer (CAM), Sonya Hammons (Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Grant Program, County of Marin, [sonya@sonyahammons.com](mailto:sonya@sonyahammons.com)), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

#### **Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Julia: UCCE is hiring for a [project manager](#) for grant across 6 counties (Del Norte down to Marin) related to emergency food systems

#### **Community Action Marin's 2023 Community Needs Assessment** (Erin Hawkins and Rob Palmer, Community Action Marin) [\\*presentation\\*](#)

- **CAM background:** Marin's official anti-poverty community action agency (1 of 1,100+ across the country with this designation) comm action agencies created in 1964 under President Johnson with the charge of carrying out programs addressing poverty from a highly local level. Core funding from comm service block grant funding. 200+ staff working at 10 sites working with a \$21 million budget. Listen deeply to meet the needs of the community. Whole family approach: programs in 5 buckets: food justice, economic justice, children and families, safety net, equity initiatives. CAM's goal is supporting racial and economic justice in Marin County.

- **CAM Community Needs Assessment background:** CAM is required by law to conduct Community Needs Assessment and do community action planning to drive their services and decisions on how to address poverty in the community. Will post the final report on their website for community to use as they see fit.
- **CAM Community Needs Assessment data:** 19% Marin residents are Hispanic or Black, 37% of people living in poverty are Hispanic or Black. Lack of access to food has dropped overall in CA since 2021, but increased in Marin. Schools with highest rates of free and reduced price meals (FRPM) are in low income neighborhoods, more students of color.
- **CAM Community Needs Survey:** surveys residents likely to use CAM services. 596 responses, multiple languages, distributed by text and email to existing clients, community partners, and in-person surveys. 50% of households earned less than \$25,000/yr. Rated community concerns highest to lowest: housing, health (including food), education, employment, safety, then transportation. Top health concerns: lack of insurance, lack of access to healthy affordable food, and lingering Covid effects (food was 2nd out of 13 choices). Stress that food would run out before they had money to buy more: definition of food insecurity. 68% replied yes often or sometimes to this question. Majority of families are enrolled in WIC, and are not enrolled in CalFresh. Families are needing extra food.
- You can review the full presentation deck, video of the public hearing, and our prior CNA report on the [CAM website here](#)
- **CAM food justice services:** 11,000 healthy meals and snacks for kids each month, education about food and nutrition during family style meals, 1,200 healthy meals for seniors each month, CAM production farm harvested over 730 lbs of produce last year. Partnering with OAEC on Appetite for Change program starting in August.
- **CAM rental assistance program:** CAM also helps families pay rent, CAM only has about 3 weeks of funding left, letting BOS know now. Money was supposed to last through December anticipating need, but it will run out in July. If CAM is unable to help families with rent, the food need/vulnerability will directly increase soon, since money is split between rent and food.
- **Feedback from the Council:** best practices for referring to food insecurity? Could check with HHS or Ceres. Ceres food insecurity screening question in their entrance and exit survey. Measuring food insecurity is tricky. Issue of striking a balance aiming to have questions remain consistent to compare data across years vs adapting to emerging trends. Question as to how the County Health Rankings and Roadmap group evaluates food access, as well as [Measure of America](#).

### **Zero Hunger goal for Marin (Felicia Chavez)**

- Presentation on “Dear Marin: Can Marin County meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of 2030? A Systems Thinking Perspective” ([link to book](#))
- **SDG #2: zero hunger.** Chapter 2 addresses concepts of food insecurity in Marin, food sovereignty, where we are, where we want to get to, and how to do so. Resources used for data and food insecurity: Missing Meals report, County Health Rankings and Roadmap.
- Feedback for MFPC is general: outlook from a systems thinking perspective is bleak, to be honest - it was bad in the 70s and has mainly gotten worse. Some uplifting

exceptions. MFPC is working on advocacy, a step above the band aid approach of most charitable work, and the systems perspective is where real change happens but is almost impossible to fund.

- MFPC will buy some hard copy and audio versions of Felicia's book - **email Bonnie if interested in either.**
- Reach out to Felicia ([felicia.chavez@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.chavez@gmail.com)) with any help or suggestions if working to publish your own non-fiction book.

## Policy Updates (All)

- California Nutrition Incentive/Market Match State budget ([Op Ed in Marin IJ](#)): advocating for funding for market match at the state level, bill passed legislature thanks to advocacy, but AIM says work isn't done yet, Governor still needs to sign it, Liana is following up. [More info here.](#)
- [CDFA Urban Agriculture Grant Program](#) public comment on short term funding to develop Urban Ag grant funding program. Just released a draft request for proposals booklet, but the time for public comment just closed. Inviting others to still submit public comment after the deadline has closed because Marin won't qualify due to 1) Bay Area definition excluded North Bay, and 2) define disadvantaged communities narrowly and excludes all of Marin. Monica submitted [Public Comment on behalf of MFPC](#), and Julia invites others to do so. [sample language](#) for public comment on CDFA Urban Ag Grant Program RFA. Email [caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:caurbanag@cdfa.ca.gov) and include "Urban Agriculture Stakeholder Comments" in the subject line.

## Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- New member presentations: Jesica Rodriguez and Zaw Wai Htoo
  - Jesica Rodriguez, [jbrodriguez@marincounty.org](mailto:jbrodriguez@marincounty.org): long standing rep for HHS and Marin County HEAL Collaborative. Work in Marin County, lives in Roseland, Santa Rosa. Did environmental education work before working with HHS on the Nutrition Wellness Program with Elaini and Oscar. Main role is to support the overall function of HEAL Collaborative. Multi-sector initiative that brings together partners from all over Marin with the shared goal working on and advancing equity and improving health outcomes for all. Community Action Teams and Community Co-leads (Alcohol Justice, Marin County Cooperation Team, and West Marin Community Services). CATs are prioritizing: creating public markets, enhancing comm gardens, expanding pathways of education that exist on food that's available in communities. Feel free to add [input here](#). Alternate for Jesica: Elaini Negussie.
  - Zaw Wai Htoo, [zhtoo@ucanr.edu](mailto:zhtoo@ucanr.edu): New Nutrition and Community Health Advisor for UCCE Marin. Background: medical doctor, worked with the United Nations and UNICEF on food security and nutrition. Doctorate degree in community nutrition and public health, worked on community nutrition. Currently meeting with partners and working on a needs assessment to inform his position, enhance programs and extend education. Sub-specialty in his current role will cover

nutrition needs of vulnerable older adults. Alternate for Zaw Wai: Julia Van Soelen Kim.

- **July 18 MFPC meeting will be hybrid in-person at the UCCE office in Novato with the option to join via Zoom.**
  - Strong preference for in-person. Meet at UCCE office in Novato followed by tour of Novato farmers market and light dinner.

**Meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next meeting will be **HYBRID in-person and virtual** and is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 18** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## May 2023

### **5/16/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Betsy Bateson (CAM), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Curtis Aikens (chef), Darien Malekos (AIM), Elaini Negussie (HHS), Greg Pirie (Deputy Director of Environmental Health Services), Ida Green (Marin HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jenna Smart (AIM), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Lee Notowich (guest), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Lisa (guest), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Paul Fordham (Homeward Bound of Marin, [pfordham@hbofm.org](mailto:pfordham@hbofm.org)), Shannon Bell, (Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Environmental Health Services), Sonya Hammons (community member, [sonya@sonyahammons.com](mailto:sonya@sonyahammons.com)), Stephanie Robison (Meritage), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions), Zaw Wai Htoo (UCCE Marin)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Liana - AIM is accepting applications for Racial Equity Fund at the downtown San Rafael Farmers Market (June 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, on Fourth street), offering financial support to three Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Farmers, Food Producers, and Artisans.
- AIM's Point Reyes Station Summer Farmers Market is opening on June 10, Downtown San Rafael is also opening soon: Apply here:  
<https://www.agriculturalinstitute.org/joinourmarkets>
- WEBINAR: How to engage public health departments in support of street vendors & SB 972 Implementation May 17th, 10-11:30am  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpdO2qrTMsGNb6xr4PVdgOM9w1M3zgt6fL#/registration>
- Jesica: Marin County Commission on Aging Health Forum 'Food for Thought' is happening this month:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marin-county-commission-on-aging-health-forum-food-for-tought-tickets-615894776857>

**Learning Opportunity: Micro-Enterprise Food Businesses** (Francesco Lelo, [Lasagna Today](#), CAM Kitchen graduate, Karina Carrillo and Ana Medina, [Mas Masa](#), Paul Fordham, [Fresh Starts Culinary Academy](#) and [Homeward Bound of Marin](#))

- **Karina Carrillo and Ana Medina with Mas Masa.** Launched the process of buying the business 1.5 years ago. GoFundMe funding helped support. Bought an existing restaurant business, down payment increased so GoFundMe helped in addition to the loan to buy the business. Still struggles and successes. Mas Masa is a fresh Mexican Californian restaurant, get lots of ingredients locally, make everything in house fresh - don't use GMO, buy organic as much as possible. Idea is to offer fresh Mexican food as they grew up eating in Mexico.
- **Paul Fordham with Fresh Starts Culinary Academy** (Homeward Bound of Marin): 10 week free program Mon-Fri 9am-3pm. Began in 2001 in response to the food service need at homeless shelters. Has expanded through the years, 1500 people in 20 years who work in the local food industry (working in markets, schools, line cooks, high end restaurants, etc.). Costs \$400,000 a year to run programs but do so with grants. Homeward Bound also runs a few businesses to employ graduates: 12,000 meals/months for shelters as well as high end dog treats. Started dog treats at farmers markets, had to budget a loss for the first year and find grants/donors to underwrite the loss. Success after the first year with their Pet Food Express account (120 stores)! Paul with Homeward Bound for 18 years, helps run and develop the businesses, doesn't have a food or business background, has learned with help from people in the industry. Grows the business by listening to others. Info on culinary training program: <https://hbofm.org/about-homeward-bound-of-marin/fresh-starts-culinary-academy/>. Key room event space operated by Homeward Bound: <https://thekeyroom.com/> Wagster Dog Treat business: <https://wagsterdogtreats.com/>
- **Francesco Lelo with Lasagna Today:** used to work as restaurant chef until the pandemic. Lasagna Today makes artisan premade lasagna, online delivery service for families. Next step will be having a location (now rental kitchen to freezer, then delivery). Originally used CAM kitchen when he couldn't afford other rent.
- What has been **HELPFUL** in providing resources and support getting started:
  - Industry tips and help
  - GoFundMe
  - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in San Rafael (<https://www.marinsbdc.org/>) and SBA helps startup business owners
  - Personal connections and mentors, previous colleagues
  - [Helloalice.com](#) helps small businesses with grants, workshops, classes, etc. BUT only in English
  - Any incentives for large chain restaurants to help small businesses, pay it forward by helping their community?

- Workforce innovation and opportunity org, how to increase the number of people working with you but being paid by other funding streams? Funding to place individuals in businesses? Such as the San Francisco Jobs Now program.
- Another good resource for Spanish speakers is California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce <https://www.cahcc.com>
- **CHALLENGES** for getting food businesses up and running:
  - Accessing affordable kitchen space
  - Accessing startup funds
  - Often the owners of the building like to see how much money the business makes in a year, and then raises the rent accordingly; same with permits. This is unfair because they look at gross income.
  - Financial education would be helpful - people start a business with a dream but might not have the education of the financial and legal aspects of owning and running a business. Resources in other languages and available to minority communities would be helpful.
  - Being ready to open a business but not being able to do it legally.
  - Wanting to know more about County resources - future MFPC learning opportunity
- Barriers and opportunity related to **POLICY**:
  - Rent is HIGH (commercial kitchen as well as brick and mortar)
  - Size of kitchen space; county regulations for producing and selling food given space capacity to store food
  - Small business grants after Covid exist in other counties, for minorities and all, but none in Marin. Less grant opportunities after Covid.
  - Ideas how to help the community: open patio to community to teach classes, workshops, use the space for education, etc.
  - Takes a long time to raise capital (high rent, costly permits). Could waive permits for first time start ups, or target certain diverse groups?
  - Shared commercial kitchen space La Cocina (<https://lacocinasf.org/>) available at low cost (not set up as for profit) in SF... model for similar situation in Marin?
  - “Renaissance” kitchen incubator program in Marin, and others, closed now
- Barriers to support access to healthy local food to underserved communities, or to BIPOC food service workers?
  - Main barriers are financial - really hard if you don't have a lot of capital to start with
  - Having more bilingual help or advisors (for example with the SBDC) to help extend resources to minorities in Marin
  - Accessible rental kitchen options
- MFPC will continue learning on this topic throughout the year.



**Policy Focus: County of Marin Reusable Foodware Ordinance** (Greg Pirie, Deputy Director of Environmental Health Services, Shannon Bell, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Environmental Health Services)

- **MEHKOs** in Marin: last October MFPC learned about Marin County interest and potential for bringing MEHKOs to Marin. Since then, the County has been working on a local street vending policy as well. County is in favor, but working on it. MEHKOs are similar to Cottage Foods, but includes more. Moving forward, the County sees the interest. Already in the Health and Safety Code but needs to opt in to get it going in the ordinance. Will get public feedback before code finalized to make sure all the specifics are included. Up to 16 meals/week and \$50,000 revenue annually to stay safe in a home. Each municipality in Marin has to also adopt the policy. Strategic priority of the Office of Equity to help home based food entrepreneurs of color.
- **Reusable Foodware Ordinance**: is county specific and doesn't involve state code, and will automatically apply to cities and towns. Ordinance process began 2-3 years ago and paused during Covid, resumed last May, adopted in unincorporated areas. A year for cities and towns to adopt the ordinance after the County adopted it. Goal: 1,400 food facilities in the county to be cohesive and coherent. So far going well, few individual challenges, only a couple cities and towns who haven't gotten into the process yet. Continuing outreach and education now. Enforcement will start in November 2023. GOAL: to reduce single use plastics and increase need for reusables and compostables, will apply to all businesses and food facilities. MFPC can help by being available and sharing the information we know, or direct questions to [foodware@marincounty.org](mailto:foodware@marincounty.org) or call (415) 473-6907. Mini grant program to help businesses restock their inventory (up to \$599). Will increased foodward costs get passed on to consumers? Best way to save costs is reuseables.

**Council Business** (Liana Orlandi)

- New member presentations: Jesica Rodriguez, rescheduled to June meeting. Jesica has been a member since last year, formalizing membership with presentation.
  - West Marin Food Services (Madeline Nieto Hope) could do a possible new member presentation in the new year.
- Steering Committee update:
  - Reba Meigs and Steve Schwartz have stepped down from the Steering Committee after years of service
  - Welcoming Monica Ravizza to the Steering Committee
  - Still looking for 1-2 additional members, looking for diverse representation in every way we can; nominate yourself or others to Julia, or Bonnie via email.
- Update on developing a Strategic Policy Plan on Older Adult Nutrition with Jeanne Merrill. Jeanne is in the process of holding informational interviews on needs of older adult nutrition - some of you may get a call from Jeanne. We will host a focus group on the topic later in the summer, asking for possible July/August dates. If you want to be involved in this subset of MFPC work, let Julia, Liana, Monica, or Bonnie know via email.

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 20, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## April 2023

### **4/18/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Betsy Bateson (CAM), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Camille Macdonald (guest), Carlos Garcia (MCC Health Hubs), Curtis Aikens (chef), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Ida Green, (guest), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Lara Rajninger (Kids Cooking for Life), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (AAI), Lori Davis (Sanzuma), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services), Sonya Hammons (community member, [sonya@sonyahammons.com](mailto:sonya@sonyahammons.com)), Stephanie Robison (Meritage), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Julia - 5 positions for program coordinator positions with HHS, 1 with the department that Elaini, Jesica, and Kathy Koblick work
  - County of Marin, Senior Program Coordinator Positions: closes April 28, 2023.  
There are two positions within BHRS, Substance Use Services, and three positions within Public Health. Please be sure and select which position/s you are interested in as you complete the application. You should select ALL the positions you are interested in.
    1. Nutrition Wellness Program (Public Health) – 1 position
    2. OD Free Marin (Public Health) – 1 position
    3. Community Response Teams (Public Health) – 1 position
    4. Substance Use Services (BHRS) – 2 positions
- Ida - Home Delivered Groceries [flyer](#); HHS mobile van [flyer](#)
- Fernando - Community conversations - office hours with Sup Rodoni [flyer](#)
- Wendy - Lots of great plant sales and start sharing opportunities have been going on in the last few weeks and will continue through Earth Day. Grow on!!
- Lori - Volunteer work day at Sanzuma's farm at San Pedro school this Saturday for Earth Day Everyone is welcome 9-12 Come and see the nutrition center that we are building
- Anita: Mill Valley Children's Garden At Edna Maguire Elementary yearly plant sale will be posted this week on Instagram @millvalleychildrensgarden. Also there is a garden work party this Sunday 10am 10 1pm at the Garden at Edna Maguire.
- Betsy: [Earth Day Garden Volunteer Day](#) is happening at CAM's Old Gallinas Children's Center this Saturday, April 22nd, between 9 and Noon. Not only are we cleaning up the

gardens, we are also learning about Earth-friendly activities- Recycling- Rethinking your Drink, and healthy snacks, plus physical activity.

**Learning Opportunity: Marin County Office of Equity & [Participatory Budgeting](#)** (Jamillah Jordan, Marin County Equity Director) \*[presentation](#)\*

- [www.pb.marincounty.org](http://www.pb.marincounty.org)
- The Marin County Office of Equity has received hundreds of great ideas on how to improve local communities and advance equity! The next step in our Marin County Participatory Budgeting (PB) process is for community members and nonprofits to turn their ideas into grant applications. Grants are available ranging from **\$10,000 - \$250,000**.
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- Participatory Budgeting [grants application flyer](#), and Participatory Budgeting [infographic](#)
- Rule Book (framework used to help the committee make decisions; committee made up of 15 committed, intergenerational representatives from all targeted areas with lived experience in variety of areas, went through a robust outreach process)
- Participatory Budgeting: democratic process where community members decide how to spend a budget
- Their approach to Participatory Budgeting is an intersectional, multidimensional, complex, and holistic view of inclusion; while they lead with race, they also look at age, sexuality, gender, income, ability, etc.
- Focus on building new community leaders, allow for others to enter into the civic dialogue
- \$2.5 million from ARPA to fund community-initiated projects to advance equity, focusing on communities under 70 on the Healthy Places Index (Marin City, San Rafael, Canal, West Marin, and Novato)
- **Stage 1 applications due: 5/10, Stage 2 applications due: 5/31**
- **5 step process:**
  - 1) **brainstorm ideas** (such as: Equitable access to quality education, Invest in transportation for West Marin residents, Look at what's missing in the community and gather community input so you're bringing into that local community what residents desire, Promote and produce events that provide an opportunity for exchange, Education and training of physicians and healthcare providers to improve access and understanding, Access to healthy organic school meals, Salaries for teachers need to meet the cost of living in Marin county, Free daycare, Equitable food system, Adult day centers in Marin City and the Canal neighborhood, with childcare nextdoor, Fair housing and tenant protection, Safe roadways and more lighting in the Canal, etc...). They built an [interactive map](#) to note brainstorm suggestions across the county.
  - 2) **develop & refine proposals** for grants from \$10k - \$250k. Applicants seeking funding must be 501(c)(3) or a fiscal sponsor. Provide assistance for fiscal sponsorship, help from grant writers.

- 3) **vote** in a community ballot (anyone who lives, works, or attends school over age 14 in Marin); ballots will be inclusive of all projects county-wide, about 20 total (have only received 12 applications so far)
- 4) **fund projects** that were selected via this ^ vote
- 5) **implement projects** by helping the winners of the funds
- **Upcoming application workshops for help with stage 1 and stage 2 applications**
  - **Wednesday, April 26, 6-8pm**
  - **Thursday, April 27, 12-1:30pm**
  - **Wednesday, May 3, 6-8pm**
  - **Thursday, May 4, 1-2:30pm**
  - Workshops will cover: Your eligibility to receive PB grant funding, how to connect with our team of grant writers, how to complete the Stage 1 and Stage 2 applications, how to connect with a fiscal sponsor or nonprofit partner, and how to create a project budget and timeline
- Where does PB intersect with food access, food justice, and MFPC Work? How can MFPC best be involved? Work with community members to submit proposals, potentially be a partner on proposal applications. Spread the word so people know the money is available. Success crowd-sourcing needs, issues, and solutions from community members - share this with department heads.

#### **Vote of Approval: MFPC Policy Platform Updates on Older Adults**

- April 2022 MFPC had a panel on Older Adult Nutrition Program, Camille began sketching out updates to existing MFPC Policy Platform based on new information learned, process is now complete. Document pulled from the MFPC master Policy Platform, obtained feedback from engaged parties, and has an updated section on Older Adults. The document contains: background information and data on older adults in Marin, barriers, program improvements, Covid innovations, and 7 key issues with solution statement and individual programs offering solutions.
- VOTE to incorporate new info into existing MFPC Policy Platform: **APPROVED**

#### **Senior Policy Platform Development (Liana Orlandi)**

- Strategic Plan Development with lobbyist Jeanne Merrill: Advancing Older Adults Healthy Food Access Policies in California. Collaborative grant with MFPC, AIM, SF-Marin Food Bank; one of the grant items is to hire a lobbyist to develop a strategy to promote legislation for Older Adults. Working with Jeanne Merrill beginning in May and going into October. Jeanne began her career in the sustainable food sector before she became a lobbyist, very knowledgeable about policy. The Steering Committee MFPC updated on Jeanne's work. Contact SC if interested to be more involved in this work.
- Objective: Develop a strategic state policy plan for the Marin Food Policy Council to advance older adult access to healthy, sustainable and locally produced food.
- Questions:

- What are the state agency opportunities over the next one to three years where the Marin Food Policy Council can further its goals to increase older adult access to healthy, local, and sustainably produced food? Who are the key policymakers and other stakeholders in the space?
- How can existing state programs better support older adults in accessing healthy, local, and sustainable food? How is equity addressed in current programs?
- What does a state budget strategy look like? Who are the key stakeholders and potential allies?
- What might a state policy agenda for the Council look like over the next 1-2 years? What might the agenda look like in 3-4 years, building upon past and current successes?

## Policy Updates (All)

- [CFFN Priority Areas](#) - Vote of support for sign-ons (have already been decided upon by CFFN BIPOC Steering Committee with focus on equity and agroecology)
  - AB 652 (Lee): fits under MFPC farmworker health and safety platform, Liana will send more info
  - SB 675 (Limon): create local assistant grant program for prescribed grazing for fire suppression, fits under MFPC climate change and sustainable ag values **YES**
  - AB 853 (Mansion): CA right to access essential goods and services (grocery workers' bill), prevent grocery stores from \$25 billion mega merger consolidating chains, cutting locations, laying off workers, and hitting food deserts hard... Propose to add this topic as a learning opportunity in the future... **YES**
- Two bills designed to address hunger in California that are relevant to MFPC historical interest in CalFresh expansion and supporting a sustainable, healthy food system in Marin County
  - **AB 605 (Arambula): CalFresh Fruit & Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program Expand the Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot to boost benefits for more CalFresh households.** [Bill Text - AB-605 CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program](#). This bill is sponsored by Spur & Nourish and is designed to address hunger in California. AIM is one of 7 farmers market organizations participating in a pilot of this program. However, AIM and other farmers market operators have serious reservations about this bill and believe we should instead support:
  - **SB 600 (Menjivar): State-funded augmentation to the minimum CalFresh benefit to Provide state-funded CalFresh benefits to ensure that no CalFresh household receives less than \$50 per month.** [Bill Text - SB-600 California CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Act of 2023](#). AB 605 proposes providing EBT card users who buy vegetables or fruits with up to \$60 in additional funds on their cards to spend anywhere. The concern is that this program could eliminate Market Match which is a dollar-for-dollar match to purchase fruits & vegetables at participating farmers markets for up to \$10 per day. Under AB 605 there is no requirement to buy California-grown fruits and vegetables. There is no funding for the administration of this program and individual farmers will have to become qualified to accept EBT cards, which will likely not happen, limiting access to farmers market produce for people using

CalFresh. AB 605 is proposed as an anti-hunger bill, but there are other solutions being proposed that would do a better job of supporting consumers and farmers. SB 600 would raise the minimum CalFresh benefit to \$50 per month, up from \$23 and would likely leave funding intact to continue to provide incentives to shop at farmers markets instead of grocery stores.

### **Council Business (Liana Orlandi)**

- **New member presentations: Autumn Johns**
  - Ceres has been an organizational member with MFPC for over a decade; this is an opportunity to introduce Autumn. She is the lead for policy work with Ceres; policy working group (5 people) has a diversity of focuses, including health equity, food and health, and youth. Years of experience in non profits before this past 1.5 years with Ceres. The policy piece is new and Autumn is enjoying learning about it and about Marin from MFPC (she lives in Sonoma). Ceres just moved into a new kitchen in Novato to expand services to more clients.
- **MFPC Fall 2023 Paid Internship Opportunity:** paid internship opportunity with the Marin Food Policy Council through Merritt College in the East Bay. [The position](#) is primarily virtual for fall semester 2023. Class attendance through Merritt College is virtual with the exception of two in-person meetings. You do not need to be enrolled in Merritt College to apply. Pay is \$15.97 per hour for 225 hours (an average of 13.25 hours per week) from August 21-December 15 (17 weeks). Deadline to apply is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Learn more at: <https://www.merritt.edu/nhs/internship/>

**Meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 16, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **March 2023**

### **3/21/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Andy-Naja-Riese (AIM & HEAL), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden aka the Edna Garden, [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Betsy Bateson (CAM), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Blythe Young (AHA), Curtis Aikens (chef), Cynthia Chen (AHA), Darien Malekos (AIM), Denicka Posadas (intern for Nutrition Wellness Program, [dposadas@marincounty.org](mailto:dposadas@marincounty.org)), Elaini Negussie (Marin HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program), Em Kay (guest), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Jahmeer Reynolds (Marin County Cooperation Team), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Keegan Horton (Interfaith Food), Lee Notowich (Commission on Aging), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (AAI), Maite Duran (Alcohol Justice), Marchon Tatmon (SFMFB), McKenna Woodward (Office of Asm. Damon Connolly),*



Michael Delafield (ExtraFood, [Michael@extrafood.org](mailto:Michael@extrafood.org)), Sonya Hammons (community member, [sonya@sonyahammons.com](mailto:sonya@sonyahammons.com)), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions),

### Introductions & Announcements (Liana Orlandi)

- Darien - Marin Farm Day is Thursday, 9AM-12PM at the Thursday Marin Farmers Market! 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael (Marin Civic Center)
- Anita Sparks - plant sale up coming in late April Follow us on Instagram for more announcements @millvalleychildrensgarde
- Wendy: upcoming community plant sales: Sat April 15th UC Master Gardeners Tomato Market (Pini Ace Hardware Novato and Bon Air Shopping Center Greenbrae): [https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/ASK\\_US/EVENTS/TomatoSale/](https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/ASK_US/EVENTS/TomatoSale/)
- Sat April 15th: Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society: Pickups at Bon Air of previously ordered plants. Online ordering April 5th @ 6 pm to Monday April 10th @6pm <https://cnpsmarin.org/native-plants/nursery-and-plant-sales/item/870-spring-2023-plant-sale>
- Friday April 14th and Sat April 15th pre-order pickup; Friday April 21st and Sat April 22nd in person sales: Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden Spring Plant Sale: We're expecting to have our inventory up for you to browse the online sale by April 1st so stay tuned for more announcements! And as always, all of our plants are certified organic. Feel free to contact us at [organicfarm@marin.edu](mailto:organicfarm@marin.edu) with any questions or to get on the mailing list. <http://ivc.farm/>
- Sunday April 16th: Point Reyes Park Event and Plant Swap with West Marin Climate Action, Marin County Parks, and Marin County Libraries (flyer coming)
- May 13 InSpirit Plant Sale at Lagunitas School: <https://www.inspiritmarin.org/>
- Curtis: Join Chef Curtis on Wednesday, March 29 as he creates a fun and flavorful dish with just five ingredients right before your eyes. He'll also show you how it fits in with the rest of a five-course meal. Tune in to learn a new recipe and get plenty of cooking tips along the way! Geared to seniors. FREE. Register for the webinar: <https://lnkd.in/dqgmYMW>
- Lee: Congregate Meal for 60 year old+ community in West Marin begins April 3, 2023, at San Geronimo Valley Community Center. Call 415-473-INFO to sign up and learn more. \$3 donation suggested, but not required.

**Learning Opportunity: [Organic Farming Bill Package](#) and organic transition budget. (AB 404, 405, 406; Connolly)** (Andy Naja-Riese, AIM; Rebekah Weber, CCOF; McKenna Woodward, Asm. Connolly's office)

- Three bills in organic farming package this year: AB 404, 405, 406
- These bills (in the organic farming bill package) made it through the Assembly Ag committee last week. Just one vote of No for AB 406, still passed majority vote.
- **AB 404:** requires CDFA to evaluate reporting requirements for farmers and ranchers to make sure they aren't duplicative (variety of agencies that farmers have to report to, and a lot of the information is duplicative, so this requires CDFA to make sure the process is

streamlined for farmers). Sponsored by CCOF (one of largest organic certifiers within CA).

- **AB 405:** a repeat of a bill introduced last session AB 1870, requires the CA Dept of Health to create an online registration and payment system, again to make things easier for farmers. Sponsored by CCOF (one of largest organic certifiers within CA).
- **AB 406:** focuses on the Healthy Soils Program, state agency's flagship program for climate smart ag. Program falls short because most farmers and ranchers receiving funding for a single practice, instead of multiple practices. Purpose is to build upon the success of the Healthy Soils Program and add an organic track allowing organic farmers to have a 5 year grant term and give higher incentive programs and reduce the administrative burden. Asm. Connolly is supporting budget request for funds for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Seeing someone in their first term of office really advocating for organics.
- Email with follow-up questions: [McKenna.Woodward@asm.ca.gov](mailto:McKenna.Woodward@asm.ca.gov).
- Anything MFPC can do in terms of Letters of Support? LOS always appreciated, McKenna Woodward can provide templates if interested. MFPC has signed onto all three bills, some individual orgs and farmers signed on as well. If bills move to the Senate side, we can do some outreach to people on the Senate side, such as Senator McGuire. Next step is the appropriations committee, then the Assembly floor for a vote, then Senate committees for a vote.

**Learning Opportunity: HEAL Community Action Teams - policy priorities** (Elaini Negussie and Jahmeer Reynolds, Maite Duran, and Jesica Rodriguez) \*[presentation](#)\*

- Overview: In the Canal, 3 in 4 people experience food insecurity, and 1 in 2 people in Marin City. Marin ranks high in income inequality, large gap in life expectancy (17 year gap between Marin City residents and rest of the county).
- HEAL vision and strategy: main focus is to prevent hunger from happening in the first place, and thus increase equity and decrease food insecurity. Focus of food access: specific places in MARin with greatest need and opportunities for change. Changed steering committee and revisioned strategy to shift towards a community empowered model. The Steering Committee (with Communications and Evaluations sub committees) works in support of Community Action Teams (CAT) in the Canal, Marin City, and West Marin.
- Three CAT partners: Marin County Cooperation Team, Alcohol Justice, and West Marin Community Services. These lead outreach and engagement efforts and SC provides technical support.
- **Marin City CAT:** leads HEAL work in Marin City. Undergoing community engagement process this past year, convened stakeholders and community partners (MCCSD, Marin City Community Dev Corporation, school district, and others) to narrow down issues to focus on. Priorities: community gardens (revitalizing existing gardens), supporting home cooks and other food retailers, and obtaining and training youth health educators. Outreach at community events, surveys, door to door questionnaires to get community feedback. Summarizing findings now and will share with us in the near future. <https://www.marincountycooperationteam.org/>
- **Canal CAT:** three priorities: leverage expertise to those in the restaurant industry, support growth of public markets, commercial kitchen, and food trucks; identify underutilized land for gardens; and support educational campaign around decolonizing

food ways to increase fruit and veg consumption. Reach out to 1500 community members to check if priorities were in line with their desires. Hired outreach coordinator, developed survey on priorities, conducted community outreach using the survey and town hall zoom meeting (with 80 attendees, with some gift cards awarded as incentives). Concluded outreach at the end of February: 1,507 people contacted! Summary: community would benefit and is ready to support the priorities: how to engage home cooks and provide them with support for them to build their small food businesses; and how to implement nutrition campaign with information and cooking ingredients. Outreach effort was rewarded. Youth for Justice and Pachamama Protectors collaboration.

- **West Marin CAT:** most of West Marin is unincorporated. Partnership with West Marin Community Services and San Geronimo Valley Community Services to ensure the outreach isn't centered on just one region or town. Way for Latino community members throughout West Marin to take on a leadership role in outreach efforts and focusing on priorities. Emphasis on Pt Reyes, Tamales, and Nicasio based on the community members showing up. Gave stipends for time they spent giving feedback and testimony on HEAL work, as well as start shaping the engagement process going forward. 3.4 of engagement led in Spanish by CAT members. Paper distribution of info was most successful. 600 community members reached, 160 surveys received from community members, still reaching out to community members in such a large and spread out region. Priorities emerging: large interest in community gardens, specifically with rain catchment systems (addressing the varied access to water throughout West Marin), as well as hot meal sharing in order to improve access to healthy eating in your community (since many families work multiple jobs to pay rent, hot meals can fall by the wayside). Hope to share findings in a report in April.
- Looking forward to Marin Food Policy Council's support on a few of HEAL CAT priorities: supporting micro enterprise programs for home cooks, urban greening projects (any zoning or policies that would help or hinder this?), and building capacity of community gardens and related work.
- Wendy has a garden survey for people to express their needs and potentially access Measure A funds. The Garden Survey is gathering needs on specific garden sites. Please reach out to Wendy directly ([wtobiasson@gmail.com](mailto:wtobiasson@gmail.com)) if you want to make sure your site was included. Lots of great input on garden needs. They will provide the results to this community as well as the Measure A planners.

### Policy Updates (All)

- CFFN Priority Areas: 9 policy priorities this year. Of those, 5 fit within MFPC Policy Platform (Food for All, CalFresh minimum benefit, Healthy Kids meals, Medically Supported Food and Nutrition, and the Food and Ag Climate Resilience bond), and the other 4 bills need to be discussed as a council. See summary of [CFFN Priority Bills here](#) (including notes to the bill language, and noted in **red** where we need a vote and in **green** where we're already signed on based on prior support or the topic being explicit in the Policy Platform), and MFPC will discuss more at the April meeting.

### New member presentations

- Betsy Bateson, Community Action Marin: Food Justice manager started with CAM in December, lives in Berkeley. Background in Community Nutrition Edu and Food

Resource Equity, along with creating an environment that allows for health and wellbeing of the whole family. CAM serves over 350 families in Marin county, 8 centers operating 26 classrooms. Share the benefits of choosing healthy foods with families. Infant toddler care, preschool, and after school programs with strict guidelines on the food served (about 2/3 of kids' calories are consumed at these classes). CAM also has a production farm. Working with Children for Change of White Hill Middle School and Appetite for Change to help get the production farm ready for planting. Both of these groups are focusing on peoples' rights to healthy sustainable foods, working with families to learn how to do this. Working on developing 12 gardening plots for families to use. Also have large commercial kitchen used in the morning for CAM programs (to make food for CAM sites) and in the afternoon and evening for vendors' use (caterers, as well as community apprentice program). CAM also delivers food to 7 senior sites throughout the counties. Partnered for ExtraFood recently making soup out of gleaned food from senior centers, sharing the soup with elders as well as preschools. CAM also offers support with rent and utilities, financial counseling, workforce and career training for families, tax help (if you make less than \$62k). Partners: HEAL, MFPC, Rally, WIC, SF-Marin Food Bank.

- Anita Sparks, Friends of the Mill Valley Children's Garden: 33 years old! Since 2017 functioning as a non-profit. Edna Maguire PTA is the main financial support source. Main stakeholders: Edna Maguire students. Kids come to the garden twice a month with curriculum given by the garden educator, school culture supports garden education. Garden became a safe space for connection during the pandemic. Led by volunteers the garden produced and donated over 4300 lbs of fresh produce to the community, including the CAM kitchen. Demographics of the school district often make the garden ineligible to apply for grants. In general, lack of garden support in Marin is felt - they sometimes get forgotten. Since August 2022 they have been working more closely with MLK Academy and jointly held work parties (with hot meals) at both schools (with over 200 participants). Youth all funnel into Tam High. Collaborate with Marin Master Gardeners since 2020. Watch them grow on Instagram @millvalleychildrensgarden.
- Jesica Rodriguez, Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative *\*postponed*
- Keegan Horton, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collective *\*postponed*

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 18, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## February 2023

### **2/21/2023 - MFPC Zoom Meeting**

*Attendees: Keegan Horton (Interfaith), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Wendy Tobiasson, Darien Malekos (AIM), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Julia VanSoelen Kim (UCCE), Monica Ravizza, (ExtraFood), Patti Juachon (MCF), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Bronte Edwards (Land Stewardship Associate, MALT), Tindi Musyoki, (Food 4 Change Club at*

*Tam High School, [tindiimusyoki@gmail.com](mailto:tindiimusyoki@gmail.com)), Ida Green (HHS), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin County HEAL Collaborative), Isabella Danel (public health physician), Autumn Johns (CERES), Anita Sparks ([anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com)), Camille MacDonald (MFPC intern), Marchon Tatmon (SFMFB)*

### **Introductions & Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Keegan - Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative Annual Conference, March 8, 2023. "Faith, Food & Farms" <https://FFF2023.eventbrite.com>
- Wendy - Survey about school gardens is being sent out, please email Julia if you'd like to be added to the email list.
- Wendy - CERES & West Marin partners met last week to kick start medically tailored meals in West Marin.

### **Membership** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- New member presentation: Monica Ravizza, Director of Programs, ExtraFood
  - 50,000 Marin residents are food insecure
  - 10,000 children in Marin are food insecure
  - 12,000 older adults in Marin are food insecure
  - 35% of edible food is wasted, if food waste were a nation, it would rank 3rd in greenhouse gas emissions in the world.
  - 200 volunteers + 2 staff drivers who pick up food 365 days a year & deliver to 150 partner organizations. Diverse recipients to enhance access.
  - Partnership with Share the Bounty - residential gleaning, have a team to harvest excess backyard produce.
  - Launching a farm gleaning project.
  - Community meals program. Many restaurants don't have waste, but some restaurants cook meals specifically for donation.
  - Super food kitchen - partnership with Insalata's - using excess produce & making soup - 140 pints of soup 2x/week.
  - Emergency response - nimble, able to respond quickly in emergency situations
  - Goal - rescue 1 mil. Lbs of food in 2023. Serve 10,000 people,
  - Nonprofit of the year last year from Marc Levine.
  - Education around reducing food waste at home.
  - Reach out to ExtraFood.org if you have an event & may need to donate food.
  - Can ExtraFood pick up school food? Yes, if there is a partner that will take that food. There isn't interest in any more baby carrots or sliced apples.
  - Appreciation from Fernando Barreto for culturally appropriate food response during fires in West Marin.
- Julia provided a list of formal members versus interested attendees. Everyone is always welcome to attend these meetings as attendees. Meetings are open to the public.

## Presentation

- Multi-Agency Disaster Feeding Plan (Patti D'Angelo Juachon, Marin Community Foundation)
  - Context: Marin Community Foundation is a longtime supporter of MFPC, and has been sole funder for last few years through the Health portfolio.
  - Patti is program director at MCF. Work overlaps with Shirin Vakaria who oversees the grant that supports MFPC.
  - This work is in the Environment Portfolio. We are not prepared for the frequency and severity of disasters associated with climate change. Plan created before 2017 wildfires, pandemic, etc. MCF supported nonprofits with continuity plans, etc. to coordinate response, including support for the VOAD - a coordinating entity that links nonprofits, faith-based and other responders in time of disaster.
  - Food is implicated in disasters. Many MFPC members were involved in the food response. We learned how dynamic and complex feeding is during a disaster.
  - What's next for MCF investments in disaster preparedness?
    - Food & feeding for the most vulnerable.
    - Multi-agency feeding plan - tool that is in use in other communities
    - Provides a decision tree, etc. to help organizations in disaster.
    - Plans created for Imperial County and others 5 years ago - is now the time to create a plan for Marin?
    - Yes! MCF formally engaged the consultants and hosted a kick-off event that many MFPC member organizations attended to talk about what happens in a disaster, what does a feeding plan entail, where do local foods come from in a disaster, where do food providers get their food, and what are the vulnerabilities in that system?
    - Successful day gathering feedback/information at kick-off discussions.
    - Now - in-depth interviews with key providers & coordinating entities.
  - Current status of project: creating a document with all resources in time of disaster.
  - Key areas for more in-depth work:
    - Create a decision-making body for the plan. This is usually the key operational partners. Those who are directly involved in food & feeding. Usually a small group so that it remains nimble.
    - Geographic identification of vulnerable communities. What do we know about the needs of the vulnerable communities so that equity is a key focus.
    - Look at local sources of food. Understand where we can leverage those sources. Are there networks that can be plugged into in real time? Understand that during COVID, local sources were sometimes more reliable than the national food sources.
  - Planned development process is to identify what is in place now. There will likely be areas that are day-lighted, opportunities for further development, that could be addressed under separate processes.
  - There will be a mid-point review by the key food providers.
  - By summer, MCF will hold a large convening for public/stakeholders to learn about the plan & collect feedback and to hold a Table-top exercise to practice the plan. This event will inform changes to the plan.



- The final draft is anticipated to be completed by end of summer.
- Patti's slides will be shared with the meeting notes.
- Questions?
  - How can MFPC be of assistance?
    - Purpose of this presentation is to make sure everyone is informed & has the opportunity to send additional information to Patti if you haven't already shared feedback.
    - Make sure there is broad awareness of the plan for future disasters. Provide organizing principle to the work in time of disaster.
  - Specific areas of interest to the MFPC are part of this plan - consideration of older adults, equity in our food system, but MFPC is also deeply interested in policy. How does this plan interface with local policy development?
    - The Office of Emergency Management is on board with the development of this plan. This plan will be a companion document to the shelter document. OEM is interested in centering equity. Policy environment will more broadly inform what is in the plan vs. the plan needing policy.
  - Are there any big lessons learned from COVID that inform the design of the plan?
    - This is the first iteration of a Multi-Agency Disaster Feeding Plan.
    - There is an all-hazards approach to this plan, so will address what we learned from COVID and what is evergreen about disasters, plus what is changing in service delivery.
  - Please let MFPC if we can attend future table top events & let us know if we can help.
  - Patti's contact information will be in the power point that will accompany the notes.

## **Determine Focus Areas for 2023**

**Context: Our general plans each year are to identify 2-3 learning areas plus some meetings with policy agendas.**

- **Older Adults** - equitable access to Senior Nutrition Programs. Funded by MCF HEAL Older Adult grant.
- **Micro-Enterprise Food Businesses** - Equitable Opportunities for Local Small-Scale Food Businesses. We started this last year, and will continue.
- Identify emergent needs: what are MFPC members interested in?
  - Ideas that have been identified so far:
    - Emergency Food
    - School Food/Farm to School
    - SB 1383 Food Waste/Food Recovery - Reduce the amount of food waste that goes to landfill both to reduce greenhouse gas & food waste.
    - Reusable Foodware Ordinance
    - Local funding opportunities (i.e. Participatory Budget Process, Measure A)

- Urban agriculture & community gardens
  - Food its connection to social isolation and social integration
  - Same themes as previous years but identify specific policy priorities for action.
- Caveat: we don't have time to learn about all of these topics, and may not even be able to dig in on a third topic, but it's important to for the MFPC to understand what members are working on.
- What opportunities does membership know of? Have we missed any ideas that should be on the list?
  - Jessica - HEAL CAT members interested in policies around street vending in Marin. Grey area, especially in unincorporated areas. Could align with Food Businesses category. State law change. There may be opportunity to learn about how the implementation of the law is going in Marin County.
  - Ida - Does state law affect in-home micro-businesses? Is MFPC interested in supporting in-home micro-businesses?
    - This was the starting point of MFPC discussion/leaning on this topic. County is interested, but County hasn't yet implemented this law. Opportunity for us to do more learning. Businesses do this off the grid so that they don't get shut down.
  - Isabella - Do we know about funding for inflation relief?
    - Keegan - too early for this funding, rumor that this legislation may come back.
  - Wendy - SB 1383 - <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>
    - Impact-wise, huge opportunity that connects so many of the issues we've identified - volunteers/recipients address social isolation. Dive into the law change and give organizations a space to speak on the issue and grow the momentum. More advocates for food recovery strengthens position of ExtraFood & others doing food recovery. Asset for the community.
    - How do we implement state-wide policy locally? How do we ensure that our food recovery system is robust enough? Keep edible food out of the landfill and get it to people in need.
  - Anita - local funding opportunities - Are there collaborations that can fund gardens, etc.? Where could small entities be collaborators or recipients of bigger organizations in the County? We're all part of the fabric of the community. But gardens lack money and volunteers. Huge need for more support for school gardens.
  - Keegan - interest in learning about emergency feeding plan. Multi-Agency Emergency Feeding Plan is in alignment with MFPC. Interfaith is also interested in this topic.
- Reach out to Liana, Julia or Bonnie with any other thoughts about 2023 topics.
- Main goals for 1st half of 2023 will be to continue our topic areas on Older Adults & Food Businesses.

## Policy Updates

- WIC Package Regulations Comment Period due 2/21/2023
  - Women, Infants & Children package is up for updates. MFPC will submit a comment before the end of the day. Does anyone have additional comments that we should add? Are WIC benefits higher in higher-cost areas of US? No, same benefits. No concerns identified. MFPC will submit comment this afternoon.
  - <https://myfamily.wic.ca.gov/WAFL/Home>
  - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/frequently-asked-questions>
  -
- 2022 CFFN Food and Farming Legislative Wins
  - The MFPC weighed in on many issues
- Farm Bill - Keegan - Interfaith is part of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. And they created Farm Bill priorities. Legislation may be presented in 2024. NSAC CA Caucus Farm Bill Priorities:  
<https://interfaithfood.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/NSAC-CA-Caucus-Farm-Bill-Priorities-2-14-23.pdf>

## Council Business

- Steering Committee Transitions
  - Reba Meigs and Steve Schwartz have stepped down from the Steering Committee and we are looking for new Steering Committee members. Historically Steering Committee members come from members who have been in attendance. If you're interested in a leadership role, please reach out to Julia or Liana.
- MFPC Fiscal Sponsorship and Marin Community Foundation HEAL Older Adult funding proposal submitted
  - Fiscal sponsor is AIM, funding confirmed from Marin Community Foundation.
  - Deliverable for this grant will be to develop a local policy platform. This is the tangible way that we will hold our knowledge and share our collaborative work.
- Updates to Governance document re: voting
  - We have a governance document. We don't have formal procedures because we aren't a nonprofit, but we do have a governance document to guide us. We are proposing a change for situations when consensus is not met through discussion and a vote is needed, then only 1 vote per organization will be allowed under majority rule vote. Goal is always consensus.
- Looking Ahead:
  - Virtual Meeting in March
  - April - panel on Micro-Enterprise Food Businesses - encourage anyone to help. Would like to meet in person again in the spring.

**Meeting closed at 4:31 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 21, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# January 2023

## **1/17/2023 - MFPC In-Person/Zoom Hybrid Meeting**

*In-person: Anita (Childrens Garden), Curtis Aikens, Wendy Tobiasson, Darien Malekos (AIM), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Julia VanSoelen Kim (UCCE), Martha Martinez (UCCE, Program Assistant – providing tech support), Betsy Bateson, (CAM) (7 attendees)*

*Online: Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Stephanie Robison (Meritage), Gina Muller (Meritage), Camille McDonald (UCCE intern), Ida Green (Social Services, HHS), Marchon Tatmon (SFMFB), Jenna Ray (Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (HHS), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Julie Young (San Geronimo Valley Community Center), Lisa Blyer (Point Reyes resident), Carlo – (Nutrition Assistant WIC Agency San Pablo & completing a dietetic internship with San Diego research foundation) (13 attendees)*

## **Introductions & Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Introductions online & in the room answering the question “What brings you to the Marin Food Policy Council?”
- Remembering Phyllis Faber, co-founder of MALT

## **FRAMING: Reviewing the Objectives of MFPC** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Provide policy-focused learning opportunities – such as older adults, school food, etc
- Advance our policy platform & equity engagement – identify & document our unique expertise in the policy platform, a living document
- Highlight local, state, and federal policy opportunities for action
- Last year's themes were older adults, MEHKOs, and school food with a focus on social equity
- This year – we need to identify our new focus areas for 2023. Core focus of today's meeting (postponed until February meeting).

## **MFPC Membership**

- Membership responsibilities: fill out a formal application, then you may vote on questions.

## NEW MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Please share name, some detail about your organization, what brings you here, funding streams

Stephanie Robison. Meritage Medical Network – North Bay Network: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano

- 40 years of serving patients
- 700 physicians
- 8 hospitals
- Health plans
- 5 Medicare Advantage
- 7 commercial HMO
- ACO Reach Model
  - ACO Reach model – contracts through partnership with another health care entity – focus on enhancing benefits – focus on socio-economic factors that drive health disparities. Decrease health care costs through healthy living.
  - Better way to identify patients who are already sick or home-bound
  - Provide a lot of care management, prevent hospitalization
  - Meritage may be the only organization holding contracts with a hospital, or one of several.
  - Issues of interest: medically tailored meals, improving access to food & nutrition education for patients, how can Meritage make these billable services? Could health plans buy these services?
  - Funded by % of income collected by Blue Shield, etc. based on patients on network.

Jenna Ray. Registered Dietician. AAA

Marin County Aging and Adult Services Agency

- In role for almost 2 years
- Works on older adult nutrition programs
- Serves as Area Agency on Aging (AAA) – organize & fund services in Older Americans Act from 1965. States are required to run services laid out by federal gov't.
- Affiliations: CA Dept of Aging (CDA), ACL – Administration for community living
- Many Programs including transportation, caregiving registry, case management, congregate meals, home delivered meal program, etc.
- AAA Partners: Vivalon, SFMFB, Front Porch, Legal Aide of Marin, etc.
- Funding:
  - Older Americans Act of 1965
  - County courts General Funds determined by BOS

- One time funding opportunities – CARES Act
- MFPC Alternates: Amy Dietz, Jenay Cottrell
- Question: who does PEARS data entry for AAA? Depends on who holds the contract.

#### Fernando Barreto, Aide to Supervisor Rodoni

- Passionate about food equity. Born & raised in Caracas, Venezuela – witnessed country fall into extreme poverty, and saw need for food security. Food security is often a reason to immigrate. Came to Marin County 7 years ago & worked for Canal Alliance. Made deep connections with families in Canal.
- Canal Alliance serves about 500 people every week with food pantry. Opportunity to talk with people waiting in line. Understand the value of the program – hard to describe. Families spent all their money on rent, depended on food pantries. Stories resonated.
- We live in the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and 5<sup>th</sup> largest food producer, but people are still struggling to get food – this does not make sense.
- Now, advisor to Supervisor Rodoni & opportunity to help build policies to address disparity. Ability to look for solutions at intersections of multiple problems. Such as food access, older adults, immigration – number of solutions to make sure all of these folks have access to good quality, quantity nutritious food.
- Awareness of how bad this issue is in our county. Proud of being here and take opportunity to listen to members of MFPC in this space to address inequities in food access.
- Many partners at MFPC provide food to Canal residents.
- Supervisor Rodoni's district has the highest disparities – coast to coast – San Rafael, Central Marin, West Marin. Dealing with poverty every day. Challenges of immigration, geographic isolation, technological isolation
- Goal to learn from each of the MFPC members/member organizations
- Question: how do you interact with public comments? Email, public comments, meetings, in all ways - You are welcome to reach out to any of the Supervisors to schedule a meeting.

#### Curtis Aikens, celebrity chef, activist

- Funding: self-funded
- Works with Human Rights Commission, Marin County Cooperation Team
  - Human Rights Commission meetings first Tuesday of every month

Why am I here?

- This year working to get 1185 (Sheriff's oversight) implemented, learn about food world in Marin County, identify issues to work on for next year
- Grew up in Atlanta, grew up poor, but no one knew it – everyone had gardens
- Father's father's father on both sides enslaved in South



- Couldn't read after graduating high school – learned to read in Marin County
- First real job in a nursery – learned to grow tomatoes
- First business – Peaches Produce, why this business? Everyone has to eat. Always have a job if you work in food.
- Father raised pig one year, cow next year – rotation of food
- Learned to read, attended college, then earned Masters Degree from Dominican University.
- Has spoken at 1500 schools. Now featured in a textbook
- Traveled to teach how to cook good food to people with diabetes with NorvoNordisk, early presenter on Food Network
- Proposed show to cook for family of 4 on \$4 per meal. Based on Food stamp allotment
- Let's teach each other. "Show up and show out." Be a resource and tap into resources.
- Made a presentation to Congressional Black Caucus
- Website: [CurtisAikens.net](http://CurtisAikens.net)
- Email: [chef@curtisaiken.net](mailto:chef@curtisaiken.net)

## **MFPC FOCUS AREAS**

### Continuing Topics

- Older Adults - Topic related to funding sources: MCF older adult funding will continue, AIM will be the fiscal sponsor (more details in February)
- Micro-Enterprise Food Business – aware of new legislation, food carts, innovative projects happening in Marin. October panel learning session: CAM, Cooks Alliance, Environmental Health team interested in enacting law in Marin. Would like to hear more from food producers about policy barriers. Recommendation to continue this topic
- Other Ideas:
  - Emergency Food Supply Chains
  - School Food/Farm to School – there are funded projects in the works
  - SB 1383 Food Waste & Food Recovery
  - Local Funding opportunities to take our local policy platform (County Budget process, Measure A, etc.)
  - County of Marin Equity Director and Equity budget process
  - Urban agriculture & community gardens
  - Food to reduce social isolation, loneliness & stress in our county
  - Connection with school food & SB 1383 (gleaning work)

Think about whether the 2 continuing topics are enough for 2023, or if there is space for an additional topic. We will brainstorm this list during the February meeting. Return to 100% virtual format next meeting, with Quarterly in-person meetings proposed.

**Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 21, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# November 2022

## **11/15/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Atashi Chakravarty (guest), Anita Sparks (Mill Valley Children's Garden at Edna Maguire), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Beverly Windle (guest), Blythe Young (AHA), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Carlos Garcia (Marin Community Clinics Health Hubs), Curtis Aikens (guest), Denicka Roselle (guest), Fernando Barreto (Aide to Sup. Rodoni), Gina Muller (Meritage Medical Network), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Keegan Horton (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Madelene McCann (MC3), Maria Correa, [mcorrea@camarin.org](mailto:mcorrea@camarin.org) (Community Action Marin), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Reba Meigs (IHS), Stephanie Robison (Meritage Medical Network), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (IHS)*

## **Introductions & Announcement** (Liana Orlandi)

- Introductions all around
- MFPC Objectives: Provide policy-focused learning opportunities, Advance our policy platform & equity engagement, Highlight local, state, & federal policy opportunities for action

## **MFPC Accomplishments** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

### **LEARNINGS**

- **March:** Needs & Opportunities to Support Equitable Access to Senior Nutrition Programs (Linda Jackson)
- **April:** Policy Barriers and Opportunities for School Nutrition, Universal School Meals, & Farm to School (Wendy Tobiasson)
- **September:** Marin Parks & Recs: Measure A 30% Ag Program Funding (Kevin Wright)
- **October:** Equitable Opportunities for Local Small-Scale Food Businesses (Jesica Rodriguez)

### **POLICY**

#### **Co-sponsor:**

- State Assembly 12th District Candidate Forum
- Marin County Board of Supervisors Resolution on Hunger

#### **Co-host:**

- Marin Communications Forum Event on Hunger

#### **Public Comment:**

- Support Measure A (Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture) to Marin County Board of Supervisors
- White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

#### **Letters of Support:**

- Measure A for local agriculture
- SB 907 (Pan): L.E.A.F: Local Equitable Access to Food
- AB 2153 (Arambula) CA Fruit and Veggie EBT Expansion Program
- Food4All - CFFN

#### **2022 POLICY SIGN-ONS:**

- Food4All 2022 Budget Letter
- USDA's Nationwide Waiver Authority Extension
- Support Food & Farm Resiliency & Equity
- Land Equity Task Force - Budget Request
- Drought Relief for Small Farmers - Budget Request
- Funding for Climate-Friendly Healthy Food Access Infrastructure
- Development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030
- State budget request for AIM's new Center for Food and Agriculture (CFA)
- Letter of support for AB 2847, the Excluded Worker Pilot Program
- AB 1965: CA Anti-Hunger response and employment training Act
- SB 364: similar to Universal school meals from last year, updated, called "Pupil Meals"
- SB 641: CalFresh for eligible college students, getting rid of barriers, counting classes as work
- Local Equitable Access to Food (LEAF) program to be created through SB 907
- Refund the California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) at the CDFA Office of Farm to Fork

#### **Year-end Reflection**

- Take evaluation poll and discuss results
- Hybrid: once a quarter in-person, rest of the meetings virtual
  - Considering a hybrid in-person meeting in January - Tuesday 1/17/23
- Structure of Learning/presentations punctuated by summer Policy meetings works well
- Is there ideal timing for engagement with BOS, any planning cycle? BOS is always open to listen, only time sensitive issue would be if it pertains to the budget.
- Agendize time in January for new member presentations
- Attracting, welcoming, and maintaining diversity:
  - Celebrate accomplishments, let people share about their good work... perhaps at the January meeting?
  - Include people who the work we're doing is trying to serve, to get those voices present. Orgs have an easier time reaching out to their constituents, can try to get quote or info from people they serve?



- Make sure there is ample room for the HEAL Community Action Teams, as our arm of community engagement, and they will relay policy needs to MFPC. Perhaps a possible learning session where we get input and presentations from the CATS and have a discussion across them about the policy need.

## MFPC meeting logistics

Poll | 6 questions | 10 of 18 (55%) participated

1. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's ADMINISTRATION (Steering Committee leadership, governance, staff support, communications): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



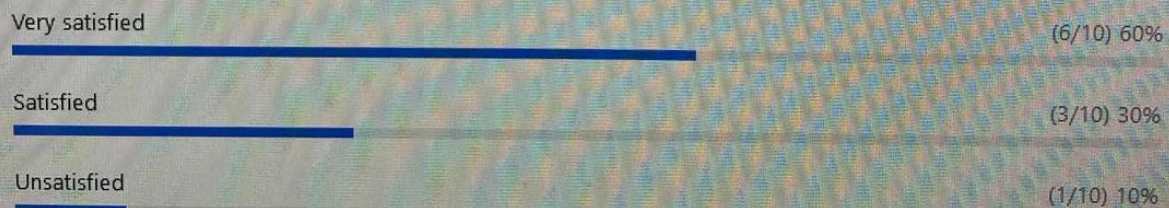
2. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's FACILITATION: (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



3. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's MEETING LOGISTICS (meeting location, date, time, length): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered





4. For 2023 how would meeting IN-PERSON impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (2/10) 20%

No impact on participation (2/10) 20%

Less likely to participate regularly (6/10) 60%

5. For 2023 how would continuing to meet VIRTUALLY impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (7/10) 70%

No impact on participation (3/10) 30%

Less likely to participate regularly (1/10) 10%

6. For 2023 how would a hybrid combination of meeting VIRTUALLY and IN-PERSON impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (3/10) 30%

No impact on participation (6/10) 60%

Less likely to participate regularly (1/10) 10%

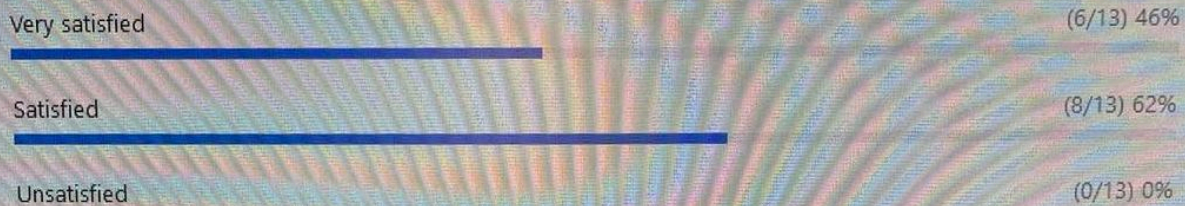


## MFPC as a venue for...

Poll | 4 questions | 13 of 19 (68%) participated

1. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for NETWORKING, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION: (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



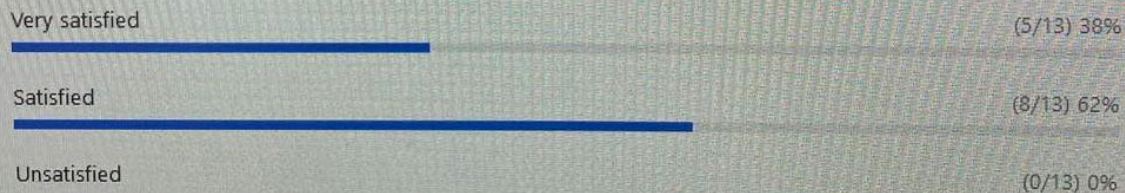
2. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



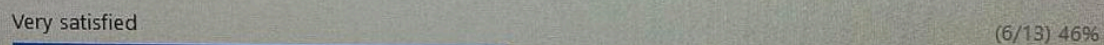
3. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for POLICY OPPORTUNITIES (engaging in local, state, and federal): (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



4. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for SYSTEMS THINKING (related to equity, food, health, and environment): (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



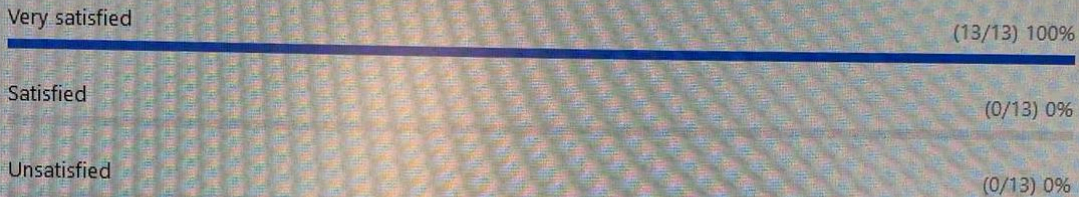


## MFPC attracting diversity

1:33 | 3 questions | 13 of 18 (72%) participated

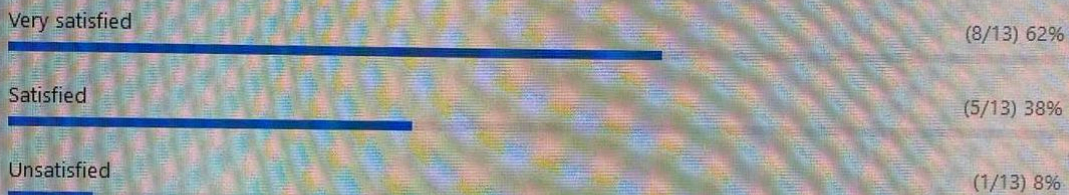
1. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a SAFE AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



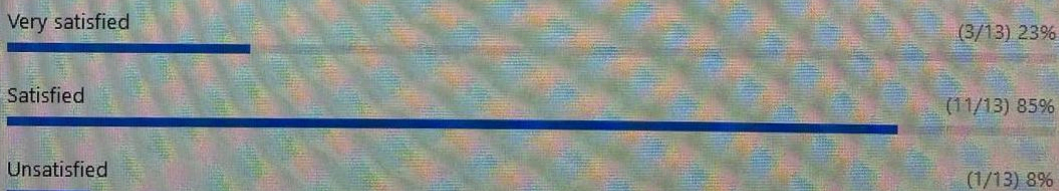
2. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to bring different kinds of FOOD SYSTEMS STAKEHOLDERS together (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered



3. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to bring attract and retain DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP (Multiple Choice) \*

13/13 (100%) answered

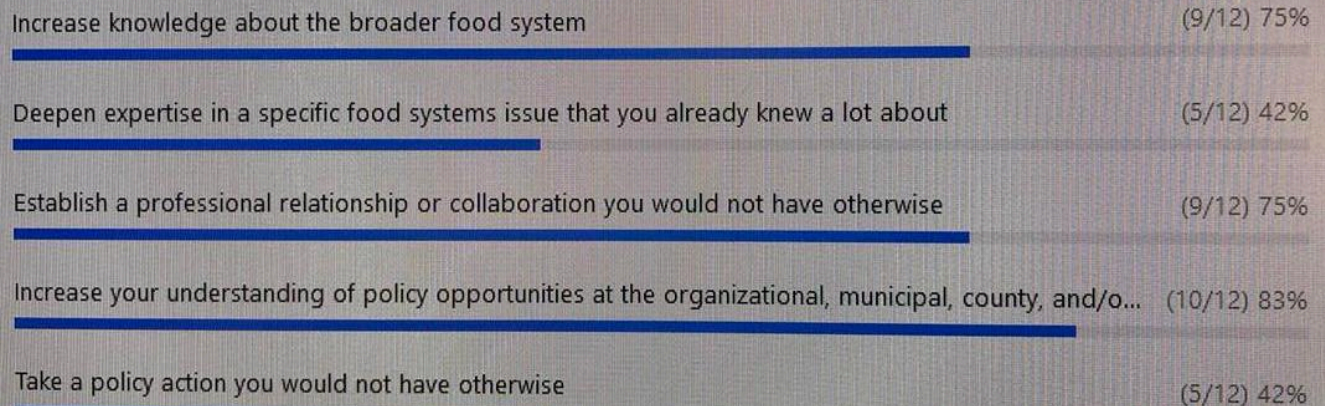


## MFPC involvement

Poll | 1 question | 12 of 18 (66%) participated

1. Because of your involvement in the MFPC, did you/your organization: (Multiple Choice) \*

12/12 (100%) answered



### Policy Updates

- Request \$35 Million to Refund the California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) in FY23-24 (which funds Market Match) - there was a huge growth in the number of EBT users during Covid, almost doubled at Marin farmers markets. MFPC already sent a Letter of Support; and your organization can sign-on also. Deadline: 5pm 11/17: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYsi8yHe2rPsdJJMKOmLALR59Jb93S-nBaqPCGk8Gnp6jhig/viewform>. MFPC helped get CNIP established in the first place (Funds Market Match, WIC farmers market incentives, and Senior farmers market incentives). **Steve and Liana** to send an additional letter from MFPC more specifically oriented.

### Council Business

- Fiscal Sponsorship (Liana Orlandi and Julia Van Soelen Kim)
  - MFPC has been funded by Marin Comm Foundation (MCF) HEAL Older Adult funding (applied as part of a larger grant led by Innovative Health Solutions), funding has been renewed year after year. Reba is stepping away from IHS and IHS will no longer be able to be our fiscal agent for this funding, which opens the need to develop a new collaborative proposal tied with other existing funded entities from MCF (grant only applies to renewals of existing applicants). Current MCF HEAL grantees: Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, Ceres, AIM to see which would be the best match for MFPC needs. Looking at potential of developing a new proposal with AIM and UCCE to continue MPC work for 1 year funding cycle. In development and discussion. Need to submit proposals by the



end of January. Contact Julia, Liana, or Bonnie if you'd like to propose another option. Will report back in January.

- Steering Committee membership in 2023: looking for new membership. Reba's seat on the Steering Committee will open, would like to welcome other new members as well. Typically ask that people have been MFPC members for a year, but can be flexible on that.
  - SC members help guide council direction, make quick votes and policy sign-on decisions in between meetings, plan agenda items for meetings, meet (virtually) for 1-1.5 hours on the same week of the meeting. Welcome self-nominations, or you can nominate others. Invite and welcome diversity in the broadest way possible.
- January meeting on 11/17 will agendize new member presentations, please fill out [membership application](#) (at the bottom of each MFPC email). In-person hybrid meeting at UCCE office in Novato.
- **NO December meeting**

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 17, 2023** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## October 2022

### **10/18/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Amanda Denny (Leaf and Sage plant-based cuisine), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Curtis Aikens (guest), Darien Malekos (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Edgardo Vazquez (County of Marin CDA), Greg Pirie (County Environmental Health Services Deputy Director, CDA), Jen Imbimbo, [jimbimbo@marincounty.org](mailto:jimbimbo@marincounty.org) (District Aide to Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Kathy Koblick (Marin Public Health), Lara Rajninger, [lara@kidscookingforlife.org](mailto:lara@kidscookingforlife.org) (Executive Director of Kids Cooking For Life), Maiete Duran, [Maited@alcoholjustice.org](mailto:Maited@alcoholjustice.org) (Alcohol Justice/Youth for Justice), Maria Correa, [mcorrea@camarin.org](mailto:mcorrea@camarin.org) (Community Action Marin), Roya Bagheri, [roya@cookalliance.org](mailto:roya@cookalliance.org) 858-525-5391 (COOK Alliance), Steve Rosso, [srosso@marincounty.org](mailto:srosso@marincounty.org) (County of Marin EHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Yavar Amidi (Alcohol Justice/Youth For Justice)*

### **Introductions & Announcement (Liana Orlandi)**

- Julia: Marin Communications Forum event on Hunger in Marin - [video](#)
- Julia: Friday 10/21 @ 10am Marin Communications Forum event: interactive forum with US Rep Jared Huffman; Embassy Suites Hotel, 101 McInnis Parkway, San Rafael

## **Learning Session: Equitable Opportunities for Local Small-Scale Food Businesses**

(Jesica Rodriguez)

- **Sarah Jones**, Assistant Director of the County of Marin Community Development Agency (Environmental Health Department - Cottage Foods Operations, Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens)
- **Roya Bagheri**, Executive Director of [COOK Alliance](#) (Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens)
- **Liz Valone**, Vice President of Community Action Marin ([Kitchen Apprenticeship Program](#))

**Sarah Jones**, Assistant Director of the County of Marin Community Development Agency

- SB 972 - state law opens up and enables more opportunities within jurisdictions to support various food enterprises for small entrepreneurs, coming into effect in January.
- Marin has pulled together a team around the issue of micro enterprise home kitchens specifically recognizing that this is a question of food safety as well as melding with goals around equity and planning and community vitality.
- Existing cottage food permits and street vendor permits don't necessarily mesh perfectly with operators' needs
- Want to develop regs in support of and allowing for the safe and vibrant operation of food enterprises, working at the county level on these new regulations from the state. Entering into implementing these state laws and want to take an equity focus on this, so it advances equity in the food business across Marin County.
- Currently 57 Cottage Food Operations in Marin, specific to a limited range of foods (packaged, baked goods, pastries, etc).
- Requests for micro enterprises in Marin are few, doesn't mean the interest is low, but perhaps people don't know where to start? With MEHKOS you need to opt in.
- Street vendors are an issue across the state. It's been a challenge to balance food that's prepared and safe, permitting, and equity. Marin wants people to be permitted, but it's difficult.
- Aide for first time business owners includes: outreach materials, mini-grants to help with permitting and equipment. CDA wants to understand all of the barriers beyond cost and information, to understand dynamics effecting lower income POC trying to advance in this industry. Need to hear from people involved in the work on a policy level as well as directly engage with communities.
- Some complaints on food vending when there isn't an actual health or safety situation, but it's more a matter of some individuals not liking the vendor's presence.

**Roya Bagheri**, Executive Director of [COOK Alliance](#) **\*\*[presentation](#)\*\***

- COOK Alliance: leading voice for home entrepreneurs
- Worked on AB 626 that created MEHKOS. Allows home cooks to apply for a MEHKO permit, builds on success of Cottage Food Law, which allows sale of shelf stable items, requires each County to opt into the law to authorize this type of facility.
- Food facility operated by a resident in a private home (with a few exceptions). Some food safety regulations involved in getting permits. Caps on MEHKOS: \$54k gross

annual sales, 30 meals per day, 60 meals per week, can have 1 employee, all cooking has to happen in one day, no third party delivery, no wholesale sales, no catering or farmers markets.

- MEHKOS permit benefits: Inclusion, Incubation, and Innovation
- Protect home chefs, lower barriers to entry
- Estimated tens of thousands of people selling food from home unpermitted and unlicensed (informal food economy)
- Much more affordable: all-in costs to launch a MEHKO are under \$1,000
- Caps ensure that MEHKOS and brick and mortar restaurants can co-exist
- Variety of ways to operate: takeout (staggered pick up time slots), delivery (by family member), and dine in (host at home or backyard, cooking class)
- Empowerment, fiscal security, improved safety, equity, freedom, flexibility
- MEHKOS in the Bay Area: ~70 (map on [www.cookalliance.org](http://www.cookalliance.org)), ~230 in CA
- Example costs: permit \$696, tax certificate \$50, other certification \$100-200, food safety supplies \$200, insurance ~\$400
- AB 178 Budget Act for 2022-2023 Budget Year: \$8 million MEHKO fund to invest in nonprofits and home cooks and for local environmental health depts and city code enforcement, education, training, and other support services
- Next Steps: coalition building, letters of support, elected official outreach, outreach to key stakeholders, media campaign
- How close is Marin to adopting this? What can we do? Advocate and make your voice heard, COOK Alliance has outreach materials can provide for individuals to advocate in the county. Marin is seeing more support, especially with 972 coming around, and a Board member is interested... Ordinances usually don't move too quickly, but can bring to the Board members and begin outreach. This item is identified in our racial equity platform for the county, and they are advancing this issue as well. Want to make sure they find feasible ways to meet health codes.

**Liz Valone**, Community Action Marin [Kitchen Apprentice Program](#)

- CAM is a Community Action Agency that serves over 500 families each year. Programs: economic justice dept, workforce development, food justice dept, mental health and wellness, safety net services.
- Commercial kitchen uses organic food from one of their production farms
- Track 1 to support individuals in getting mentored in the commercial kitchen (230 hour apprenticeship program with the goal to get certified), Track 2 for small businesses.
- Work with the kitchen manager to provide 2 short courses of hands on skill building, straight into the safe certification process, then securing a job in the food industry.
- Offer mini grants \$850 to help starting businesses
- Program worked with majority 30-40 year old females, ~40% hispanic, ~20% black
- Takeaways: how much time individuals needed for the program (barrier to participation)
- What demand has there been for the Kitchen Incubator Program? It was hard to get demand during the holidays when the program began last year. Those individuals they worked with were not very interested in resources to establish a business.
- Most participants have gone on to be employed within the food industry (which the goal of the program had been)

- Policy barriers or opportunities: permitting process and ease of doing business in Marin are barriers for participants, also the Serve Safe Permitting process is lengthy and a barrier.
- Steve Rosso: you can refer people to Steve directly regarding permitting. Unfortunately, for some pre-packaged food and wholesale production, State Department of Public Health is notoriously slow in permit approval. [srosso@marincounty.org](mailto:srosso@marincounty.org)

### **Discussion:**

- Have local jurisdictions put work forth?
- What do we need to think about in terms of the interplay between municipalities and Marin County? The Food Code covers all food facilities in the County. If the County opts in with an ordinance, local jurisdictions do as well - cannot opt out. Issue of food together with the issue of land use. County does anticipate some concerns around the idea of food businesses operating out of homes - will be part of their work, outreach, and learning. What regulations will be appropriate for the Good Neighbor aspect of things?
- Longest MEHKO pgm has been operating for 3+ years and now we have evidence for a lot of the common fears to be unfounded, so there are resources for good responses.
- Every climate can create a space in which different racist attitudes can come forth, Marin is really trying to work on thousand advance equity efforts intentionally. Marin wants to not allow a narrative to develop that ties exclusionary attitudes to this issue.
- County has seen that there wasn't much outreach towards lower income communities of color about the Cottage Foods Act, and wants to do better with MEHKOS.
- Existing Cottage Food Program and potential for MEHKOs: for lower income communities of color - curious about the extent to which the income cap (especially being gross, not net) is not setting entrepreneurs up for success? A year ago the Cottage Food limits got raised to much higher, as well as include foods to be mailed. MEHKO limits should be higher as well with the new legislation.
- Is it feasible for individuals to be both a Cottage Food entrepreneur and a MEHKO? Some counties allow for both, but it would still be limited by the limit cap.
- Could two people work out of one location? No, residence is limited to one permit (Cottage Foods or MEHKO).
- Interest in implementing a type of system to encourage business entrepreneurs wanting to explore and develop their business skills. Need a plan to help people ready to take on more.

### **Closing thoughts & questions for MFPC Members to consider:**

- What are the direct or indirect impacts on local food systems, equity, & older adults?
- What might be specific policy opportunities for the Marin Food Policy Council?
- Please email your responses to Julia at: [jvansoelen@ucanr.edu](mailto:jvansoelen@ucanr.edu) or Bonnie at: [banielsen@ucanr.edu](mailto:banielsen@ucanr.edu).

**Continue to hold the 3rd Tuesday of the month for MFPC meetings, which are always open to the public to join**

**\*\*\*November meeting will review and evaluate the year, and NO meeting in December\*\*\***



**REMINDER:** Take our [Members in Action](#) challenge!

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:32 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 15, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## September 2022

### **9/20/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Alicia Maldonado [apmaldonado25@gmail.com](mailto:apmaldonado25@gmail.com) (guest), Anita Sparks [anitacastro99@hotmail.com](mailto:anitacastro99@hotmail.com), (guest), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Barbara Searles (Marin Master Gardener), Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin), Carey Campbell (guest), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Jenna Ray (Marin County Area Agency on Aging), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Jessica Flaxman [jessicaflexman@me.com](mailto:jessicaflexman@me.com) (Marin Master Gardeners), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin), Julie Young (SGVCC), Kate Dolkas (guest), Kelly Smith [info@ilovefarmersmarkets.org](mailto:info@ilovefarmersmarkets.org) (Agricultural Community Events Farmers Markets), Kevin Wright [kwright@marincounty.org](mailto:kwright@marincounty.org), 415-497-3553 (Marin County Parks, Government & External Affairs Manager), Kristin (guest), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Madelene McCann (MC3), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Marcia Gunnarson [marciagunnarson@gmail.com](mailto:marciagunnarson@gmail.com), (guest), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood.org), Patricia Ravasio [PatRavasio@comcast.net](mailto:PatRavasio@comcast.net) (guest), Patti D'Angelo Juachon (guest), Peggy Thow (guest), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Sandy Turner Parry (Marin Master Gardener and Garden Educator at Vallecito Elementary), Shirin Vakharia (Marin Community Foundation), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobaissou (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions & Announcement (Liana Orlandi)**

- Julia: State Assembly 12th District Candidate Forum (which the Marin Food Policy Council co-sponsored) on September 8, 2022 - [video recording here](#)
- Marin Communications Forum - Fighting Hunger & Food Insecurity in Marin - Friday, September 23, 9am-12pm, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael
- Aging Action Initiative's Convening, Thursday, September 29, 2022, 9am-5pm, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael
- Anita: Mill Valley Children's Garden @ Edna Maguire - follow on Facebook at Mill Valley Children's Garden
- MMG [Grow an Extra Row](#): contact Barbara if interested in participating

**Learning Session - [recording](#) and [presentation](#):** Marin Parks & Recs: Measure A 30% Ag Program Funding (Kevin Wright, Marin County Parks, Government & External Affairs Manager)

*Topics include: Local food systems, Community food production, Community gardens, School gardens*

- Marin County Parks intro (presentation recording): 43 parks, 43 preserves across Marin
- Focus on healthy living, trying to promote access to public lands for wellness, take care of wildlife, engage volunteers, trails access
- Dept that administers MEasure A funding \$16million / year: county wide park access, park access within certain communities, and sustainable agriculture
- Measure A has funded: wildland fire fuel reduction, park improvements, comm orgs working on projects to improve access to parks, sea level rise, wetland restoration, farmland preservation, city,
- Measure A allocations, funds to MALT are matched 1 to 1 to purchase easements on ag land, funds to Marin RCD are also matched 1 to 1
- New sustainable ag program is being shaped now
- \$960,000 to be generated for grants every yearHappy to work with groups and networks who are doing work on the ground
- How long between grant cycles? Annual or ongoing/rolling cycle? Question to consider.
- Do not know of any other counties in any state who has passed similar tax to create funding

### **Breakout Rooms**

- [Jamboard](#) to be kept open through Friday 9/23/22
- Local Food Supply Sustainability (Liana Orlandi)
- Community and School Gardens (Julia Van Soelen Kim)
- Increasing access to low-cost farming and farmland for low-income/underserved communities and regenerative agriculture (Kevin Wright)

### **Breakout Room Update and Discussion**

- Local Food Supply Sustainability:
- Community and School Gardens: Countywide coordination across gardens, sustainable funding for a paid staff person as crucial to success of community and school gardens (labor to run gardens, not teach)
- Increasing access to low-cost farming and farmland: faith lands for food production, questions about equity and how to restore control and ownership around food production, how to help immigrant populations to put down roots in the community

### **Grant Guidelines and Technical Assistance Discussion**

- How to prioritize projects? One option is to ID where there aren't any other funding opportunities, funding gaps.
- Share any favorite equity lenses for funding

- Technical assistance committee for any technical assistance needed for projects and programs, as well as any policy support needed
- Many people in community want to start school and community gardens want info on grants, need an educational component for people who aren't familiar with grant and policy language, guidelines
- Question: could these funds be used for cross-county projects or collaborations, such as with Sonoma County? Might be possible.
- Ability to leverage funds for in-kind or cash match, bring in additional federal dollars?
- 2-3 year grants tend to be more helpful than 1 year grants for this process
- Process is daunting - all of the paperwork involved in applying for the grant as well as follow-up. Keep the process simple and provide support along the way.
- Regarding the grant RFP it's great if you can specify funding limits for indirect expenses. Also, if you can share as part of the RFP how many points will be assigned to each category, the proposals will be evaluated on that, which will help as people are preparing grants.
- Keep the drought in mind with infrastructure
- Idea for countywide bidding and awarding of bids to construct gardens
- Importance of collaboration and partnerships
- Would policy engagement and advocacy be an allowable use of these funds? NO. Can still engage with policy in other ways, but cannot hire a lobbyist.
- Could Marin County put together a comprehensive community garden support program — covering planning, construction, coordination, maintenance, instruction, etc? It could be a great example of how local governments can provide critical support to increase food production in our communities.
- January would be a good time to have a conversation with Kevin about grant guidelines and next steps of the process
- Kevin could share a brief update before then, December

**REMINDER: Take our [Members in Action](#) challenge!**

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 18, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## August 2022

**8/16/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Wendy Tobaissou (Innovative Health Solutions), Kate Farley (Intern with Marin HHS from UCSF), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Linda Jackson (AAI), Fernando Barreto (Supervisor Rodoni's office), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood), Carlos Garcia (Marin Community Clinic Health Hubs), Lizzie Velten (AHA), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project)*

## **Announcements/Save the Dates:**

- **[North Bay Food & Farming Forum](#)**  
Thursday, September 8  
Petaluma Community Center  
educational, non-partisan featuring both candidates  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/north-bay-food-farm-forum-district-12>
- **[Marin Communications Forum - Fighting Hunger & Food Insecurity in Marin](#)**  
Friday, September 23, 9am-12pm  
Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael
- **[Aging Action Initiative Convening](#)**  
Thu, September 29, 2022, 9:00 am – 5:00pm  
Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael  
\*Good for every professional working with or for older adults.
- **[White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, & Health](#)**  
Late September  
Hybrid in-person & virtual
- **[Marin HHS/ HEAL Collaborative](#)**
- **Interfaith Food** is hiring for a Communications and Reporting Associate; and an Outreach and Advocacy Associate based in Sebastopol. Positions include benefits etc.  
[www.interfaithfood.org](http://www.interfaithfood.org)

## **Group Discussion: Fall panel (Micro Enterprise Home Businesses)**

Context: There are a variety of opportunities, but often these opportunities depend on the location of the small business. Rules/laws vary by county, etc. Many food businesses, especially mobile or home businesses aren't covered by rules/laws that cover commercial kitchens or restaurants. Some counties haven't adopted rules allowed by California. Cottage Food operations already adopted by CA & Marin, but very narrow on what can be prepared - low-risk,

shelf-stable & baked goods allowed. Equity considerations - reduced environmental health fees for BIPOC producers? Large range in scale of micro-enterprises.

Members in Action - Reminder that this is an invitation to members to visit food events or small food businesses in the areas of the Canal, West Marin or Marin City. Examples include: visiting a street food vendor to purchase food, Pt. Reyes farmers market at Toby's Feed Barn Saturdays 9-2, or Marin City Market Day every Thursday, Vivalon's Jackson Cafe

### **Break-out groups**

- See breakout group notes [here](#).

Next steps:

September Meeting - Measure A input session for shaping the grant program

October Meeting - Local Food panel or educational forum

Opportunity to do more learning before October. Visit food businesses, activities.

For future learning, consider: Environmental health should have a list of all certified kitchens. Marin Interfaith may also have resources. If we want to create a resource listing lease terms, costs, etc. would be valuable for food makers. Stakeholder interviews with churches. Alleviate supply-side concerns. Can we ask County to include a question on interest in renting out kitchen. Connect Environmental Health with Workforce Development to gather information about kitchens.

### **Policy updates**

- 2023 Farm Bill Listening Sessions - listed on CDFA website
  - August 10, 9:00-11:00am, virtual hearing via Zoom (click here to register);
  - August 16, noon-2:00pm, Copley Conference Room, 5660 Copley Dr., San Diego (register here to participate virtually via Zoom);
  - August 23, noon-2:00pm, Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges Ave, Fresno; and
  - September 7, 9:00-11:00am, Urban Tilth, 323 Brookside Dr., Richmond.
- North Bay Food Farming Forum - September 8, Petaluma
  - Show that we are an important constituency
  - We want 100+ people present at this event
  - If you Co-sponsor event, can include information in the briefing document by September 1st.
  - Next steps:
    - Save the date
    - MFPC should consider becoming a co-sponsor & creating a brief of issues that are important to us. We need to get to know them and start building a relationship.
    - Policy platform fine, but will want to identify 5-6 very specific issues.
- Farm to School Report for West Marin - (Reba Meigs)

- Objectives - create short, mid, long-term recommendations
- Demographics - 44% poverty, 24% English learners, 49% disadvantaged students
- SLAQ key findings - Improvement areas: parent/family involvement, Food, School meal environment, nutrition education
- LCAP key findings - several schools had in common interest to simplify & improve school meals, support garden education, increase student wellness opportunities, buy more local foods
- Garden key findings - Lagunitas interest in installing a solar panel to run irrigation system & implement more space to grow food for school kitchen. Bolinas-Stinson - looking to maintain garden & expand activities, Shoreline/Inverness wants to expand garden club.
- Recommendations:
  - Short-term: healthy snack policy for classroom parties
  - Mid-term: Provide training for teachers on how to utilize the Harvest of the Month nutrition education curriculum
  - Long-term: expand Tomales' Farm to Desk
  - Cafeteria: short-term: identify menu items that can be replaced, crop planning with local farmers
  - Community: Gleaning, farm tours, coordinate buying consortium
- Next steps:
  - Shoreline - submitted CDFA grant
  - Bolinas: working with consultant to simplify menu
  - West Marin Community Services: Gleaning
  - UCCE: will co-host a farm to school regional farm-to-school meeting to support learning around a buying cooperative & crop planning

Opportunity to use LCAPs to advance food policy priorities.

REMINDER: Take our Members in Action challenge!

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G\\_FSgQxodxhujZivh8lq1VD8EyBI\\_Kus0TVixOqPpSE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G_FSgQxodxhujZivh8lq1VD8EyBI_Kus0TVixOqPpSE/edit?usp=sharing)

**REMINDER: Take our [Members in Action](#) challenge!**

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 20, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# JULY 2022

**7/19/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**



*Attendees: Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Anna Tackabery (ExtraFood Intern) [a.tackabery@gmail.com](mailto:a.tackabery@gmail.com), Helen Jang (American Heart Association), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Marchon Tatmon (SF Marin Food Bank), Wendy Tobaisson (Innovative Health Solutions), Jenna Ray (Marin County Aging & Adult Services), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Carey Campbell (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Kate Farley, Reba Meigs*

### **Introductions & Announcement** (Julia VanSoelen Kim)

- Marchon: Food policy successes: \$120 mil for CalFood program - food banks can buy produce within CA, better for local economies, climate change, good for counties with a lot of agriculture, support local farmers.
- Wendy: CDFA Farm to School grants - 2:1 ratio of grant funds available vs. grantees. Many proposals around how to source food locally.
  - Innovative Health Solutions & West Marin partners won MCF grant to address food waste. Youth will be involved.
  - Would be helpful to know - What have interns found most valuable during internships? How can IHS engage with youth.

### **Group Discussion: Members in Action** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Last meeting, MFPC spent time in break-out rooms. Realized many new faces and as we meet virtually, it's harder to get to know each other and each other's work.
- We are proposing a Members in Action opportunity to stay engaged with activities in our communities. Intentional touch point to learn about opportunities related to our current learning topics.
- New members could learn about communities and have opportunities to bring learnings back to the MFPC
- Attend an event in West Marin, Marin City & The Canal (could be anywhere in Marin)
  - **Marin City Market Day:** at Marin City Community Services District near the clinic, Thursdays 1 - 5pm. Rollin Root is there 1-2pm.
  - **West Marin [Pt Reyes farmers market](#):** at Toby's Feed Barn, Saturdays 9am - 2pm through November 5.
  - **Canal micro enterprise or home business:** TBD
- Goal is to actively engage in an event - sample food, try a product, buy a product, engage with stakeholders
- Use as an opportunity to look for policy needs
- Share [Members in Action guide](#), prompts, tasks
- Brainstorm Additional Events that members could attend:
- Could do a whole Council tour
- Action Items:

- Liana & Julia Add detail to guide document so that new members can find the specific events we are mentioning
- Members can also look for events, such as school board meetings in their neighborhood
- Members Sign up for events

## **Public Comments for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, & Health (Liana Orlandi)**

- Update on [MFPC submission](#)
- Context: USDA just announced wide array of new funding & support for many new programs
- Conference fits into the context of this new focus to put more federal attention on local food systems.

## **Policy Updates**

- Liana: update on SB 907 Budget Sign On Letter submitted, in support of funding for farmers markets to accept EBT
- Marchon:
  - AB 1965 (Wick) CA Anti-Hunger response and employment training Act: to protect un & underemployed adults from losing CalFresh benefits, ABOD response. (time limit for people considered able-bodied to work without dependants)
    - Letter of support template:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDh2xY572F8TagG0fayEKDeGuaA4bQdbqVOWj9mZhqGSpl9w/viewform>
    - 
    - More common before pandemic for people to get kicked off of program. CA put waivers in place during pandemic.
    - Significant number of people at risk for losing benefits
    -
  - SB 364 (Skinner) 2-year bill, similar to Universal school meals from last year, updated, called "Pupil Meals" to provide meals while school is out of session, providing more funding for families, making application easier to fill out. Version of Pandemic EBT. Card benefit.
    - In our letter of support, can mention difficulty for schools to provide the meals, while the card benefit solves the problems associated with getting enough children to come, prepare the food, etc.
- Letter of support template  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesw-b1Js4o9hnknnLBf\\_42o2ILBCTYQYgzyAM2I3zkv-R1JA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesw-b1Js4o9hnknnLBf_42o2ILBCTYQYgzyAM2I3zkv-R1JA/viewform)
-

- SB641 (Skinner) - CalFresh for eligible college students, getting rid of barriers, counting classes as work - due tomorrow. Previous win on this topic: CalFresh data enrollment transparency. Going through committees right now.
  - Letter of support template: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxgg48LDVZkr5ORNFdYqearGPVb26rlkNEHGfq0qjnuMEg/viewform>
  -
- Reba: new law about food waste, organizational wellness policies, Reba can share sample. Eco Stations in West Marin community - waste diversion
  - Action Item: MFPC review wellness policy
- USDA school food funds - How can we follow amount schools get? How will CA set up system for USDA local food purchasing programs? If anyone hears about this - please share. Potential for learning opportunity.
- Measure A: Passed. 30% of funding is for sustainable agriculture programs in annual amount, stable funding source, provides competitive matching grant. \$1 million annually. Language calls out farming, farmland access for low-income & underserved communities, gardens. Exciting that it is secured funding. Currently administered Marin County Parks. Engaging stakeholders to define. Kevin from Marin Parks will visit MFPC in fall to get input on how to implement the funding. Ryan Thayer also working with group to write RFP. September HEAL Collaborative meeting will discuss. Sept 6th is the next HEAL Collaborative meeting. Email Ryan if you are not on the invite: [rthayer@marincounty.org](mailto:rthayer@marincounty.org)
- CA Food Policy group update: Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) - Mary Collin and others from Governor's office were on call. Each of 13 CA regions will receive funding for economic development. Community engagement process to commit state ARPA funds. Staff focused on equity are involved. Marin will be part of a 6-county northern CA region. Reba will give update about how funds are being spent further along the process.

**Closing:** Richard Levins quote

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 16, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Market Day at Marin City Community Services District near the clinic is every Thursday afternoon 1-5 PM. Rollin Root is there 1-2.

## JUNE 2022

### 6/21/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Camile Mac [Camillemacd@gmail.com](mailto:Camillemacd@gmail.com) (UC Berkeley, UCCE intern), Carey Campbell (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Darien Malekos (AIM), Helen Jang*

*(American Heart Association), Jenna Ray (Marin County Aging & Adult Services), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood.org), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Sydney Weisbach (MALT)*

### **Introductions and Announcements (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Pt. Reyes Farmers Market open for summer season: Saturdays 9am-2pm. Funding through Kaiser grant program for vouchers for fresh fruit and veggies for farm workers in West Marin (delivered through West Marin Community Center).
- First 5 event: [Celebrate Immigrants in Marin](#); June 23, 3-7pm @ San Rafael Community Center @ 618 B Street. RSVP to Michelle@First5Marin.org.

### **Group Discussion: Continue Senior Nutrition and School Nutrition**

- 2 themes to dig deeper on: Senior Nutrition and School Food
  - Specific opportunities to take tangible policy action
- Other topics: Social Equity (standing topic) and Micro Enterprise and Small-scale Food Businesses (Fall 2022)
- Recap of the March and April meetings on Senior Nutrition and School Food
- **[Policy Platform](#) background:** proactive policy agenda document for MFPC, to be used to make decisions on policies more efficiently and effectively on behalf of MFPC membership. Also serves as a living document to collect and capture group knowledge as we build expertise. Themes: Food Assistance, Climate Change, Food Equity & Racial Justice, Older Adults. The audience of the document is ourselves and our partners.
- **School Food summary:** unique moment of opportunity in which context for school meals has shifted with summer meals and universal participation during the pandemic, and 2 years of funding for this for 2 years. [Universal School Meals](#) eliminated confusion and levels the playing field, and Farm to School is enjoying more funding to create links between school nutrition and local food and agriculture. But this window may be closing, so there is the need to advocate for permanent funding, plus the flexibility for procurement is ending in Summer 2022 (the way that school nutrition does procurement has enabled more flexibility during the pandemic). Use LCAP funding to set priorities for schools? Need to increase local produce, barriers on amount of produce local farms can grow vs amount that school districts need. Also the question of defining "local".
- **Senior Nutrition summary:** many older adults are still in need despite programs, not enough funding for food reimbursement costs, programs need flexibility and options to maintain post-Covid, funding should give preference to orgs sourcing local and organic, Master Plan on Aging needs more language linking healthy food and health, flexible spending to source more culturally appropriate foods. Covid provided flexibility - reach people not previously served, as well as new program options... and additional funding.
- Group work on Policy Platform

**Public comments for the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, & Health](#) (due July 15th)**

- Conference set on five pillars for actions that can be taken by federal government; most aligned with MFPC: Improve food access and affordability, Integrate nutrition and health, and Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
- **Improve food access and affordability:** End hunger by making it easier for everyone — including urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities — to access and afford food. For example, expand eligibility for and increase participation in food assistance programs and improve transportation to places where food is available.
- **Integrate nutrition and health:** Prioritize the role of nutrition and food security in overall health, including disease prevention and management, and ensure that our healthcare system addresses the nutrition needs of all people.
- **Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices:** Foster environments that enable all people to easily make informed healthy choices, increase access to healthy food, encourage healthy workplace and school policies, and invest in public messaging and education campaigns that are culturally appropriate and resonate with specific communities.
- Work in shared doc as small groups, MFPC Steering Committee to craft and submit Public Comment before the deadline of July 15.

## Policy Updates

- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack Announces [Food System Transformation Framework](#): first time such a broad and bold commitment to food and ag was made at this level (USDA), with a lot of funding coming related to local food systems. Hoping this will change the landscape locally in terms of what is possible in the future.
- SB 907 Budget Sign-on Letter: *tabled*
- Measure A update: ballot measure for Marin to support ag and open space. The majority of funding supports things outside of scope, but 30% (roughly \$1 Million in funding) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program's annual amount shall provide competitive matching grants to qualified organizations to support work on sustainable food systems, climate beneficial management, and improving natural resource values on Marin's working lands, including: carbon capture farming practices, environmental restoration, regenerative agriculture, improving ecosystem services for water quality and soil health, **local food supply sustainability and community gardens**, wildlife corridor and habitat improvements, providing for public access, **increasing access to low-cost farmland and farming for low-income and underserved communities**. Permanent tax-funding base that can provide real long term funding to support local and regional food systems. Marin County Parks is working on shaping this program now that measure A has passed, you can contact Kevin Wright with your ideas; MFPC working on how best to contribute (letter with priorities, etc.).

**Look for Public Comment and Policy Platform changes coming soon.**

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 19, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# MAY 2022

## 5/16/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Alex Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Cerise Mayo (Food and Ag Consultant for Nutshell Projects), Helen Jang (American Heart Association), Jesica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Marin Aging Action Initiative), Lizzie Velten (American Heart Association), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Marian Cremin (guest), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Rosalinda Camacho (Marin Community Clinic Health Hub), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS - Public Health, Nutrition Wellness, HEAL Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions and Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Julia: Older Californians Act Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Senior Nutrition Infrastructure (NI) Grant Program will provide the Marin County AAA with a total of **\$662,516** to fund non-profit and community-based organizations **already providing nutrition programs to older adults, age 60 and older, in Marin.** **To be considered for this funding opportunity, your agency will need to submit an application to the AAA no later than EOD Tuesday, June 7, 2022.** Email jray@marincounty.org with the subject line *Senior Nutrition Infrastructure Grant Application*.
- Liana and Marchon: Farm Bill roundtable on the Farm Bill with Congressman Huffman @ SF-Marin Food Bank on Kerner Blvd, MFPC members are welcome. Date TBD.

### **Group Discussion: Digging into Senior Nutrition and School Nutrition** (Moderators: Linda Jackson and Wendy Tobiasson)

- **Policy Barriers and Opportunities for Equitable Access to Senior Nutrition Programs** in March OVERVIEW: many older adults are still in need, some in income gap; not enough funding for food reimbursement costs; need for flexibility in options for funding spending; local procurement opportunities for meal programs serving older adults; funding should give preference to orgs sourcing local and organic; Master Plan on Aging needing more language about food security and need for health.
- **Policy Barriers and Opportunities for School Nutrition, Universal School Meals, Farm to School** in April OVERVIEW: food hubs & shared procurement; supply chain crises and benefits of local purchases; DoD Fresh and other local use of entitlement funds; school nutrition guidelines; emergency waivers are expiring; wellness policies; universal school meals; definition of “local”; farm to school long term funding; contract meal programs; school breakfasts; scratch cooking (equipment, training, menus, labor); school food service employment challenges (low wages, part time work); partnerships



between well funded schools and lower income sites; Oakland USD and their central kitchen example.

- **Breakout groups:** reflect on learnings from the past two panels and identify specific policy actions for the future
  - Notes from School Meals breakout group:
- **Older Adults action steps:** supporting and amplifying C4A's budget ask; Policy Platform on National Aging Association (Lee Pullan); Community Needs Assessment, (Jenay) info on the disparities of nutrition services available for older adults of color in Marin; Marin Community Clinics funding for shopping carts; Market Match year-round for seniors; intersection of culturally appropriate foods and economic benefits for small, micro, and home businesses
- **School Meals notes:**
  - Send out the comments that were submitted around nutrition guidelines (this was one of the school team's action items so good we have it done)
  - Consider working with various partners (Sanzuma/Conscious Kitchen/AIM) about a tip sheet for how schools can buy local and organic products
  - Advocate via a letter to Pro Pacific Fresh / JSM about getting access to more organic items in the DoD Fresh category (limited items available now)
  - Letter of support to CA about need to extend waivers and universal meals (need to identify other letters that may already be in progress that we could support)
  - Support policy change/waiver around kids being able to take home extra food from school (merging of SB1383 and school food waiver)
  - Tech support and policy support for local organization implementing SB1383 (numerous local initiatives underway/being planned)
  - Revisit the draft policy language Lori Davis worked on with Mark Maquire around local procurement added \$0.25 per meal (VT example grant program)
  - Local initiatives? Discussed local parcel tax, likely not a good channel, LCAP may be better avenue
  - Add school garden and school food details into LCAP - 3 year cycle - get values around nutrition and wellness into LCAP
  - Identify ways to increase training for food service roles and possibly identify training grants/professional development opportunities
  - Local schools have challenges with staffing school food jobs - better track in county to support that path? Feeder programs to school food jobs?
  - Look into ways to share staff across districts (example from learning session) to help make school food changes more viable
  - Support job development paths for community food producers as well (part of our third MFPC topic area)
  - Identify any opportunities to leverage sugar sweetened beverage tax revenues to support school food - make sure sugar sweetened beverages are not allowed through school wellness policies

- Need to decide how best to layer in specific school food details into the policy platform (perhaps through the resilient local food section we were going to add this year)
- **School Meals action steps:** Andy (AIM) [submitted comment](#) on the scientific questions to be considered in the review of evidence to support the development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans - completed; Sanzuma including info sessions (DoD opportunities) in Farm to School grant; ask if local farmers that supply to local districts need support; link between SB 1383 and any local policies around this; training and professional development; SSB and potential funding; extra funding for local procurement; see if letters already exist for sign on; wellness policies
- Next month can look back at MFPC Policy Platform and see where we can integrate new content (perhaps adding a section on local sustainable food systems)

## Policy Updates

- SB 972 street food vendors (Julia) - new legal pathways for street food vendors (in LA), MFPC has identified this as a topic of interest; not a bill that is currently being tracked by CFFN, so need to decide ourselves if we want to support it, Julia to research further; historically San Rafael has had a policy that prohibited something like this, [Rudy Espinoza](#) might be involved with this.
- Recent policy sign-ons (Liana) - 1) LOS budget request for Center for Food and Ag (AIM), 2) provided additional scientific questions for [Nutrition Guidelines for Americans](#), 3) LOS for AB 2487 to provide unemployment insurance for undocumented workers, and 4) LOS for grant Julia submitted to USDA Regional Food Partnerships Program to fund a North Bay Emergency Food Systems Network
- Wendy: to bring a Marin County Farm to School Project LOS to MFPC to sign-on (already in MFPC Policy Platform)
- Alex: look up [Marin Race Equity Action Plan](#) - goal recommended (Action 1.3) to provide biannual edu series for small, micro, and home businesses; there will be equity funding for this
- Reba: The White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health will be hosted in September 2022. Will be opportunities to share ideas.

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 21, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# APRIL 2022

## 4/19/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Alan Downing [adowning@srcs.org](mailto:adowning@srcs.org) (San Rafael City Schools Director of Nutrition), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Carey (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Cerise Mayo (guest), Darien Malekos [darien@agriculturalinstitute.org](mailto:darien@agriculturalinstitute.org) (AIM), Helen Jang [helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu](mailto:helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu) (American Heart Association), Jenna Ray [jray@marincounty.org](mailto:jray@marincounty.org) (Marin Aging and Adult*

Services), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Judi Shils (Conscious Kitchen), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Marin Aging Action Initiative), Leah Smith (Friends of the Earth), Lizzie Velten [lizzie.velten@heart.org](mailto:lizzie.velten@heart.org) (American Heart Association), Lori Davis (Sanzuma), Luke Regalbuto (guest), Madelene McCann (Marin Child Care Council), Madeline Nieto Hope (WMCS), Maggie Levinger (guest), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Marianne Recher [mmrecher@gmail.com](mailto:mmrecher@gmail.com) (Shoreline Unified / West Marin-Inverness Site Council), Monica Ravizza [Monica@extrafood.org](mailto:Monica@extrafood.org) (ExtraFood.org), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Sydney Weisbach (MALT), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)

## **Introductions and Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

### **Panel Discussion: Policy Barriers and Opportunities for School Nutrition, Universal School Meals, & Farm to School**

Moderator: Wendy Tobiasson, *Innovative Health Solutions* \*[presentation](#)\*

Intro: \$2.10 economic benefit for every \$1 spent on school meals for students. Maximize participation, improve dietary composition, optimize procurement for sustainable and local sourcing. How can MFPC help with local, state, and/or federal policies?

**Panel Discussion:** Leah Smith (Friends of the Earth), Judi Shils (Conscious Kitchen Executive Director), and Lori Davis (Sanzuma Executive Director), Alan Downing (San Rafael City Schools Director of Nutrition)

Leah Smith \*[presentation](#)\*

- Working on school food for over 2 decades, currently works as a consultant with a variety of groups and nonprofits
- Climate Friendly School Food Program is working to help school districts shift to more healthy, plant-forward and organic menus
- Organic School Food Roadmap (learnings of food service directors from across the state on the process of integrating organic into school food)
- Strategies for organic purchasing
- Technical support for districts: learning and professional development from partnerships between farms and schools
- Supply chain crises is hurting school districts... or is it an opportunity? Local sustainable ag is more resilient in the face of climate crisis, also more resilient in the face of supply chain breaks. School districts being faced with greater costs anyway, so can choose organic...
- DoD Fresh - use entitlement dollars to buy organic items? Two CA vendors provide DoD Fresh produce to CA schools, approached these vendors saying schools want organic and asking them to offer organic options - items are being added.
- Policy: School Nutrition (emergency waivers, nutrition guidelines, wellness policies), Universal School Meals, Farm to School (CDFA and National Farm to School grants),

and Climate FRiendly and Organic School Foods (federal procurement requirements, DoD Fresh)

- Timely Actions: 1) Comment period for School Nutrition Guidelines – Now and again after draft in Fall 2022 > Ensure school meal nutrition standards and meal patterns adequately incentivize plant-based entrées and reflect the updated recommendations in the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. (Sign On Letter here: Letter & sign-on form) . 2) CDFA Farm to School Grants RFA coming out shortly – April 2022. >Push for permanent funding and climate friendly criteria. 3) School Districts to advocate for more organic in DoD Fresh Program / give feedback . 4) Waivers: Advocate for continuation of waivers that school food programs need.

Alan Downing

- Serve breakfast at all San Rafael schools. Child and Adult Care Food Program (at risk supper program provides a third meal of the day if students are taking after school enrichment options). Approx 7100 students in SR district, including pre-K and contract school. Summer Seamless option since March 2020 to provide food when school is closed. Utilize produce from their own garden, buy local when affordable, buy organic produce through DoD. Looking to expand the menu next school year to include more scratch items. Cooking classes for students. 6500 meals per day (3 meals) with less than 30 staff total - staff is TIRED. Operating with 36 hours a day short (medical needs), with 6,500 meals still needing to happen. Participation has dramatically increased this school year since everyone can get food (not for only free and reduced kids, which does away with the stigma).
- Salad bars: wanted them back after Xmasbreak, some principals not mentally ready for them, so no salad bars yet. Planning for salad bars back starting with summer school, continuing to fall school year. Kids eat more veggies when they can choose them at the salad bars.
- Waivers end for SR district on June 10 (last day of school). Most important: have been given almost an extra dollar per meal in funding, which will end in June. This extra dollar has afforded the district to make part time employees full time, continue to buy food, etc. Not sure how next year will work without the extra funding, as the supply chain is getting worse and costs are continuing to increase. Currently lunch \$4.53 per meal, will go down to \$3.75 per meal.
- Breakfast programs: 2021 school year kids only on campus last 6 weeks of school, so did take-home meals - including breakfast had a huge impact. This year there has been higher participation in breakfast than lunch for high school kids, which helps with financial stability.
- Purchasing local: what are some of the best ways to connect with local farmers and make purchases? Comes down to the definition of local. 9000 of local produce this year in the San Rafael district... but that is using the USDA definition “from the state you are from, plus any state touching that state” (CA, NV, OR, AZ). If we support the organic farming community as close as we can get, we can’t get everything from as local as you

would like. Weigh the costs of local vs organic, the industries you support, the associated freight costs, etc.

Lori Davis

- Executive Director of Sanzuma - runs the school farm with an orchard, processing center, greenhouse, hoop house, etc to grow produce for Alan to offer an affordable organic option. Sanzuma doesn't have to pay for water or land, and SR district pays lower prices. Alan gets the first pick of anything on the farm, leftovers go to other revenues to sell, money cycles back to fund the program.
- Free offerings: farm to cafeteria program, nutrition edu classes on farm, after school program (1 hour of farming and healthy cooking on Weds and movement, science and arts classes), free nutrition classes in Spanish to community and parents (partnership with HHS). Taste tests with children at the farm (challenging since Covid). Only use recipes that children can cook on their own, at their own placemat. Sanzuma does all fundraising to keep the program running since 2014, has lots of partners, and has just taken on two partner farms (Marin Academy and College of Marin) to share resources. Sanzuma teaches at Marin Academy, and MA provides Sanzuma with resources.

Judi Shils \*[presentation](#)\*

- Similar situation in West Contra Costa. Conscious Kitchen has been working with Marin City and Sausalito schools for 9 years, goal of shifting food to organic.
- Fresh, Local, Organic, Seasonal, Nutritious meals
- 2013 test case in Marin City
- Pandemic opportunity in West Contra Costa district, partnered with ~40 local growers to provide 600,000 meals a week for families, 100% organic food boxes
- Goal: take pandemic programs (100% organic food boxes) and bring them back to school. Pricing is different, but has been able to go outside of contracts due to waivers and work with local vendors. CDFA And USDA grants have helped as well.
- With 30,000 students procurement is important - how to purchase better?
- Policy: prioritize organic and local
- Narrowing criteria with bids to keep it local (ie bulk milk from Straus)
- Learned: challenges from buying direct from farmers (districts used to produce looking different, lack of temperature control with small scale growers, etc)
- When you identify district willingness, it makes so much easier to happen

**QUESTION:** MFPC supports Universal School Meals and Farm to School programs. Curious what policy barriers they are seeing related to these, that need further action... or new hurdles and policy barriers that have been identified.

- The education component is critical in the schools (why kids need to eat healthy and where food comes from, etc). If you teach the kids, success is easier, waste is less. Need nutrition education in the curriculum of CA schools.

- During the pandemic, the money (and waivers) flowed... what's going to happen now? How is that money not available during the good times, but only during the bad times? Policy is finding funding for CA long term, and solving reimbursement dollar amounts.
- Sliding scale for reimbursement? CA should get a higher amount than states with lower cost of living. It's just not enough money. USDA might consider a cost analysis per state or per area?
- Reimbursement rate under the next federal child nutrition reauthorization. National school lunch program is always fixed, waivers in summer seamless programs give the additional \$. Universal School Meals is at the state level (CDFA) to seek permanent funding.

### **SF-Marin Food Bank's Program Partner Survey (Marchon Tatmon)**

- [\\*Survey\\*](#) January 2022 food bank asked partners to tell them about hunger issues in their community and what they thought the SF-Marin Food Bank should do about it. Goal: build a more inclusive equity policy agenda together.
- Results: 85% response rate, in Marin and SF. 84% Covid had an impact on increased hardships, 77% families didn't have enough money to put food on table, 67% of unhoused didn't have enough food, seniors don't have adequate resources to prepare meals at home, lack of people being able to get to local grocery stores, want to see improved income support and expanded network of Food Banks.
- Asked partners what to focus on with advocacy: over 80% said preventing hunger and advocating for underlying systemic issues.
- SF-Marin Food Bank policy priorities will align with these results; they want to include the community voice. Please share: data is powerful.
- Next steps: finalizing their 2022 policy agenda where they track a lot of these issues. USually SF-Marin Food Bank has had a focus on CalFresh and other things directly related to food, now shifting to some of the underlying systemic issues.

### **Focus on 3 Learning Opportunities:**

- 1) Child Nutrition, School Meals, Farm to School. Today's meeting was Part One, look for (potentially) a Part Two in the Fall (understanding our local food system and needs of the youth demographic)
- 2) Equitable access to senior nutrition last month; follow-up with state policy opportunities in the Fall (understanding our local food system and needs of the older adult demographic)
- 3) Local Food Supply Chain, understanding opportunities for local food production and businesses for POC. Likely also in the Fall.
- Summer meetings will dive back into policy-focused work - all are welcome to join.

### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 17, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.



# MARCH 2022

## 3/15/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn couch (Ceres Community Project), Florencia Parada ( ), Helen Jang [helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu](mailto:helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu) (American Heart Association), Jenay Cottrell [jcottrell@marincounty.org](mailto:jcottrell@marincounty.org) (Marin Aging and Adult Services), Jenna Ray [jray@marincounty.org](mailto:jray@marincounty.org) (Marin Aging and Adult Services), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Marin Aging Action Initiative), Lee Pullen (Aging and Adult Services Director), Lizzie Velten [lizzie.velten@heart.org](mailto:lizzie.velten@heart.org) (American Heart Association), Madelene McCann (Marin Child Care Council), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Megan Zywicz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Monica Ravizza [Monica@extrafood.org](mailto:Monica@extrafood.org) (ExtraFood.org), Paige Hotchkiss-Needleman (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions and Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

### **Panel Discussion: Policy Needs & Opportunities to Support Equitable Access to Senior Nutrition Programs**

Moderator: Linda Jackson, *Aging Action Initiative*

Today's meeting is first of 2 meetings (local focus in March, State focus in April)

### **Jenna Ray, HHS Aging & Adult Services** *\*\*[presentation](#)\*\**

- Two Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Meal Programs (mainly federal funded, with some state funding):
  - Home-delivered meals (West Marin, Central Marin/Vivalon, Asisan Inspired home delivered meals). It used to be that ppl had to be *not driving* to be eligible, this requirement was lifted recently (60+, considered frail, and self-attesting that they are homebound, NO income requirements). Outreach to more underserved and vulnerable areas first (Marin City, Canal, etc).
  - Congregate meals/Grab & go (Margaret Todd, Albert J. Boro, Corte Madera, and San Geronimo Valley Community Centers). More drive-thru now due to Covid, brought home and heated up and eaten. Participants still get some socialization from volunteers and other participants.
- Emergency meals around fire season (shelf stable meals to anyone over 60 in power shut offs and emergencies)
- Seniors farmers market nutrition program - check booklets to be spent on fresh, locally grown produce
- Bounty Box pilot in Fall 2021, looking out for nutrition needs for older adults.
- Grocery bags sent to home delivered meals recipients, increased interest from seniors

- Covid changes: older adults have been affected greater, needs for services have increased. Pop of seniors in Marin continues to grow.

### **Jenay Cottrell, *HHS Aging & Adult Services***

- Policy barriers:
  - Programs represent one small piece of pie of what is needed to address nutrition needs of older adults in Marin. Intended to support people of any income level, but seeing a growing need of older adults in the income gap who don't qualify for other low income assistance programs, but still are struggling to make ends meet (especially with inflation).
  - Older Americans Act and other Covid funding is not proportionate to the need, the levels of funding they receive make it challenging to work with meal vendors. Pre-Covid funding was very restrictive: could serve older adults through just home-delivered meals and in-person congregate meals, but they want to be able to offer meals in more ways. Pandemic enabled more flexibility like grab & go and grocery bags.
  - Still under Gov Emergency Order, so still have this flexibility (above). Funding is time-limited, though.
- Policy opportunities:
  - It's the wonderful partners in this community that have made innovation possible.
  - **Wanting to explore how they can work with restaurants = best way to serve more diverse clientele by providing more culturally appropriate meals.**
    - This could align with MFPC goal to support BIPOC food businesses and restaurants
  - Marin and other AAA's have proved that they can be flexible, that older adults don't all fit one mold. Hopeful that some pandemic flexibility will continue.
  - They've had success with both sides of the aisle, many understand the need and want to extend help. Need higher levels, ongoing funding, and flexibility.
  - C4A (CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging) recommending that state funding remains at pandemic levels (\$70million to replace Covid funding streams that will expire soon, and is looking to advocate for more as well.
  - Support and amplify C4A's budget ask
  - Write Congressman Jared Huffman (has been supportive)
  - Write Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla
  - Lee Pullen will receive policy platform information from national association in Washington DC in 2 weeks, will send information related to the association's food advocacy to MFPC so we have information when we do write letters to members of Congress

### **Cathryn Couch, *Ceres Community Project* \*\*[presentation](#)\*\***

- Provide 180,000 meals a year to 1600 clients, engage 1000 volunteers. Also run youth pgm 40 diff schools into 2 gardens and 3 kitchens in Marin and Sonoma.
- Medically-tailored meals and groceries
- Standard: 7 meals a week; offer 14 meals or 7 plus a bag of groceries if client screens positive for food insecurity

- Up to 24 weeks for most clients; longer for some grant funded programs (like AAA)
- Screen clients for food insecurity
- nutrition education classes every other week virtually - open to all on a sliding scale basis
- All clients dealing with serious or acute health crises (used to be cancer focused, now cancer is 25%); 85% live at or below 200% of federal poverty level, 40% Latino, 30% Spanish-speaking; 60% are 60+; 73% living alone (programs address social connection, loneliness)
- Medically-tailored meal are tailored to med needs by registered dietician nutritionist (low sodium, carb-restricted, vegetarian and food allergy options as well)
- Diabetes, hypertension, cancer, CVD, AIDS, Pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, end stage renal disease, hypertension: people unable to prepare the nutritionally complex meals they need for their health condition
- Funding: primarily philanthropically funded, multi-year COVID related funding from County of Sonoma; have a new contract with Partnership HealthPlan (MediCal provider for Sonoma and Marin). CA Food as Medicine Coalition got the state to fund medically tailored meals pilot in 2018 which just wrapped up. Starting in January 2022 medically tailored meals are allowable community support service in Medical - this is the contract with Partnership HealthPlan. The PHP contract is \$9.50 a year, AAA reimbursement is \$3.70 a meal. CalFIMC also received \$9.3 million from the state for “bridge funding”, looking to extend this, potentially ongoing funding to increase reach. NEW Community Supports Benefit with PHP is still being worked out - in terms of who will be eligible for the benefit.

### **Steve Schwartz, *Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative***

- Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative’s mission is to build the local sustainable food system through faith-based organizations (ground-level as well as policy-level)
- HEAL initiative and support through MFPC helped focus on older adults, motivated focus on Senior farmers market nutrition pgm (SFMNP). Nobody in the state has SFMNP as the main thing on their job description.
- Challenges: confusion among farmers if they can redeem checks right at markets, where to get it, confusion among seniors if markets will accept SFMNP in addition to or instead of CalFresh, seniors lacking transportation to markets, etc.
  - Can seniors get the check and then use it for a mini-congregate dining experience at the farmers market for socialization component?
- Bonus dollars to match SFMNP funds

### **Discussion, Q&A**

- Snapshot of older adults in Marin County being served: 29% is 60+ - West Marin more like 40%. Marin is one of the oldest counties in CA. Anticipating that more people are going to be needing home-delivered meals, and more BIPOC. People ages 60-75 are less interested in congregate meals. Community Needs Assessment every 4 years by

AAA (last report found that older adult POC tend to eat alone more often, 25% older adults at risk of being food insecure, people are living longer - many longer than their financial means). Rough calculation: 19,250 food insecure older adults in Marin. Seniors needing translation to languages in addition to Spanish.

- National Plan on Aging: nothing in the Healthy Aging Chapter connecting nutrition insecurity and health, only a tiny mention of CalFresh. Opportunity to educate policy makers about this area, continuum of services needed, and how to invest in this continuum. 60+ group is very diverse with diverse needs.
- Food and social connections: a report 6 years ago said older adults might not want to go to markets on more crowded days, work to put rest areas and restrooms in farmers markets, social connection is so important - older adults linger when obtaining services to get in more socializing.
- Local procurement: farmers markets to shop directly from farmers, but is there opportunity to source locally for the other programs? Can people ID a preference for locally sourced food? Ceres committed to source 100% organic to support sustainable food systems, and sources locally a lot and works with local food donors a lot. Price component ties into this issue. Any policy connection to allowing local procurement? Convos in rollout of Cal AIM: there is a large out-of-state meal provider that ships poor quality \$7.50 meals to any zip code - if we go with this solution, we are undermining the viability of local non-profits. Big picture: what is the investment we want to make, and what do we want to get from this investment? **CA providers *should* get preference, and organizations sourcing locally and organic food *should* get more funding. We all need to bring this vision to every policy conversation we have = collective action we can all take.**
- Policy opportunities: educate policy makers about this area; bring the vision of locally sourced organic food being prioritized to every policy conversation we have
- **NEXT STEPS:**
  - In today's Marin Food Distribution Group, Shirin brought up the idea of a policy platform related to what we've learned from implementing food distribution programs during Covid and policy recs we have coming out of this for the future (ie: need for flexibility to serve diverse clients' needs, new funding streams, etc) - 2 years into the pandemic, what have we learned from pandemic pivots and policy modifications that allowed for innovation, that we want to continue?
  - MFPC has its own policy platform, one section is on the needs of older adults. Time to revisit that section in response to today's panel, strengthen that section to be more forward-thinking and proactive.
  - Counties task force for Master Plan on Aging: understand how Marin will interact with the Plan and where opportunities for us to share our voice. Next Needs Assessment in 2023, Jenay will send results of Assessment done in 2019 (randomized phone survey for more reliable data).
  - This is the first of a two part series on this area. This March meeting was Marin-specific, April meeting will have a more external panel about policy at the state level. Hope you can join!
  - May meeting: new funding opps for supporting ag and local foods, and/or universal school meals and far mto school
  - Summer meetings: more smaller working meetings on policy
  - SOON: return to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings

Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 19, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m

# FEBRUARY 2022

## 2/15/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Claire Peaslee (West Marin Climate Action), Darien Malekos [darien@agriculturalinstitute.org](mailto:darien@agriculturalinstitute.org) (AIM), Helen Jang [helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu](mailto:helen.jang.512@my.csun.edu) (American Heart Association), Jenay Cottrell [jcottrell@marincounty.org](mailto:jcottrell@marincounty.org) (Marin Aging and Adult Services), Jenna Ray [jray@marincounty.org](mailto:jray@marincounty.org) (Marin Aging and Adult Services), Jenny Jothiyood [jjothiyoo@student.touro.edu](mailto:jjothiyoo@student.touro.edu) (Innovative Health Solutions), Jessica Rodriguez (Marin HHS - HEAL Collaborative), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Lizzie Velten [lizzie.velten@heart.org](mailto:lizzie.velten@heart.org) (American Heart Association), Monica Ravizza [Monica@extrafood.org](mailto:Monica@extrafood.org) (ExtraFood.org), Paige Hotchkiss-Needleman (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS Public Health), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Sydney Weisbach [sweisbach@malt.org](mailto:sweisbach@malt.org) (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions), Will Ditmar (ExtraFood.org),*

### **Introductions and Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- Linda: If you serve or work with older adults, you're welcome to join the Aging Action Initiative and receive their free newsletter. Let Linda know your email and she will add you to the contact list.
- Steve: Interfaith Food has a few open positions right now that are available until filled including an Outreach and Policy position. Positions based in Sebastopol. [www.interfaithfood.org](http://www.interfaithfood.org).

### **Finalize Policy Priorities & Focus Areas for 2022** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- **Three learning sessions for 2022**, and the Steering Committee has identified two, and a third area as a placeholder for Council member feedback, with Social Equity as a through line.
- **Purpose of identifying bucket themes:** we support policy work and statewide initiatives brought to us by partners, but these buckets below are to help focus our local policy project work... *While* we continue work on items on the MFPC policy platform (CalFresh, nutrition incentives, access at farmers markets, etc).
- **First bucket: Senior Nutrition** (carries on MFPC work farm to older adults programs, senior farmers market nutrition programs, and the social connections and emotional/mental wellness involved in these programs, etc.), potentially employing a lobbyist for this work. This is aligned with MFPC funding from MCF on older adults, and MFPC is covered through February 2023 on this work. MFPC has been working to

increase the senior Farmers Market Nutrition program budget with a lobbyist, has had some wins and could continue in this effort. Current opportunity for funding statewide Food Policy Councils - CDA has \$100 million set aside for farm to school, Farm to Senior could be an opportunity to roll into this. Data on older adult nutrition: Marin Area [Agency on Aging's latest needs assessment](#). Running legislation at the state level takes multiple years - both timely and needs quick action, as well as play the long game. Add Equity to title

- **Second bucket: Local Food Businesses** (Micro Enterprise Home Kitchens laws, cottage food laws, local food ordinances, farmstead opportunities, food trucks, environmental health and fees for food entrepreneurs). Be specific about micro enterprises so that it's clear that we aren't focusing on restaurants. Social equity piece is important here, add Equity to title. Including farms in the idea of supporting micro businesses.
- **Third bucket Zoom poll:** Local Policy & Learning Opportunities **\*vote for up to three new buckets\*** and we will discuss the top options and pick **one of the following:**
  - **Housing:** County of Marin Housing Elements; farmworker housing; property tax incentives for farmworker housing
  - **Local implementation of SB 1383:** Local implementation & enforcement of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Bill related to food waste
  - **School Food:** Universal School Meals; new opportunities for Farm to School in Marin
  - **Water Storage Policies:** impacts of drought on local agriculture
  - **Regenerative ag:** climate smart ag practices; healthy soils
  - **Food Supply Chain:** local and global food supply chain
  - **Land access & farmer training programs for farmers of color:** Indigenous Healing Center; farm land succession
  - **Food Systems Funding Opportunities:**
    - **ARPA** - American Rescue Plan Act funds for cities and county
    - **Measure A** - Parks and Open Space
    - **Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax opportunities** - Opportunities with Charter Cities TBD?
- **Third bucket discussion:** what is most urgent and what has the potential for the most impact most immediately? Where are there synergies with our work around Senior Nutrition, Equitable Access, and Local Food Businesses? Steering Committee will look for opportunities to link the below themes:
  - **School food:** good compliment to work with older adults, potential for impact especially during Covid... Most school food is served because of lobbying by the meat and dairy industry, providing low-quality foods for students. For some kids, this may be the only meal of the day. What they eat impacts their health and development. If they are shown and become use to eating healthy food as a child, they may be gifted with lifelong nutrition practices. This is a social justice and a health effort.



- **Food systems funding:** the more we have a pulse on these opportunities the more we can have an impact
- **Local implementation of SB 1383:** as a climate action that can make a big measurable impact on the local level)
- **Water Storage Policies:** as a climate action for resiliency via the local food system
- **Land access & farmer training programs for farmers of color** (as a climate equity action)
- **Format of 2022:** roughly 2/3 of the year's meetings for standing policy business, and a few learning sessions with key panelists that are more broadly advertised and attract larger groups.
- **Hybrid meeting format:** smaller policy meetings in person, and larger learning sessions online (for ease of access)

### Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz and All)

- [National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) (Julia): extended an offer to Council members to participate in conference March 15-17 (entirely virtually) - Food Bank would pay for anyone's participation. Learning as well as advocacy opportunities, all around anti-hunger work. Let Marchon know if you are interested.
- **Food and Farming Resilience budget sign-on letter** (Julia, Steve & Reba): formally food and farming bill. **Last year:** a coalition of groups from around CA worked together to put a bond on the ballot to create funding for a variety of programs around the food system and sustainable ag system. Pivoted to focus on extra money in the state budget. Some success, second phase here now. AB 125 Coalition is now the Food and Farming Resilience Coalition requesting \$657.5 million in FY 22-23 investments in our food and farm systems to support farmworker well-being and safety, healthy food access, climate-resilient farms, and regional food economies. Robert Rivas is carrying the request. **Will MFPC sign onto this request? \*\*VOTE: approved.** **Opportunities ahead:** CDA \$100 million to support Farm to Schools (and Farm to Seniors), and idea to support local work around *infrastructure such as a lease, signage, irrigation and water* (one-time funding to solve a problem around climate change and health inequities, requests go to Senate members).
- Measure A: MFPC made public comment on Measure A, which is being decided now so stay tuned. MFPC in alignment with land trust community and farm groups supporting funding for ag and conservation easements. AIM submitted a letter to the editor to the IJ in support of this, also. **Information sharing may be necessary or helpful when this goes up for a vote in June, perhaps a public forum at the May MFPC meeting.** MALT is putting together strategic communications and collateral around Measure A that they would be happy to share with the council to circulate!
- Senior Nutrition Asks: Deputy Sec for Food and Ag discussion, asked to share line items if there's anything on Farm to Seniors - clarify that the increase in funding is expected to be spent over 2 years. Opportunity to use some of Farm to School funds if there is extra there.

- BANPAC: opportunity to learn more about SSB - ChangeLab will go to their March meeting, Reba will circulate info. ChangeLab may also share info at the state level. Can update the council about the BANPAC meeting at the March meeting.
- CDFA Farm to School grants are coming out for public comment this week with a 4 week comment period and then application period. Marin received a great grant this last year through Sanzuma Farm.
- MFPC is happy to share items for members - send them to us a week before the meeting (3rd Tuesday of the month) so we can circulate to MFPC, or if less than a week before meetings, we can share day-of.

#### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Budget update: another year of funding from MCF Older Adult HEAL funding (4th year in a row). Proposal comes under Innovative Health Solutions (our fiscal agent), so we are part of a larger grant along with Marin City Community Services District, SF-Marin Food Bank, and Innovative Health Solutions. Julia can give an update on funds spent this last cycle and funds to be spent going forward.
- Confirm format for 2022: policy-focused sessions in-person/hybrid, with 3-4 virtual learning sessions with panel presentations open to the public and MFPC partners on our broader network.
- Confirm meeting date/time/location for hybrid policy sessions (learning sessions virtual until we have nailed the technical side with smaller policy sessions):
  - **3-5pm at HHS in the Canal:** parking is challenging, traffic heading North is challenging
  - **3-5pm at UCCE conference room at 1682 Novato Blvd. in Novato** (2nd story with elevator that needs work)
  - **3-5pm at AIM conference room at E. Francisco Blvd. in San Rafael** (2nd story without elevator)
  - **Would anyone come to an in-person meeting in March?** Steve is the only vote for in-person. Virtual: Lizzie, Jessica, Reba. Will do an RSVP for March meeting to see if it will be hybrid - it will **at least be on Zoom @ 3:00 - 4:30pm**.
  - Steve has a contact who can do technology for hybrid meetings that could be a great thing to pay for from MCF budget or reserves.
  - **Time:** move to lunch hour? Visit this after we have tried a hybrid meeting at 3pm.

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:32 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 15, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **JANUARY 2022**

**1/18/22 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Darien Malekos (AIM), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Monica Ravizza (ExtraFood.org), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)*

## **Introductions and Announcements** (Liana Orlandi)

- [Marin County Housing and Safety Element Community Workshop](#) @ 3pm this Thursday

## **Identify Policy Priorities & Focus Areas for 2022** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Waiting for Omicron/Covid numbers to decrease, plan to hold policy-focused sessions in-person/hybrid, with 3-4 virtual learning sessions with panel presentations held virtually and open to the public. Hoping to hold the in-person/hybrid meetings at the UCCE conference room in Novato.
- 2 threads that we hope to maintain through new topical themes: Equity and Older Adults (Marin Food Policy Council gets support from Marin Community Foundation under their HEAL older adults priority area; this year our funding is returning to focus on older adults, as it was before the pandemic)
- **Prompts: 1) If there was one thing at the state or county level you would want us to focus on in 2022, what would it be? AND 2) What are your organizational priorities and updates that might influence or align with our priorities?**
- **ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds:** Universal School Lunch and engaging around the details of how it's implemented (Farm to school model? Create a pilot?), regional Farm to School approach to the West Marin region. There is a plan to do participatory budgeting for \$5 million (of the \$50 million that [Marin County](#) is getting), with a focus on equity plans and a voting process; details aren't set yet.
- **Property tax incentive to offer farmworker housing:** other states have a 10% property tax credit if you lease land to beginning farmers - can Marin use this model, do a pilot program that creates housing for people in the community that need it? From ARPA funds? Can MFPC have a certain amount of ARPA funds and then strategize their use?
- **Farmworker housing:** this is the year that County of Marin Housing Elements have to be adopted (by end of 2022), get input from CLAM, West Marin Community Services, West Marin Senior Services?
- **Sus Ag package in Governor's budget:** perhaps where Farm to Seniors funds ended up?
- **Regenerative ag:** helping to get the world out of the benefits of climate smart ag practices (to help uphill battle in the media around ag right now). Healthier soils are good for climate as well as for food nutrition (see [this conference](#) from 2019 hosted by UCSF and Paicines Ranch around health and soil).

- **Food Supply Chain (local and global):** seeing again how fragile it is. Local food supply chain is more resilient than global, so building/supporting the local food supply chain is key (especially water in West Marin, all of Marin).
- **Statewide Health and Equity Racial Justice Fund**
- **Nourish Food for All** (expanding access to CalFresh to ppl regardless of documentation status)
- **MediCal for 26-49 year olds who are undocumented**
- **Senior Nutrition**
- **Food waste**
- **AB 125 Food and Farm Bill**
- **Policy enforcement of SB 1383:** Climate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Bill mandates different organic matter waste reduction goals by different industry types. Multiple phases (previous phases were around large institutions like hospitals and prisons), now we are in the 3rd phase of implementation - all residential organic waste garbage needs to be composted. State law, but big question around how it is enforced locally. Strong link with food recovery and food waste networks, need to build capacity to rescue and redistribute edible food before it goes to waste. [AB 1383](#) is unfunded from the state but does allow for fees at the local level
- **Sugar Sweetened Beverages**
- **Food businesses - food trucks, brick and mortar businesses; how to offset capital costs startup costs**
- **Land access and farmer training programs for farmers of color**
- **WIC on mobile markets**
- **County fees waived for BIPOC food businesses**
- **Measure A** (related to Parks and Open Space)
- **New Covid policies**
- **Supporting <https://www.indigenoushealingcenter.org/> to own land for their space** (includes farm and growing area)

## SUMMARY:

Continued interest in statewide engagement as well as opportunities to act locally here in Marin. **Julia** to group items further into themes and will open the February meeting with a poll of specific options. Act on ARPA funds and/or Measure A (time sensitive)? Invite Katie Rice to share with MFPC what is happening with ARPA funds and food?

**Policy Wish List:** If there was one thing at the state or county level you would want us to focus on, what would it be?

(global or local) food supply chain	County fees for BIPOC food businesses	Statewide Health & Equity fund WIC on mobile markets
Child Care providers	AB 125 Food and Farm Bill	Climate Change and the Food System
School age children	Universal school lunch & Farm to School models	Regenerative ag and climate smart ag practices
ARPA Funds	Urban ag municipal policies	Farm Worker Housing
MediCal for undocumented adults	Support for BIPOC Farmers	Housing Elements
Older Adults	Water access	Property tax incentive for farmworker housing
CalFresh Improvement	SSB	Measure A - Parks and Open Space including Agriculture, Community Gardening, & Equity
Nourish food for all (CalFresh expansion)	Local Food Businesses: MIHKOs, food trucks, cottage foods	BIPOC land access
Local Policy		Governor's budget - Sustainable ag portion
		Food waste & SB 1383

## Discussion, Q&A:

- **CA Cottage Food Law and MHKO:** passed allowing home cooks to make a limited number of food items in their home kitchens; from here laws have expanded to allow for more on the micro-enterprise scale. Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MHKO) is a food facility that is operated by the residents of a private home. Food can be stored, prepared, and served to customers at the MHKO. Food has to be made, cooked, and served on the same day, with no more than 30 meals per day, or a total of 60 meals per week. QUESTION: Are MHKOs a pathway for low income or BIPOC home cooks into food businesses that grow their income? Or is it a way to police informal food businesses once a legal pathway is created? What are the pathways for new food producers to enter into the market and scale up, what support is there for new businesses? How to give people economic opportunities legally? Marin County Environmental Health fees are currently waived for veteran food producers, so can they be waived by BIPOC food producers as well?
- **Supplemental pay for food chain workers dealing with Covid:** state level policy MFPC can endorse

## Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz and All)

- CA Food and Farm Scorecard: please view scorecard shared in the Agenda email
- CFFN budget doc tracking all CFFN members' budget priorities: right now the only item in there is that the Governor wants funding for essential workers - someone in the legislature needs to be a champion to put this forward. Could ask McGuire to do it. What do local farmers think about this, or the implication for small-scale food businesses? Steve could ask UFCW to join our next call, or could ask the Farm Bureau or Chamber for their stance?

- Measure A: contains some info on farmers markets, fight for how much money will go in for easements that MALT could use, still in negotiations. Should MFPC support ag folks in West Marin? MFPC provided a public comment in support at the Board meeting, now there is another opportunity for comment, could resubmit? Send a message to the Marin Parks and Open Space Commission no later than 3:30 on January 19th at [ParksComments@marincounty.org](mailto:ParksComments@marincounty.org) expressing your support for maintaining the 20% of Measure A funding allocated to agriculture — and also urging the commissioners to devote the full 50% of that agriculture portion toward the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (other 50% would go to orgs like Marin RCD implementing carbon plans on farms, etc.)... is MFPC comfortable with this support? Yes. **Julia** to forward Liana the public comment Reba previously made, **Liana** to submit for tomorrow's deadline.
- Senior Nutrition: MFPC got part of the ask last year, there is more support to be asked for. First step is to see what is currently in the Governor's package, then determine if MFPC is going to do advocacy at that level again (work with a different lobbyist).
- SF-Marin Food Bank is finalizing their 2022 policy platform (Marchon): emergency food bank funding for CA farmers to purchase \$120 million worth of CA grown items; immigrant food access (Nourish CA Food For All Campaign); CalFresh access (SB 641 CalFresh improvements for college students); increase CalFresh for reentry (folks from incarceration); state level EBT incentives for the purchase of more fruits and vegetables; last year grants taken away during the recession were reversed; SSI and SSP recipients qualify for more aid; School Meals For All passed last year, want to make sure it is implemented right correctly. Will learn more about these bills as they continue and flourish and move through the legislative process and there are opportunities for MFPC to support, sign-on, etc.
- Ceres is finalizing 2022 policy platform (Cathryn):

#### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Likely the February MFPC meeting will still be virtual; we will try to give a month's heads-up before meetings go in-person.
- Confirm format for 2022: policy-focused sessions in-person/hybrid, with 3-4 virtual learning sessions with panel presentations open to the public - *tabled*
- Confirm meeting date/time/location (hybrid when possible) - *tabled*

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 15, 2022** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **NOVEMBER 2021**

### **11/16/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Andy Naja-Riese (AIM), Autumn Johns (Ceres Community Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Chandra*



*Alexandre (Community Action Marin), Hannah Sellers (Redwood High School), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Leah Walton (Community Action Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Marian Cremin (Kaiser), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Seren Pendleton-Knoll (MALT), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions and Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Cathryn - [New report from Rockefeller Foundation - True Cost of School Meals](#)
- Seren - [Panel discussion on Innovations in Land Access](#)
- Chandra - this Saturday 12-2pm for a farm tour and video screening of Good Food for All. Email: [calexandre@camarin.org](mailto:calexandre@camarin.org) if you'd like to come!
- Cathryn - [MTM Day of Action online toolkit](#)
- Steve - [Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is hiring](#) for positions based in Sonoma County but serving Marin and more, including staff AND AmeriCorps \*VISTA positions

### **Partner Spotlight: Community Action Marin (Chandra Alexandre)**

- CAM non-profit in Marin for over 50 years. Fall 2019 broke ground on a garden, to help ensure that those they serve get high quality food. Expanding to a site in Novato, at Hamilton. CAM connects with emergency food security efforts, schools, seniors, food equity for all.
- Good Food for All campaign and [Five Minutes for Food video](#) - idea is to connect people and culture and place and food. What is food justice? EVERY person has access to healthy nutritious food. Downloadable discussion guide available in English and Spanish, guide and video available to schools and teachers.
- Save the Date: Good Food for All Community Gathering on 11/20 from 12-2pm, Old Gallinas Children's Center, San Rafael

### **Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz)**

- Update on [AB 125 Food & Farm Bond](#) (Andy Naja-Riese): AIM is one of 15 orgs involved in AB 125 - getting bond measure on 2022 ballot for funding for healthy food access and sus ag infrastructure, training and workforce development, farmworker housing and wages, etc. Chaired by Rivas, co-sponsored by Levine of Marin County. Unanimous support in Ag committee, got stuck in Natural Resources committee. Because CA had such a budget surplus in 2021, were able to receive \$1.3 million through a variety of funding mechanisms, and additional \$10million this and next year for nutrition incentives (through market match). Currently thinking of possibility of AB 125 merging with AB 1500 (bond measure more aligned with climate change, reducing fire risk, supporting farmworkers, chaired by Garcia in Riverside). Bond merger discussions - what from AB 125 would be absorbed into AB 1500? Rebecca Marcus is also a lobbyist for AB 125 coalition, still figuring out the future. They are considering introducing two additional complimentary bills: 1) focus on helping farmers (especially BIPOC) with the organic transition, and 2) climate-friendly healthy food access infrastructure to fund community

orgs to develop their own strategies for growing and distributing food without relying on the industrialized food system. Need to find authors for either of these 2 bills to be viable (CCOF likely will lead the organic transition bill, also looking to Farm Bureaus), and open to organizations that might be interested in partnering. Ideally would partner with an org that employs a lobbyist; MFPC can help with that if AIM would like to work with Rebecca Marcus. Going to link up with CFFN in a few weeks for input, as well as individual groups and orgs including a number of tribal non-profits. Timeline/trajectory: ASAP. Priority: connect with Public Health Institute, ID bill authors in the next 2-3 weeks, figure out the campaign to make it happen and get started before January 1, 2021. MFPC doesn't meet in December... if there is an opportunity for MFPC to support these efforts, they should schedule a working meeting in December. Andy will send out concepts for review and feedback. Consider drafting some letters to Governor Newsome.

- Medically tailored [Meals Day of Action](#): Food As Medicine Coalition sponsoring this today. McGovern from Massachusetts is working on a bill to fund HR 5370: a 10-state pilot of medically tailored meals for seniors to be available in fee for service Medicare. Congressman Huffman and Thompson are both co-sponsoring this, good opportunity to call and thank them -- MFPC to call Congressman Huffman to thank him for his co-sponsorship of H.R. 5370 the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meal Demonstration Pilot Act of 2021 \*\*VOTE: APPROVED. Would make a really big difference for food access for seniors across the country. Food As Medicine Coalition received \$9.3 million to support rollout of medically tailored meals across the state, so CA has a budget for a broad range of low-income medical patients with a variety of diseases. [Rockefeller: True Cost of Food](#).
- SSB legislation: a couple of years ago preempted local action, courts have since said this ruling was not acceptable. What's the landscape like now? Steve to report back. American Recovery ARPA funds: SD FPC is advocating for some of this funding to go to the county level - how fast the money is moving is unsure.
- Marchon tracking the Build Back Better Act, trying to get it across the finish line - improve access to healthy food for over 12 million hungry children across the country. [Support HERE](#).
- [Marin Covid recovery funds](#) - investigate in December and bring back information in January. Perhaps begin with Supervisor Dennis Rodoni? Check on the formal process with CAO? [Use of local fiscal recovery funds](#) PDF.

## **2021: Recap and Reflection (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Recap 2021 themes: climate change, food assistance programs, Covid and food & farm policies, local food supply chain (with equity and senior focus woven throughout). Learning sessions: JAN: Community Gardens, APRIL: CalFresh, Pandemic EBT and School Meals synergies, SEP & OCT: How Covid Affected Local Food System via both the producer and consumer side. Policy sessions: recap 2021 policy accomplishments/sign-ons -- running list [here](#), please add anything that is missing. Will ask Rebecca Marcus for all of the meetings she has set up for MFPC. Reminder that MFPC is taking action even between meetings, always going on in the background.
- **Evaluation zoom polls: if you have more feedback, please email any of the steering committee members.**

- Discussion: Hybrid meetings sound win-win, but be careful to engage those who call in. The Novato UCCE meeting room has virtual equipment we could set up ahead of time. Enhance connection by getting updates from members in the early part of 2022. Everyone is working on a lot of things that others might benefit from knowing about... perhaps 15 minutes of presentations at meetings early in the year? Had let go of MFPC being the space for broad updates because HEAL is doing this, MFPC can still be a forum for specific org updates. Also interest in leading more policy efforts at the local level - MFPC could take a leadership role in local and regional food policy. Start 2022 with a list of local issues: Measure A, ARPA with the county, MMWD water policies, housing, etc. Need to improve diverse membership. See screenshots of poll results at end of meeting minutes.
- Plan for 2022 priorities and policy focus area(s) - *work in progress*

#### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- In-person vs. hybrid meeting time/date, location - *tabled*
- Equity work update - *tabled*
- **NO DECEMBER MEETING**

#### **New Contacts:**

Autumn Johns, Ceres, [ajohns@ceresproject.org](mailto:ajohns@ceresproject.org)

Chandra Alexandre, CEO, Community Action Marin, [calexandre@camarin.org](mailto:calexandre@camarin.org)

Leah Walton, Community Action Marin, [lwaltton@camarin.org](mailto:lwaltton@camarin.org)

Seren Pendleton-Knoll, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, [seren@malt.org](mailto:seren@malt.org)

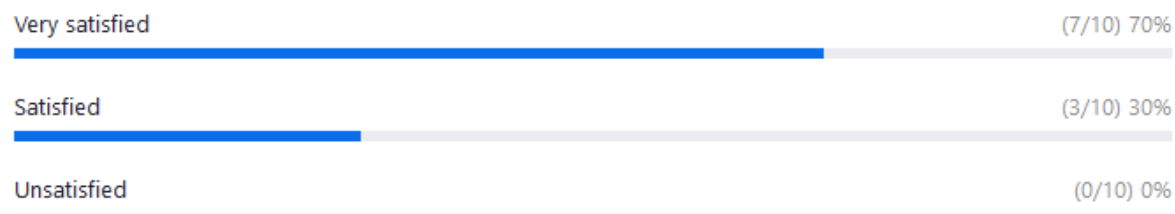
#### **POLL RESULTS:**

# MFPC meeting logistics

Poll ended | 6 questions | 10 of 14 (71%) participated

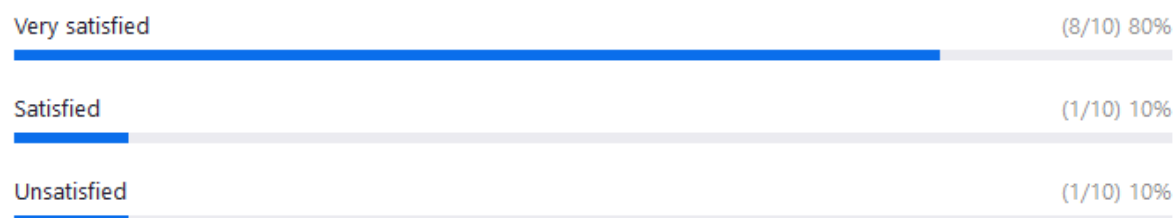
1. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's ADMINISTRATION (Steering Committee leadership, governance, staff support, communications): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



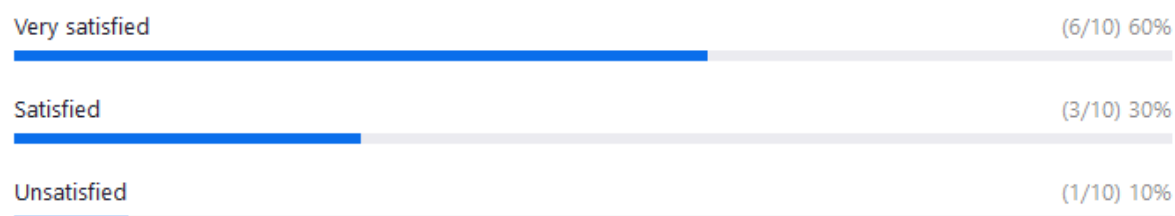
2. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's FACILITATION: (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



3. Please rate your satisfaction with the Marin Food Policy Council's MEETING LOGISTICS (meeting location, date, time, length): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



## MFPC meeting logistics

Poll ended | 6 questions | 10 of 14 (71%) participated

10/10 (100%) answered

Very satisfied (6/10) 60%



Satisfied (3/10) 30%



Unsatisfied (1/10) 10%



4. For 2022 how would meeting IN-PERSON impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (2/10) 20%



No impact on participation (4/10) 40%



Less likely to participate regularly (4/10) 40%



5. For 2022 how would continuing to meet VIRTUALLY impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (7/10) 70%



No impact on participation (1/10) 10%



Less likely to participate regularly (2/10) 20%



6. For 2022 how would a hybrid combination of meeting VIRTUALLY and IN-PERSON impact your participation? (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered

More likely to participate regularly (4/10) 40%



No impact on participation (5/10) 50%



Less likely to participate regularly (1/10) 10%

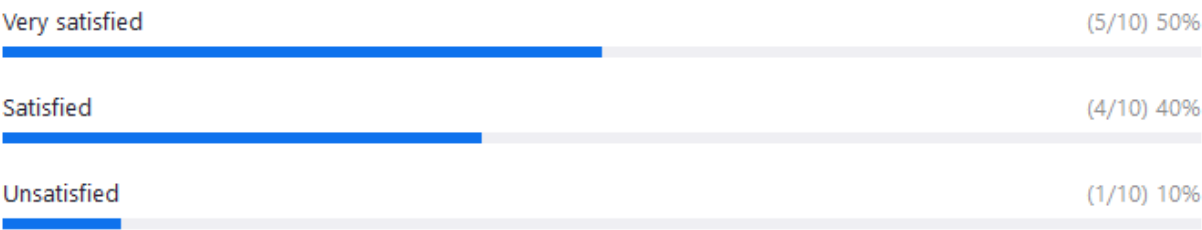


# MFPC as a venue for...

Poll ended | 4 questions | 10 of 14 (71%) participated

1. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for NETWORKING, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION: (Multiple Choice) \*

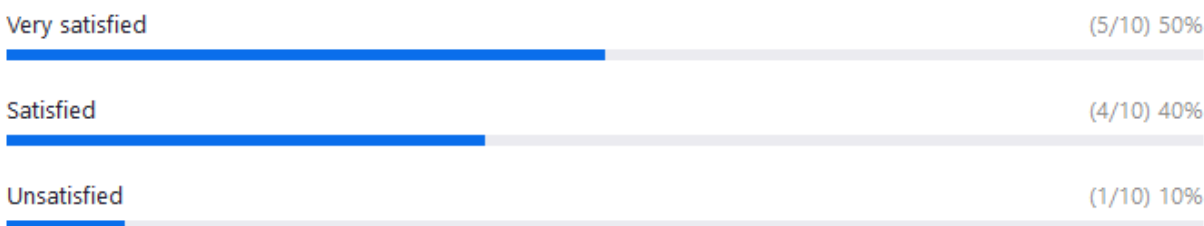
10/10 (100%) answered





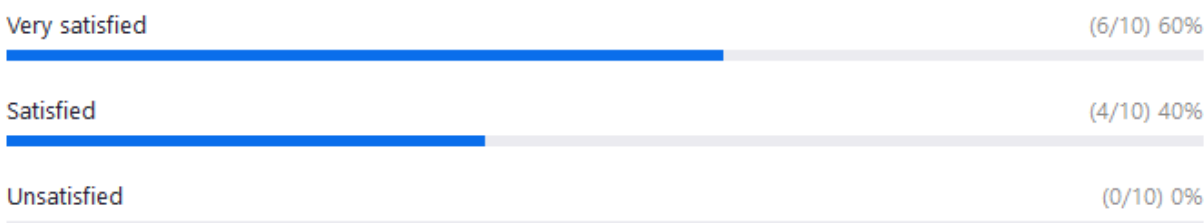
## MFPC as a venue for...

Poll ended | 4 questions | 10 of 14 (71%) participated



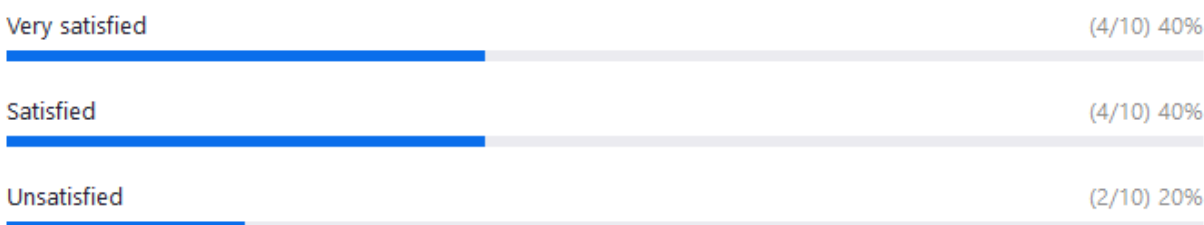
2. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



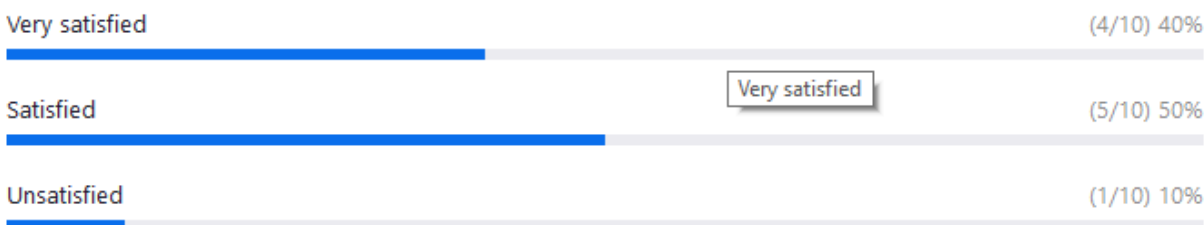
3. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for POLICY OPPORTUNITIES (engaging in local, state, and federal): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



4. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a venue for SYSTEMS THINKING (related to equity, food, health, and environment): (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



Very satisfied

## MFPC attracting diversity

Poll ended | 3 questions | 9 of 13 (69%) participated

1. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to provide a SAFE AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE (Multiple Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered

Very satisfied (5/9) 56%

A horizontal bar chart showing 56% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 56% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Satisfied (3/9) 33%

A horizontal bar chart showing 33% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 33% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Unsatisfied (1/9) 11%

A horizontal bar chart showing 11% dissatisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 11% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

2. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to bring different kinds of FOOD SYSTEMS STAKEHOLDERS together (Multiple Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered

Very satisfied (2/9) 22%

A horizontal bar chart showing 22% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 22% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Satisfied (6/9) 67%

A horizontal bar chart showing 67% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 67% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Unsatisfied (1/9) 11%

A horizontal bar chart showing 11% dissatisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 11% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

3. Please rate your satisfaction of the MFPC's ability to bring attract and retain DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP (Multiple Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered

Very satisfied (0/9) 0%

A horizontal bar chart showing 0% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 0% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Satisfied (7/9) 78%

A horizontal bar chart showing 78% satisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 78% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

Unsatisfied (2/9) 22%

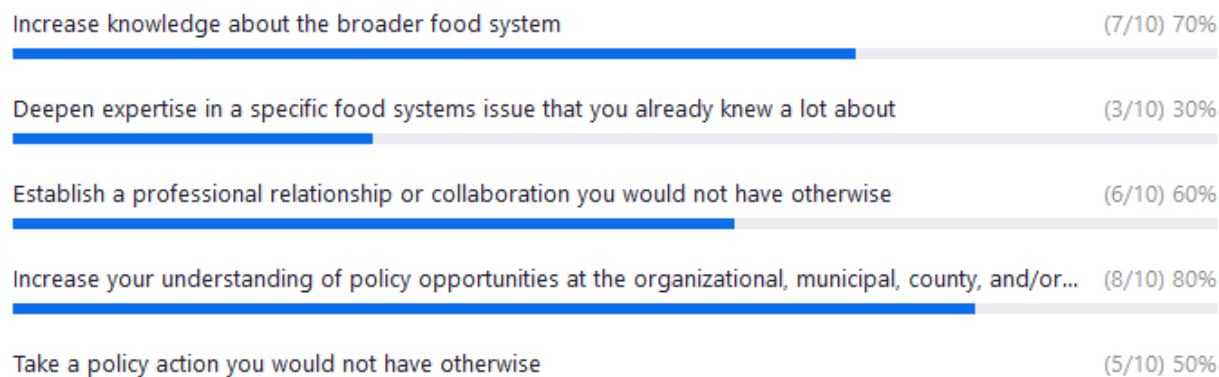
A horizontal bar chart showing 22% dissatisfaction. The bar is blue and extends to the 22% mark on a scale from 0% to 100%.

## MFPC involvement

Poll ended | 1 question | 10 of 12 (83%) participated

1. Because of your involvement in the MFPC, did you/your organization: (Multiple Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



**Virtual meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 18, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## OCTOBER 2021

### 10/19/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call

*Attendees: Alex Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cate Stuart [cate@extrafood.org](mailto:cate@extrafood.org) (ExtraFood.org), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Chandra Alexandre (Community Action Marin), Cody Williams (Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Novato Unified School District), Elissa Roy [eroy@camarin.org](mailto:eroy@camarin.org) (Community Action Marin), Erika Fuyo [Erika@rittercenter.org](mailto:Erika@rittercenter.org) (Ritter Center), Jenay Cottrell (Area Agency on Aging, Aging & Adult Services, HHS), Jenna Ray (Marin AAA RD), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Kari Beuerman (Social Services Director, HHS), Leah Walton (Community Action Marin), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marian Cremin [Marian.H.Cremin@kp.org](mailto:Marian.H.Cremin@kp.org) (Kaiser), Nick Brodnicki [Nick.Brodnick@heart.org](mailto:Nick.Brodnick@heart.org) (American Heart Association), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Rosalinda Camacho [rcamacho@marinclinic.org](mailto:rcamacho@marinclinic.org) (Marin Community Clinics), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Sheila Kopf (San Francisco/Marin Food Bank), Wendy Nuessle [wendynuessle72@gmail.com](mailto:wendynuessle72@gmail.com) (Marin County Commissioner on Aging), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

**Introduction** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

Today's meeting topic: innovative policies in response to the pandemic:

- Overview: How did the landscape change because of Covid and how did you pivot to meet the changing need?
- Looking ahead: How does what you did and what you learned impact your work going forward?
- Policy: What policy changes are needed to support your plans? Are there any policy barriers restricting your plans?

**Local Food Panel: A Look At How COVID Has Affected our Local Food System** (Linda Jackson, *Aging Action Initiative*)

- Kari Beuerman - *Social Services Director, HHS*
- Jenay Cottrell - *Manager of the Area Agency on Aging, Aging & Adult Services, HHS*
- Sheila Kopf - *Director of Programs, San Francisco/Marin Food Bank*
- Cody Williams - *Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Novato Unified School District*

**\*\*[See panelist bios here](#)\*\***

**Kari Beuerman - *Social Services Director, HHS* [presentation](#)**

- Everything changed for older adults by the pandemic (transportation, socialization, health care, food access, stress)
- Great Plates Program announced by Gov Newsom in April 2020; Marin applied and was granted permission to run the program beginning May 2020
- 3 restaurant meals delivered to home each day
- (intent: keep vulnerable safe at home and well-fed, as well as keep restaurants thriving)
- Primarily FEMA funded, some state funding and 6% local share of costs
- 65 or older, or 60+ with severe physical ailments, meet income criteria, not be on any other federal or state income programs
- Worked with Vivalon
- Approx 800 recipients on the program: majority caucasian (82%), 94% English language speakers, most from San Rafael and Novato, plus some West Marin
- Participating restaurants: 30 local restaurants (all restaurants that applied were given a slot - none turned away), attempted a diverse range of ethnic restaurants and food
- Restaurants were reimbursed \$17 for breakfast, \$18 for lunch, \$31 for dinner
- Had to meet nutritional guidelines, deliver healthy food
- Biggest barrier for restaurants was the delivery requirement
- Over 300,000 meals served, 111 jobs saved or created, just over 20% of restaurants were minority-owned
- Kari will supply statistics on the % increase of seniors who signed up for CalFresh versus the general population. They did see a huge increase for older adults, for families and children, as well as for childless adults facing unemployment.

**Cody Williams - *Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Novato Unified School District***

- Replaced Miguel with NUSD 5 months prior to Covid
- Became essential workers to the community, kept Hill and Hamilton open, kitchens and stoves kept on, served meals to students under 18 years old

- Went through a 3 week growth cycle with additional people showing up since they kept cooking! Serving about 15,000 meals a week between two locations.
- Community support was amazing (donations, overall wellness), no financial disparity between families getting meals
- Welcomed kids back to hybrid model with grab and go meals
- USDA has enabled meal waivers for school districts to feed all students for free, drastically changed the landscape and leveled the playing field. This will expire after the 2021-22 school year, hoping for Universal Meals for the following school year, but NOW feeding both meals through USDA, then will have to qualify families and the state of CA will pay the difference that USDA won't cover. State will pay a bigger portion because families haven't been filling out the paperwork since all kids are being fed for free right now.

**Jenay Cottrell - *Manager of the Area Agency on Aging, Aging & Adult Services, HHS***

**\*\*[presentation](#)\*\***

- AAA funds more than \$1.5 million for services for people over 60 in Marin
- Senior meal programs, congregate dining, grab n go, and grocery delivery programs
- How did they pivot due to the pandemic?
- AAA meal programs: 1) home delivered meals (meals on wheels), 2) congregate meals, and 3) emergency meals
- Funding from Fed Older Americans Act (majority of funding), state NSIP, county General Fund... Additional funding from Covid relief: Family First Coronavirus Recovery Act and FCRA
- Covid changes: allowed more people into their home delivery meal program (30% increase), began a grocery bag delivery pgm, fresh produce to 50 people/week for 3 months, 1,4000 emergency meal boxes (7,000 meals), and emergency contracts for grocery delivery.
- Into 2021: leveling off of home delivered meal clients, morphed congregate meals to a grab n go model (serving 160 people a week and looking to add more sites), 1,200 emergency meals boxes (6,000 meals), Vietnamese home delivered meal program (2 meals a week to 35 people), fresh produce, and helping AIM to fund Bounty Boxes of fresh produces to low-income senior housing residents.
- 2019: 10% of older adults are food insecure, older adult people of color 21% vs 8% white, and older adult 21% women vs 7% men
- Will do grab n go through June and hoping to reopen congregate meals, would love to bring other culturally appropriate meals to the table.

**Sheila Kopf - *Director of Programs, San Francisco/Marin Food Bank* \*\*[presentation](#)\*\***

- Pre-pandemic SF and Marin facilities were stretched thin and bursting at the seams, attempting to expand facilities at both locations, but still not in a great
- Serving 32,000 households a week, 48 mil lbs of food each year, 275 pantries (1/3 of which had to close with the pandemic because most of volunteers were seniors)
- PRE-pandemic (32,000 households, 275 pantries, 48million lbs food) compared to POST-pandemic (50,000+ households, 236 pantries, 25 pop-ups, 80million lbs of food)

- Pandemic response pop-up and drive-through distribution sites increased, 62,000 households served at the peak of the pandemic! Met and EXPANDED pre-pandemic need!
- Pop-ups arose within the first week of the pandemic, still running today. Essential because they can serve 3-10 the amount of households that other sites could before the pandemic, and all outdoors. Largely run by food bank staff, some volunteer help.
- Pantry at Home Program: launched in March 2020, offshoot of home delivered grocery program, distributing groceries to 12,000 households at height of pandemic, now about 9,000
- CalFresh: 9-10 times the phone interest in application assistance when pandemic hit. Focus on emergency allotments (raising the weekly household allotment to max regardless of the \$\$ they qualified for before) and out of pocket medical expenses (many older adults not aware they could be eligible for CalFresh once out of pocket medical expenses are considered).
- Participant Support Center: launched at beginning of pandemic, language capacity for 7 languages, receiving 800 calls/months for help in accessing services.
- 1200 volunteers a week pre-pandemic, grew to 2400 a week at height of the pandemic, now getting 1900 a week
- Impact of the pandemic is not going to go away any time soon, so we need to work hard to make these new programs sustainable.
- Data: food bank has built out a new data team, demographic info collection on participants to help inform future outreach and future programing; also have done a lot more participant feedback
- Communication: added benefit of being able to connect with participants, crucial to let ppl know schedule changes, opening times and dates, etc.
- Important to focus on impact the pandemic had on staff: work-life balance, workforce development, professional development, make sure they are taking care of each other
- Working hard on becoming an anti-racist organization

### **Any policy changes needed?**

- Cody: comfort of knowing universal free meals duration would be very helpful. A way to reinforce and strengthen the local food system in Marin and Sonoma (buy local!).
- Kari: equity challenges of Great Plates since the program isn't available to people receiving other financial assistance - this meant that some people who were in the most need didn't qualify for the program (lived with families or were receiving other aid). This criteria should be examined and hopefully changed. Understand the root causes of older adult food insecurity: financial, logistical (mobility, transportation), etc. Sweeping changes coming to Medical for older adults (expansion for undocumented people who are 50+), as well as changes to asset limits.
- Sheila: importance of supporting federal investment in childhood nutrition pgms (enhance healthy school meals for all), as well as work to establish a summer EBT which would build upon the pandemic EBT program. Food Banks received a lot of food at the beginning of the pandemic from farms through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, but quality began to dwindle, and now the program is over and disaster kits are following suit in decreasing food quality. [Feeding America has a take action page](#), tweet to members of congress urging support of hunger programs in the Build Back Better Act. ACTION ITEMS: 1) [Feeding America Take Action Page](#), 2) Tweet at Members of



Congress ([Twitter Handles here](#)) and urge them to support key anti-hunger provisions in the #BuildBackBetterAct, 3) contact Meg Davidson, Director of Policy and Advocacy, [mdavidson@sfmfoodbank.org](mailto:mdavidson@sfmfoodbank.org)

- Jenay: would like to see more nutrition dollars, a higher baseline. Challenging to find vendors who have quality food and are willing to work with registered dieticians on nutrition guidelines at a low cost. When the Commission comes out advocating for specific bills, Jenay will provide this information to MFPC.

#### **Discussion:**

- Opportunity to engage restaurants as new partners... Great Plates restaurants - any restaurants locally-owned and/or using local products? Majority of restaurants were local, most of the caterers shopped at farmers markets. Wanting to do a CalFresh restaurant meal program in Marin. The state passed a policy where any restaurant within their approved zip codes can apply to be part of the restaurant meal program and contract with the state.
- Opportunity for the local food system to provide living wages... Any plans to retain staff? Suggestions for moving from a volunteer model to a paid staff model? The need has expanded, and both volunteers and paid staff are essential.

The November meeting will continue with focused policy work. All are welcome back!

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 16, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **9/21/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call**

*Attendees: Andy Naja-Riese, Agricultural Institute of Marin & Marin HEAL Collaborative), Annabelle Lenderink (Star Route Farms), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cerise Mayo (Slow Food US Program Director), Claire Peaslee (WMCA), Dave Cort (San Geronimo Valley Community Center), Devin Green (SFSU dietician, Innovative Health Solutions), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Laura Oprisch (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Molly Maguire (Kitchens Together), Nick Brodnicki (American Heart Association), Rosa Camacho (Marin community clinic - Health Hub), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)*

#### **Introductions and Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Julia - this is a first of a two-part series today, please calendar next month's MFPC meeting on Tuesday October 29
- Save the Date for the Aging Action Initiative's 9th Annual Convening: September 30, 9am-4pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aai-2021-convening-tickets-167822019177>

## **Local Food Producer Panel: A Look At How COVID Has Affected our Local Food System**

(Liana Orlandi)

- Annabelle Lenderink, Star Route Farms Farm Manager - farm perspective/CSA box program creation
- Andy Naja-Riese, Ag Institute of Marin - farmers markets
- Molly Maguire - partnering with local restaurants/community food

### **Annabelle Lenderink:**

- 80% sales to restaurants, and rest to farmers markets pre-covid. Restaurant accounts disappeared overnight, pivoted to CSA boxes.
- Farm owned by University of San Francisco, instrumental in getting website set up to take CSA orders
- 1000 boxes a week by April - all new, had never done CSAs before (assembly line while social distancing meant working inside under tents)
- 8 or 9 CSA locations for pick up (two at farm, some at farmers market, some at restaurants, one at the university)
- CSA popularity tapered off by July - reduced to 100 a week now. Still worth doing since restaurant sales haven't come back, but not fixing the problem. Farmers market sales are still doing well.
- Short staffed - 1/3 of crew couldn't come back from Mexico - volunteer days for transplants. Trouble finding supplies (boxes, gloves, etc.) and costs increase on these items.
- Think about different crops to grow, since the public wants some different things from restaurant accounts (example: squash blossoms)
- Setting up for e-commerce was especially challenging
- Unsure going forward, since restaurants are not fully back - scaled back menus due to restricted open hours and scaled back staff from staff shortages. Worried that this will be a permanent change in the landscape.
- Drought is another huge current issue for farmers, as well as labor market and issues with wages and cost of living
- Now selling 50% to restaurant, 50% to farmers markets and less than 5% to CSA boxes (pre-covid 80% restaurant and 20% farmers market)
- In San Rafael and Ferry Plaza farmers markets
- Star Route Farms grows some food in Thermal CA (in southern California), all produce comes north here.
- Rolling Root mobile farmers market serving primarily older adults, Star Route supplies
- Pandemic isn't the biggest problem, but rather the general business climate of high wages: minimum wage has gone up \$1/year for a few years, over 8 hours is now overtime (traditionally it was 10 hours for agriculture). Payroll is the farm's biggest expense. Great nuance and detail necessary when navigating equity and justice while working on ag policy.
- Did the pandemic mean that Star Route food went more to low income folks than high end? Anyone on CalFresh? Rolling Route Bounty Boxes took a lot of their produce, and the farm has always donated a lot of their produce.

### **Andy Naja-Riese:**

- Non-profit operating farmers markets and food programs during the pandemic and other issues: when shelter in place orders began there was concern that farmers markets and food distribution lines would be impacted negatively.
- Farmers markets are heavily regulated already, and had to do a lot of grassroots advocacy at all levels of government to keep farmers markets going
- At the beginning of Covid AIM had 7 farmers markets running, now they have 9 - never missed a day of a farmers market.
- Shifted from model of community engagement to transactional experience - built an outdoors grocery store with focus on accessing food, not programming.
- Proactive about sharing plans with city and county officials (ie: making the case to officials to keep Hayward and SF markets open in the face of initial leanings to closure), especially to counter some negative publicity about farmers markets being unsafe during the pandemic.
- Started meeting with Bay Area markets regularly to share ideas, protocols, and resources.
- Learned from producers that as restaurants closed and they lost 90-100% of restaurant accounts, they had to shift business models. For some, Covid was positive (local pastured meats and dairy products, mushroom farmers, some organic produce), and increased interest in farmers markets especially among BIPOC farmers in the East Bay and SF. For 50% of producers Covid had a negative impact (restaurant accounts and pre-packaged food). Bounty Box program and Rolling Root helped support small farmers while getting quality food to low income community members.
- Farmers markets helped many producers to survive the pandemic. Increased shoppers at farmers markets at all income levels - even more using CalFresh than ever before. 2020 provided \$194,000 through Market Match (just got increased to \$15 per person per market/Rolling Route stop/Bounty Box). Can get the Match twice on the same day if a household has the Pandemic EBT card as well. AIM's San Rafael markets, as well as Novato, Fairfax, Tomales markets all accept Market Match.
- The Bounty Box program emerged from the pandemic in an effort to support local producers and supply food to those at risk (idea to execution took 2 weeks). Very high demand from the beginning. People liked boxes to include fruits, veggies, legumes and beans, so partnered with other non-profits. They got some funding from Farmers to Families Food Box Program for a little while. Bounty Box sales focus on community based model - pack boxes, pay farmers, and offer boxes to community partners. Boxes are \$15 off for EBT households. Boxes packed for SF-Marin Food Bank for home delivery, but lots of logistical challenges so won't continue. Marin Aging and Adult Services partner to get boxes to seniors.
- Demand for farmers markets is growing, more producer applications. Problem that needs attention: they see a bias against BIPOC producers at Marin farmers markets (ie: shoppers don't believe that Latinx farmers are certified organic or run by Latinx owners), and need to work on that so producers of color can succeed. There are very few farmers of color in Marin to begin with, and fewer who operate outside of Marin who come to Marin markets.

### **Molly Maguire:**

- Bolinas resident working on partnering with local restaurants/community food
- When Pandemic began started the Covid Spontaneous No-Cost Meal Program - built bi-weekly grocery boxes for the Spanish speaking community from donations from farms (such as Star Route) and local restaurants). Program ran from March through June.
- Some people needed access to refrigeration and cooking, access to cooked hot meals became known. Led to no-cost booked meals for those in need in Bolinas and Stinson Beach, cooked one day a week in Bolinas Community Center. Phased out of grocery boxes once people were able to go back to work, and transitioned to just hot meals from September 2020 to May 2021 with help from local cooks.
- Challenges: volunteer fatigue, funding running out, cooks burning out, need for ongoing formal structure and management, small town politics when restaurants reopened, meals were becoming convenient rather than essential, etc.
- Kitchens Together Project - post pandemic plan to combat food security in Bolinas: guarantee access to hot meal for those in need, utilize support from USDA SNAP's Restaurant Meal Program, with additional fundraising and donations including pay it forward. Hope to launch in Fall 2021, working on the (complicated) application process and obtaining a POS system now.
- Aiming for meals to be: healthy, well-rounded, organic and local, 500 calories minimum, with vegetarian options
- Outreach to Marin Health and Human Services and West Marin orgs to get the word out
- Who is eligible to make a purchase of a hot meal in a restaurant: people who are houseless, or one member of the household who is disabled, or 60+. Kitchens Together would not use just those guidelines.
- Previous programs of food boxes and hot meals she raised \$180,000, and all but \$10,000 was spent - very expensive programs! Community was so generous, it was challenging to transition to the what next when the generosity slowed.
- Cost for each meal the program provides is a question, will figure it out as the program evolves over the next few months. Will need help from donations.
- Do restaurants need any county authorization to offer meals, or is it just federal? Marin did not sign up to accept the restaurant meal program, so the state is forced to take it on through a bill that recently passed. AB 612 allowed for the state to authorize restaurants to participate in a meals program if a county isn't offering a county-run program.
- Email Molly with questions: [mollymaquire@me.com](mailto:mollymaquire@me.com)

### **October meeting on 10/19/21**

Second session complimenting this session, focusing on consumption or food access side of the supply chain. Co-hosted with Aging Action Initiative, learn about the Great Plate program and others that have provided access to consumers during covid and addressed challenges to accessing food in traditional ways.

### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Time sensitive policy updates:
  - SB 606 is on the governor's desk provides safety for farm workers and food chain workers impacted by Covid, make it easier for state to enforce companies use safe labor practices (Letters to Governor in support of SB 606 for food and farm worker protections should be sent by Friday:

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=ecb60ed083&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1710815109813056729&th=17be094730c734d9&view=att&disp=safe&realatid=f\\_ktj0wgxx0](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=ecb60ed083&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1710815109813056729&th=17be094730c734d9&view=att&disp=safe&realatid=f_ktj0wgxx0))

- \$20 million was approved for the CA food incentives program (senior market nutrition programs, market match)
- CFFN releasing results from a 10 month study on meat processing, CA may create own inspection program
- NPS approved the General Management Plan to extend ranching at National Seashore for another 20 years (restrictions: land can't be used for growing vegetables or for agritourism); Graton Rancheria tribe forged partnership with NPS to incorporate indigenous practices into ranching at the seashore
- In-person Meeting? Meeting time and location
- Equity Work Update

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 19, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

New emails: [rcamacho@marinclinic.org](mailto:rcamacho@marinclinic.org), [mollymaquire@me.com](mailto:mollymaquire@me.com)

# AUGUST 2021

## **8/17/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes**

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Liana Orlandi (AIM), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Madelene McCann (Marin Child Care Council), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services & Zero Waste Marin), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Moira Kuhn (Marin Roots Farm), Reba Meigs ( Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions and Announcements (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- First ever national FPC Conference taking place this fall, will be virtual, hopefully MFPC members can attend. \$75 to register, Julia will work with anyone interested to get the cost covered. Goal: create a space that welcomes diverse groups of participants to learn and share together, ID opportunities for policy change, network, raise awareness, etc. September 20-22. Let Julia know if you are interested, and/or if you register.
- August 25 Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is hosting a [conference](#) @ 2pm in-person in the Canal. A number of timely topics including helping local ranchers being able to slaughter animals on-farm, commercial kitchen use, etc.
- August 25 [Examining Whiteness in Food Systems](#) on Wednesday, August 25th @ 10 am on examining whiteness in the food system and how systemic racism has impacted food policy.

- Marin IJ article: Marin school gardens produced over a ton of food this summer. Working with MMGs and Captain Planet. Will have more info available. Interest in doing this again next summer after the success of this summer's pilot program, perhaps including more skill-building. Secured funds through West Marin Fund to do more work in West Marin.
- Clam Housing Project in Pt Reyes had its third and final meeting with the community with incredible results and a plan: community kitchen, edible demo gardens, community gardens docs here: [participant packet](#) and [facilitator guide](#)
- September 30 AAI having its annual convening from 9am-4pm on Zoom, please share with your networks (FREE)
- Document of ordinance allowances from each Marin community - soft launch with county officials and members from each community, got really good feedback. Agencies often said it would be great to have help with policy options, templates, sample language, etc. which MFPC can do.
- Bolinas School is looking for a food service provider/staff person - contact Madeline Hope for more info

## OBJECTIVES

- Advance our policy platform & equity engagement
- Highlight local, state, & federal policy opportunities for action
- Plan for a policy-focused educational session (September or October 2021)

## State/Federal Policy Updates (All)

- Permanent Universal Free School Meals Program in CA - huge accomplishment of a long standing battle
- Permanent federal increase to SNAP (CalFresh) starting October, with monthly benefits increase of \$36 per person (on average more than 25% above pre-pandemic levels)
- Department of Homeland Security will be releasing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on public charge which will be open for public comment; advocacy goal is for future rules will be clear and reduce immigrant families' fear of accessing public benefits.
- Summary of sign-ons between meetings
  - Follow up letter of support for Assembly member Levine's request for a one-time appropriation of \$5 million to develop the Center for Food and Agriculture in the City of San Rafael
- Update on Senior Nutrition (Steve)
- Report out from CA Food and Farming Network (Steve & Liana)
- Update on AB 125 - The Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms and Worker Protection Bond Act (Andy)
- CA is now providing Medicaid coverage for undocumented ppl age 55 and up as well as medically supported food starting in January
- CFFN reported last week on an effort to get Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to certify Native healers to be able to operate within Medicaid and provide trauma informed care, could set a powerful precedence in CA and AZ
- SF-Marín Food Bank work - Federal level: School Meals for All and summer meals legislation... will share actionable items with MFPC as they come up. State level: money



to extend donation food tax credit, Simplify CalFresh applications for older adults and people with disabilities, partial restoration of SSI grants, Food For All campaign (giving undocumented people access to program similar to CalFresh)... all of these are in the state budget for this year.

- Farm to Seniors update: met with Sen. McGuire with two asks (Farm to Seniors and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program), McGuire promised to speak with Skinner and move forward with an ask for the Senate budget. McGuire said he had a good feeling about the \$500,000 Farm to Seniors ask. Aging partners from Sonoma County joined them on the call.
- Pt. Reyes National Seashore update: NPS just signed an agreement with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to be part of the management system of elk in that area ([article](#)).
- Food and Beverage Guidelines brought to West Marin food systems group to help in supporting school food wellness
- Issue of safe drinking water (with the drought) is coming up in West Marin... perhaps should learn more

### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- How we find our way in a new format of meetings... MFPC meets monthly (sometimes not in December depending on the holiday). Historically our most well attended meetings have been for learning opportunities, but these take a lot of agenda time away from policy accomplishments, as well as behind the scenes planning time from SC. This year we are trying 3 learning meetings (January on comm gardens, April on CalFresh, P-EBT, & School Meals). Looking ahead to a September or October learning meeting.
- Potential focus areas (centering on social equity and older adults lenses):
  - **Climate Change**
  - **Local Food Supply Chain**
    - **Local seafood industry**
    - Consider who are key contacts for this? (SAGE has produced a bay area food sector report but county)
  - **Local agriculture and ranching in the PRNSS**
    - Water, drought, farm worker housing (housing at the Coast Guard station?)
    - Summary of impacts on drought and ranching operations? Policy implications? Food availability and cost
    - AB 88 Livestock Processing Bill
    - Safe drinking water
  - **Farm to School and changes to school meals**; wellness policies; purchasing policies; food waste and packaging; role of MCOE
  - **Great Plates Report, local outcomes & impacts on restaurants and elders**
  - Urban Agriculture
  - **Covid** Food & Farm Policies... what have we learned through Covid (food system, assistance programs, school meals outside of school buildings, what has lasted and what support for farms or restaurants is needed now, implications for

food waste and recovery and foodware ordinance... as a way to include a few topics?)

- Food Assistance Programs
- Food waste and food recovery, upstream solutions, foodware ordinances
- Hold space for issues that emerge out of local communities
- TWO learning opportunities: what we've learned from Covid on the producer side of things as well as consumer side... business as well as hunger... September and October two part series?
  - Volunteers: Linda (Great Plates), Madeline Hope (foodware and waste), Moira Kuhn (farm perspective) others interested please let Julia, Liana, or Bonnie know.
- Welcome to Prospective New Members
  - Moira Kuhn and husband own Marin Roots Farm. First generation farmers, their organic farm has been operating for 20 years, grow leafy greens, culinary herbs, flowers, and seasonal fruits. They sell at farmers markets 3 days a week, deliver to restaurants (more pre-covid), and some grocery stores. In the past they have leased 65 acres, right now they are leasing 45 acres and producing on only  $\frac{1}{8}$  acre due to lack of water.
- In-person meeting in September? Decided to hold off until Covid situation improves, and remain virtual for the foreseeable future.
- Meeting time and location change *to be revisited when meetings return to in-person*: different time so others can join (noon - 1:30pm), AIM in San Rafael (has more parking than HHS building)
- Steering Committee nominations: still open call to self-nominate or nominate others.
- Equity Work Update: sub group meeting is looking for another member or two, as one has stepped away from the Council - let Julia, Liana, or Bonnie know if interested.

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 21, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# JULY 2021

## 7/20/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services & Zero Waste Marin), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions and Announcements** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Steve: Interfaith Sustainable Food is having their [Annual Conference](#) on 8/25 at the Borough Center in the Canal, tour of faith based sites in the morning, registration is open

now, contact Steve if interested. Topics include: commercial kitchens at faith based sites, land used for farming and gardening, how to support BIPOC farmers, advocacy.

- Wendy: Captain Planet pgm recorded 676 lbs of food donated in June (underestimation) and won an additional grant from West Marin Fund to extend some of that and see how they can work with school gardens.
- Wendy/Julia: Urban Ag Municipal Ordinance event sharing urban agriculture regulations by jurisdictions in Marin. End goal to promote urban ag in Marin. \*Draft\* of Marin Municipal Urban Agriculture Ordinances Document Policy Guide: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c459a6ca-1d52-4eb3-8f28-1d0288fdf756>. Event will confirm content with planners for feedback next week. Let Julia know if you would like to attend.

### **State/Federal Policy Updates (All)**

- Senior Nutrition Updates: Ceres, AIM, IHS, and MFPC all have things going in the state budget. Legislature approved the budget with buckets for different areas (including \$160 million for sustainable ag), but they didn't spell out line items specifically (wanted more time to negotiate specifics within the buckets). First two weeks of August will be hearings about which items will make it in, and at what levels. As the process goes forward, even though it may not be complete, fewer and fewer people have influence over it.
- Draft Plan for Senior Nutrition Press Conference 8/4 Proposed: press conference at a farmers market with Levine as a thank you, to draw attention to topic, and as a continuation of relationship. Could have one or two reps from MFPC, plus other orgs and seniors, to promote senior nutrition efforts. Site location brainstorm: Captain Planet sites? AIM farmers market, Rolling Root, and a garden site such as San Geronimo? Ultimately the person in the best position to help with senior nutrition asks is Senator Skinner in Oakland... should we do something in Oakland? \*\*Vote for MFPC to co-sponsor the event if confirmed to highlight local success stories and draw attention to budget asks related to senior nutrition: APPROVED
- Steve to reach out if any CFFN sign-ons need attention, but most were more timely and pressing a couple months ago.

### **Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Discussed proposal to resume in-person/hybrid meetings, change meeting time (lunch?) and location (rotating?)
  - Time: lunchtime (12-1:30) OR early afternoon... Note Food Distribution group meets 10:30-11:30 on the same day,
  - Location: at HHS in the Canal OR AIM offices in San Rafael
  - Decided to wait on in-person/hybrid until September because of Covid numbers currently rising and summer vacations
  - Normal time and Zoom format on August 17, and ask members for feedback on holding in-person/hybrid meetings on September 21 @ 12-1:30 at the AIM offices in San Rafael.
- Follow-up on [USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership Grant Proposal](#): submitted a proposal, MFPC moved forward as a collaborator in that grant with \$10,000 budgeted for

MFPC participation. If the grant is awarded, MFPC will have the option to become part of a Northern California group of FPCs, VOADs, and local government.

- Equity Work Update: subgroup is working on scheduling a meeting
- Confirm SC nominations and Membership for the rest of Council & New Member

Recruitment: *tabled due to small group size*

- West Marin Community Services interested in MFPC

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## JUNE 2021

### **6/15/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services & Zero Waste Marin), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)*

#### **Introductions and Announcements (Liana Orlandi)**

- Captain Planet program - Project Giving Gardens pays growers to work in school gardens over the summer to grow food to donate to food distribution site - 1 in each of the equity regions that the county is focusing on. Donations coordinating with CAM And Ceres, began last week.
- Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative Annual conference in the afternoon of Aug 25 in the Canal. Also hiring an outreach and communications position 80-100% time. If interested, talk to Steve.
- Farmers markets - mask mandate has changed for markets: AIM will no longer require customers to wear masks at markets.

#### **Meeting Objectives**

- Continue to advance our policy platform & equity engagement
- Spotlight Federal, State, & local policy opportunities for action
- Expand our capacity to hold an impactful policy-focused session (Sep. 21)

#### **Recap of 2021 Priority Areas (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- January 2021 = Community & School Gardens
- April 2021 = CalFresh, P-EBT, & School Meals
- September/October 2021 = TBD by July MFPC meeting
- Recap priority issue(s) for 1-2 additional Learning Opportunity(s)
  - **Climate Change**

- COVID Food & Farm Policies
- Food Assistance Programs
- **Local Food Supply Chain**
  - Fish
  - Is there a group that holds the Marin Food Supply Chain picture? SAGE produced a [Bay Area food sector report](#) by county from 2017.
- **Local agriculture and ranching in the PRNSS**
  - Water, Drought, farm worker housing \*a vote to focus on drought in September as it will be very pertinent by end of summer (cost of food, fire danger, farm/ranch closure updates, policy implications, etc).
  - AB 88 Levine's bill to support local livestock slaughter is moving forward in the legislature - can learn more about where it's at and what MFPC can do.
- Hold space for issues that emerge out of local communities
- LENS: Social Equity
- LENS: Older Adults
- Question: learning opportunities on topics we know a lot about, or don't yet?
- Option to join [USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership Grant Proposal](#) - upward limit of \$1 million. Could align with learning opportunities with the local food system and drought. Let Julia know of any potential fund matching options.
  - Question: is MFPC interested in joining this North Coast network that would be funded by this grant? More interested if concrete local producers are identified.
  - Question: Does it feel appropriate to use our MCF funding as in kind match towards the larger effort (IF we can't find the 25% cash match)?
  - **\*\*Votes\*\*** 1) participating in the proposal, and 2) leveraging MFPC funding to build off of: BOTH APPROVED
  - USDA "Build Back Better Plan" will be allocating over \$400 million to support socially disadvantaged farmers - might be funding coming down the pipeline to help
  - USDA Urban Ag grant coming as well

### **Equity Work Update** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Done: developed a **policy platform** centered on food equity for BIPOC in Marin County (or develop an anti-racist policy platform).
- Done: held a **learning session** on redlining in Marin County which impacts to this day where people live in our county, the capital to buy land and start food businesses, and access to grocery stores to purchase food.
- Pending: host a **policy showcase** with local leaders educating them on local, state and federal food equity policies to advance opportunities for BIPOC in Marin County -- could happen in the September meeting
- Other/New Items?
  - Impact report on how racism impacts food sectors and services in Marin?
  - Coast Guard housing site
  - Culturally appropriate food access for Latinx and Southeast Asian communities
  - CalFresh referrals and food security screening tools
- Madeline spoke with Socorro Romo and Alma Sanchez and Yureli Cervantes are interested in being involved in **MFPC Equity subgroup**

- **TA/Skill building** for members and sister groups and providers on concepts, terms, framing
  - Antiracist Policy Platform - also aligned with county DEI goals
- **Leadership from BIPOC Community Organizations and Individuals**
  - **Steering Committee** Composition (with compensation when needed?)
    - Marchon, Elaini, Madeline, Socorro (Julia to follow up)
    - Monthly 1.5 hour long meetings to debrief and plan agendas, assign tasks for meeting prep, policy work, etc - usually the Thursday after MFPC meetings
    - Representation on CFFN - new SC members may share this role
    - Work with specific skills and passions for SC members to share
    - Formal nominations and vote at July meeting
  - **Membership Composition** (key organizations and community groups we would like at the table?)
    - Social Services - Jesse or Diana
    - West Marin Community Services - Socorro Romo, Alma Sanchez, Yareli Cervantes
  - Community and Community Partner engagement
- **Topical Learning Sessions**
  - Resource allocation in unincorporated vs incorporated areas
  - Marin County racial equity plan
  - Environmental Justice in General Plans - Housing element; exclusionary zoning
  - County Climate Action Plan
- **Authentic community engagement**
- **Great Plates Report and local outcomes**
- **State required Wellness policies in schools** - could MFPC support the wellness committees or policies in West Marin? Ask MCOE about their approach?

### State/Federal Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz)

- Summary of sign-ons between meetings:
  - Letter of Support to Senator McGuire: Support CNIP in the Budget at \$20 million
- The Legislature passed a budget last night in both houses: many unexpected billions of funding back in January, which groups have been vying for. Passed now with big buckets (COVID food, fire, tax credit extensions, etc), funding will be parcelled out in the coming weeks. The Governor did increase \$15 million of funding (that goes to market match and farm to seniors programs), and \$5 million senior farmers market nutrition program for the first time -- this wouldn't have happened without Marin's work.
- Marchon to send MFPC list of work Food Bank is tracking
- Budget request for AIM's Center for Food & Ag: We should hear in the next week or so. The member requests will be handled in Trailer bills as the budgets are further negotiated.
- Work with Recology, Food Ware ordinance (not yet passed by Marin, hopefully this year). Trying to get buy-in with [SB 1383](#) (requires organic materials to be pulled from the waste stream and redirected into compost). CA Climate & Ag Network does a lot of



work around healthy soils, and CA Skips Waste is working on waste bills coming through CFFN, Steve to collaborate with Madeline on this. Miriam Gordon with UpStream Solutions (policy organizers) could be a good person to connect with. Pushing for reuse with 8 Bay Area counties. Learning session (smaller in July/August or larger in September)?

- [BIPOC farmer debt relief sign-on letter](#) is still open - share it out! National Black Food Justice Alliance (NBFJA) also holding a call on debt relief Thursday @ 3pm - likely a good opportunity for MFPC to sign on. \*VOTE\* approved
- Draft report on Great Plates program (restaurant meals for seniors) - learned that the state spent \$550 million on this program. Report hasn't been released yet, not sure if the intention is to criticize the governor or not?
  - Many individuals got connected to services they didn't know about before due to the Great Plates program.

### **Council Business (Julia Van Soelen Kim)**

- Budget update - Historic 2020 and forward 2021 (Julia)

Source	Amount	Year
Marin Community Foundation (IHS to UCCE)	\$13,858	2020/2021
Marin Community Foundation (IHS to UCCE)	\$19,250 (true cost)	2021/2022
CATCH Seafood Grant (IHS)	\$50,000 (to purchase and deliver seafood to people)	2021
Lobbyist (IHS)	\$18,000 (split between IHS, ISFC, and MFPC)	2021/2022

- Steering Committee Nominations - contact Julia/Liana/Bonnie with any
- New Member Recruitment
- Discuss returning to in-person meetings at July MFPC meeting

### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 20, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# MAY 2021

## **5/18/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Barbara Searles (Marin Master Gardeners School & Community Gardens Project), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Madeline Nieto Hope (West Marin Community Services & Zero Waste Marin), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi**

- OBJECTIVES: Continue to advance policy platform work; expand equity engagement; spotlight federal, state, and local policy opportunities for action; and expand our capacity as MFPC to hold more impactful policy sessions going forward.

**Identification of Priority Learning Opportunities for 2021 - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Recap New Meeting Format: 8 Policy-Focused Sessions and 3 Learning Opportunities for 2021
  - Today is a policy meeting: substantial time of this meeting devoted to policy work (learning happening at special quarterly meetings instead); 8 policy sessions and 3 learning opportunities per year
  - January: learning session on comm & school gardens, April: intersection of CalFresh, P-EBT, and school meals
- Decision to postpone summer learning session since often people are not available in the summer... 1 or 2 more learning sessions, what topic(s), and which month(s)?
  - Content: fish topic in-person in Bolinas; reusable foodware ordinance coming soon, could develop engagement with the business sector around it; water/drought/climate action
  - Vote: only 1 more learning session this year
- Identify priority issue(s) for 1-2 additional Learning Opportunity(s) in 2021 and determine dates
  - Climate Change
  - COVID Food & Farm Policies
  - Food Assistance Programs
  - Local Food Supply Chain (water and drought, West marin farmers & ranchers)
  - Fish?
  - Local agriculture and ranching in the Pt Reyes National Seashore
  - Hold space for issues that emerge out of local communities (ie HEAL community engagement in Marin City, West Marin, Canal)
  - LENS: Social Equity
  - LENS: Older Adults
  - DROUGHT: state budget items about drought that will be settled by 6/30. Might be policy proposals/bills/legislation to talk about with drought that are relevant for this Summer. Maybe in Fall we'll be able to look at what happened and did it have an impact?

- ARP \$1.9 trillion fed package -- see what happened there that impacts local farms

### Revisit Equity Statement - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Develop a policy platform centered on food equity for BIPOC in Marin County (or develop an anti-racist policy platform) -- **developed**, but it's a long ways from being an anti-racist policy platform; MFPC can challenge ourselves to be more of an anti-racist body together. Smaller scale learning session within policy session learning from others who have developed anti-racist policy platforms? Dig into the policy platform ourselves and share with community partners for critical feedback? Perhaps reach out or look to: Oakland Food Policy Council, BLM policy platform, Breathe Act, Praxis Project, CFFN, National Equity Project (<https://www.nationalequityproject.org/>), Asian Americans of Marin Alliance, Soul Fire Farm (<https://www.soulfirefarm.org/resources/>), HEAL Food Alliance (<https://healfoodalliance.org/platformforrealfood/>). Juliette, Ryan, and Madeline to join a MFPC Steering Committee meeting or find another time to dig in deeper.
- Hold a learning session on redlining in Marin County which impacts to this day where people live in our county, the capital to buy land and start food businesses, and access to grocery stores to purchase food -- **done** ([view meeting recording](#)), but it's a complex issue with continued repercussions for present-day that we've only scratched the surface. Three examples: 1) Marin is looking to redo their housing element in CWP, 2) proposal for Marin City to become incorporated, and 3) New state legislation that requires General Plans to include food access.
- Host a policy showcase with local leaders educating them on local, state and federal food equity policies to advance opportunities for BIPOC in Marin County, to showcase our policy platform to the community and invite leaders to join our effort as well as learn from them -- **haven't done yet...** this fall?
- Other/New Items: local meat processing (culturally appropriate food access for Latinx and Southeast Asian communities); impact report on how racism impacts food sectors and services in Marin; CalFresh referrals and food security screening tools (Food Distribution group and their work); Coast Guard housing site

### Update & Refine Action Items:

- Developing a policy platform centered on food equity for BIPOC in Marin County (or develop an anti-racist policy platform).
- Holding a learning session for the Council on redlining in Marin County which impacts to this day where people live in our county, the capital to buy land and start food businesses, and access to grocery stores to purchase food.
- Hosting a policy showcase with local leaders educating them on local, state and federal food equity policies to advance opportunities for BIPOC in Marin County.

### State/Federal Policy Updates (All)

- Summary of sign-ons between meetings:
  - Federal Universal School Meals Program Act
  - Budget request sign-ons for: SB 364 (Skinner) - *School Meals for All* & AB 125 (Rivas) - *Food and Farm Resilience Bond*

- AB 1163 (Nazarian) - Restores Local Control to Tax Sugary Drinks
  - County of Marin CalFresh Awareness Month Resolution
- Update on Senior Nutrition Incentives and Farm to Senior Budget Letter (Steve Schwartz)
  - Long time in the works, Assemblymember Levine agreed to send in a LOS; May revised state budget came out last Friday including more funds (\$15 million) for CNIP, market match, senior farmers market nutrition, and similar programs -- groundbreaking. Governor's proposal, legislature still needs to approve). Farm to Senior program did not get in the Governor's letter. Final word to come in about 6 weeks. Appreciate MFPC support when/if they have meetings with Levine and McGuire.
- Report out from CA Food and Farming Network (Steve Schwartz & Liana Orlandi)
  - CFFN values and visioning process this past year: MFPC is a member (see [CFFN Member Handbook](#)), and thus requested to commit \$100 to CFFN to help support stipends for Steering Council (majority BIPOC) to inform priorities for the Council. MFPC will submit these funds.
- Update on Food and Farm Bond: AB 125 - The Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms & Worker Protection Bond Act (Andy Naja-Riese)
  - Bond going through a 2 year process (administrative capacity); planning for second year of bond now. \$3.3 billion bond investing funds for infrastructure, farmworker housing, regional food infrastructure, healthy food access infrastructure, community food access, senior nutrition programs, and organic & sustainable ag.
  - When presented to the Ag Committee in Assembly, it received 10 YES votes with no opposition.
  - \$770 million requested for this year to pay for a portion of what's included in the bond - focusing on Farmworker housing and safety, and food bank infrastructure.
  - Advocacy: op ed in SF Chronicle, letter to Governor signed by 80 small scale farmers, twitter, social media,
  - AB 1500 - Climate change & water resiliency bond - discussion to merge, but push to maintain separate, because of the equity focus of AB 125
  - Specific elements to older adults: Food As Medicine pgm, Farm to Senior nutrition pilot, infrastructure for title 3C congregate eating pgms, infrastructure for senior meals, etc.
- MFPC budget update coming next month

#### **Local/Organizational Policy Brainstorm** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Enviro Health Fees for BIPOC Producers: anyone operating a food business has to pay a fee to Environmental Health & Services, which is more favorable to brick and mortar spaces than mobile vendors, booths, etc. Fees and process can be daunting and punitive to people just getting started. Marin has a history of exemptions specific to veterans, but would like to include BIPOC as well. Change in leadership within Envi Health, timing is right to discuss changing or waiving fees for BIPOC food businesses.
- Reusable foodware ordinance: about to be passed before the pandemic, kept comment period open for 6 months and made revisions, now to be applied in unincorporated Marin first. Transition single use materials to compostable materials, and stay open to

reusable materials. Need technical support for businesses to increase compliance. Fits with Climate Action Plan.

- General Plan Update - Housing Element and Environmental Justice
- Urban Ag municipal policies
- Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchens

#### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Steering Committee Nominations - MFPC member for the past year, looking for someone with a passion for policy work and BIPOC representation. Can nominate yourself and others - email Steering Committee.
- New Member Recruitment - opportunity to build out MFPC membership

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, June 15, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **APRIL 2021**

#### **4/20/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Alan Downing (San Rafael City Schools Food & Nutrition Services), Alexandra Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Alma Sanchez (West Marin Community Services - Food Pantry Manager), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Diana Alonzo (County of Marin Public Assistance, [dalonzo-valderrama@marincounty.org](mailto:dalonzo-valderrama@marincounty.org)), Erika Fuyo (guest), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Isaiah Hurtado (Marin City Library, [ihurtado@marincounty.org](mailto:ihurtado@marincounty.org)), Jesse Paran (Public Assistance/HHS), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Laura Oprisch (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative, [laura@interfaithfood.org](mailto:laura@interfaithfood.org)), Leah Walton (Community Action Marin), Madelene McCann (Marin Child Care Council), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Maria Rubio (Marin Community Clinics, [mrubio@marinclinic.org](mailto:mrubio@marinclinic.org)), Marina Palma (San Rafael School Board), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sarah Camper (Petaluma Bounty), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions), Yareli Cervantes (West Main Community Services)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting)** - Liana Orlandi

#### **Panel: Leveraging Synergies Between CalFresh, Pandemic EBT, & School Meals in Marin**

##### **Objectives:**

- Identify and understand synergies between the three programs
- Identify policy opportunities and barriers to tri-enrollment
- Build opportunities for a unified outreach campaign for collective impact as part of CalFresh Awareness Month in May

- Dispel myths about Public Charge

#### **Panelists:**

- Alexandra Danino, *SF-Marin Food Bank*
- Marina Palma, *San Rafael School Board*
- Jesse Paran & Diana Alonzo-Valderrama, *Public Assistance/HHS*
- Alan Downing, *San Rafael City Schools Food & Nutrition Services*
- Marchon Tatmon, *SF-Marin Food Bank*

#### **Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank: Program Overview**

- **CalFresh:** federal entitlement program provides assistance to low income households, allocated to EBT card since 2001 (no longer food stamps). As of March of 2020 state began issuing emergency allotments (to go through September 2021) to households who had been receiving less than needed. Starting in April, emergency allotments recipients eligible to additional benefits. 2 year waiver beginning July 2020 to go through June 2022 - eligibility reinstatement without new application and benefits prorated to make up lost benefits. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to apply. Under Trump admin, the use of the program could jeopardize immigration status. Public Charge was recently overturned by Biden administration.
- **School Meals:** guarantees set reimbursement to schools for each meal or snack served, and children from low income households qualify for free meals. CEP allows nation's highest poverty schools to serve breakfast and lunch to all students without collecting applications from households (Bahia Vista). Children are eligible regardless of immigration status. No impact on Public Charge.
- AB 402 passed in 2011 authorized school district to enter into an MOU with County to share info shared on the school lunch app to determine CalFresh eligibility. Info is confidential and cannot be disclosed for any other purpose. Marin MOU active until June 2024. Prior to Public Charge Rules under Trump, 211 applications to CalFresh were supported this way.
- **P-EBT:** March 2020 provides benefits through card similar to EBT card to provide assistance to families who qualify for school meals and were missing these meals due to pandemic school closure. Two rounds released in 2020. Biden Administration increased the amount by 16% in January. P-EBT 2.0: currently calculating benefits based on return to school and hybrid school status, and children under age 6 will now be eligible as well. Children are eligible regardless of immigration status. No impact on Public Charge.

#### **Jesse Paran & Diana Alonzo-Valderrama, Public Assistance/HHS: Agency perspective**

- Multiple pathways to serving all these different needs
- Why we do this work with Marin HHS: strategic Plan centered on racial equity: health and wellness for all in Marin.
- 8,469 households in Marin with 12,982 persons as of Feb 2021 (current individuals receiving CalFresh), which is 2,000 households and 3,000 individuals higher than year prior -- but there are a lot more still in need



- Need to build capacity to respond to times of disasters (pandemic, fire season, etc), re-examine service delivery methods, and build capacity to meet equity goals.
- CalSAWS - 1 program for all of California
- Now students only need to be eligible for work study to get CalFresh, instead of previous requirement to be working 20 hours
- Marin has opted into statewide meals program, hopefully to be implemented in September 2021
- 15% increase in CalFresh benefits that has been extended to every CalFresh recipient  
Emergency allotment of \$95/month is on top of this
- BenefitsCAL: new portal used by all, working on better user experience
- 39 counties in C4 will join with Los Angeles in September to help reduce silos and increase coordination between groups and benefits rollout.

**Maria Rubio, *Marin Community Clinics*: Community Resource Perspective**

- Have seen a big drop in enrollment of CalFresh due to Public Charge - even after its dissolution, the fear persists among families in any stage of immigration process.
- Encourage people to use every benefit available to them, but transportation during the pandemic has made this more difficult
- Quarterly meetings to give updates on benefits, programs, and resources to clients could be useful.

**Marina Palma, *San Rafael School Board*: Myths around Public Charge**

- Voces Del Canal did door-to-door outreach, asking families which benefits they receive: majority had kids at school under 18, income at poverty level, but most only had medical (not CalFresh).
- Applications at the school board had checkboxes for families to mark if they were interested in CalFresh, but perhaps were not being followed up on.
- Aggressive outreach needed to ensure that families receive all the benefits they qualify for. Perhaps a flier to post at San Rafael School District or HHS mass mailings to inform families of CalFresh and Public Charge myths. Willing to help!

**Alan Downing, *San Rafael City Schools Food & Nutrition Services*: P-EBT and School Meals**

- Good news: today USDA announced that 2021-2022 school year we will be able to operate summer school meals (free meals for all ages 18 and under with no information needed)
- Where do we take this policy-wise? Rebranding. Last 4 years Public Charge affected so many applications with fear, but changes have been made and the word needs to get out.
- Big holes in the system in P-EBT 1.0 - people were asking why they didn't get their cards last spring and summer when schools were closed; school data wasn't accurate, meal application data was old information (addresses not updated when moved, families would only get one card even if they had multiple kids, etc).

## Marchon Tatmon, SF-Marin Food Bank: Policy Opportunities

- [SB 107](#) – Wiener: Simplify CalFresh for older adults and people with disabilities, make application process possible entirely over the phone. About 20% of older adults who are eligible are getting benefits, CA is ranked last in the nation on getting older adults enrolled.
- [AB 396](#) – Gabriel: Improve CalFresh access to college students, whose access to CalFresh has historically been blocked. Some restrictions are being temporarily waived to expand eligibility to more college students.
- [SB 364](#) – Skinner: End Child Hunger Act 2021, Universal Free School meals, increase access to freshly prepared CA grown food and extend P-EBT.
- [AB 221](#) – Santiago: Emergency Food Assistance to undocumented neighbors. Provide food relief to immigrants adversely affected by pandemic and excluded from other federal aid due to documentation status.
- Email your representatives to urge for more funding for food relief programs:  
<https://donate.sfmfoodbank.org/page/28423/action/1?mode=DEMO>

## Q&A and Identification of State & Local Policy Actions (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Prior to COVID, was there a "standard" order that people would apply to these and has COVID changed the most logical or practical order for applications? Does any pathway of entry make the most sense?
  - People get enrolled into CalFresh in a variety of ways (partnerships with sister networks and organizations and nonprofits offering services). Outreach along with unemployment information has been successful.
- Case-specific churn: refers to individuals who were already receiving benefits but for some reason in the recertification process, there can be falloff due to miscommunication or administrative challenges of recertification and mailing in applications, repetitive requests to submit the same documents, etc.
- CalFresh Taskforce stopped meeting in 2020, but there is a standing Public Assistance and Partners meeting, and any partner who would like to join the standing Public Assistance and Partners Meeting can email Jesse at: [jparan@marincounty.org](mailto:jparan@marincounty.org).
- MFPC and partners have done a lot of work around seniors and eligibility for SSI and SSP; are there any trends with the senior population during Covid? Major jump in 2019 and 2020 (used to be around 100-200 increase per year, jumped to 600-800 increase in each 2019 and 2020) -- [see chart here](#).
- Nonprofits are promoting incentives like Market Match for Cal Fresh and PEBT clients; however for privacy reasons they can't have personal contact info. Statewide and nationally best practices include a county sending texts to client to promote local markets and CSAs using these incentives. What would it take for Marin to do this? Perhaps an option for people to opt in to text communication. Also high hopes for CalSAWS helping us manage this.

## Brainstorming local policy opportunities

- Letter to Mary Jane Burke re: county-wide communication around P-EBT and Public Charge
- Outreach to licensed childcare facilities doing the same as above

- Unified outreach campaign for collective impact across all our networks for CalFresh Awareness Month (ID what is needed to create more proactive CalFresh outreach across the county)... Fliers for public places where people go (Public Charge myths, application info, etc. ideally with a Spanish translation). This [Public Charge PDF](#) was shared from Catholic Charities.
- Countywide implementation fo AB 402 Dual Enrollment
- CalFresh program administration, flexibility around unhoused population
- Summer Meals programs
- Create a document with information that can be shared with community members via handout/email/blog/website ect.
- MFPC Steering Committee will bring these ideas to the appropriate agency and organization - if you are interested in being involved, please reach out to us!

### **Announcements**

- Congratulations to Sanzuma for being awarded a \$250,000 CDFA grant for school food in Marin County in partnership with school districts!
- There is a standing Public Assistance/Partners meeting where these items can be discussed. The next meeting is scheduled on May 28. Any partner who would like to join the standing Public Assistance and Partners Meeting can email Jesse at: [jparan@marincounty.org](mailto:jparan@marincounty.org).
- For CalFresh Awareness month, Supervisor Arnold will graciously sponsor a resolution for CF Awareness month. Scheduled for May 18 board date.

### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **MARCH 2021**

### **3/16/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Ellie Comings (Marin Community Fridges, [elliecomings@gmail.com](mailto:elliecomings@gmail.com)), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Larissa Wong (Marin County HHS, [lwong@marincounty.org](mailto:lwong@marincounty.org)), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

## Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi

## Annual Evaluation Results ([take eval here](#)) - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **What worked well:** shift to virtual, focus on timely and informative topics, learning panels, welcoming meeting space
- **What needs to be strengthened:** lean in to taking action, focus on policy impacts, member engagement & retention
- **Plans for the future:** policy platform, *test out new meeting format* to build capacity for direct policy action, deepen learnings, & broaden participation

## Proposal for New Meeting Format - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **Quarterly learning meetings** = educational panel presentations, Q&A, open to our partners, border community members & the public, OCCUR 4 TIMES A YEAR. Include a closing slide of policy action MFPC has done in the past few months and is planning for the future, as well as ask the group what policy they are working on.
  - First learning meeting will be in April or May, likely to focus on CalFresh, Pandemic EBT, and school meals... and where these 3 intersect. Food assistance money to family with children who would be receiving food assistance through schools, open to undocumented families (introducing benefits of EBT to a group who hasn't had access in the past). School meals have been in flux during the pandemic, opportunity to re-engage in the importance of school meals for all with the return to school. Continued need to lift up the importance of CalFresh as the fundamental safety net for the food insecure in the country. Welcome anyone interested in planning this content. MFPC advocacy for P-EBT in the Summer was successful; there may be some key advocacy in April for P-EBT rollout.
- **Monthly policy meetings** = policy-focused, members commit to participate regularly, policy platform and annual priorities drive agenda, may still have guest but they would be specific to policy, OCCUR EVERY MONTH EXCLUDING QUARTERLY MEETINGS.
  - First policy meeting will be April or May, depending on the above.
- **Discussion:**
  - Which meetings, if any, should be in person - quarterly or monthly? Potential to still offer a zoom option for the quarterly meetings? Cross the bridge when we come to the in-person option again, ask people their preference when the time comes?
  - Clarity, distinction, and synergy among groups: ID unique value-add, goals, objectives, and actual parameters of the work that each group does. MFPC to narrow our focus on policy this year as other groups are holding other pieces of the greater work. Regular reminder of which groups cover which topics, so people can self-select into the correct group (Emergency Food Distribution Group, HEAL Collaborative, etc.) Potential for one joint email to facilitate information sharing? Facilitators make stronger boundaries for content? Overarching purpose of all three groups necessary as well. Working on a visual

for this... potential to include the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goal's on this visual.

### **Identification of 2021 Themes - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

*Which belong in the learning section pipeline vs. which belong in policy pipeline?*

*What is the opportunity of 2021 as we come out of the pandemic, what is it that our community needs? Create an advocacy strategy around a few issues?*

- **Social Equity:** focus of last many years
- **Climate Change:** focus of last two years
- **COVID Food & Farm Policies:** this past year... *newer*
- **Food Assistance Programs:** focus of last many years
- **Local Food Supply Chain:** was a focus for one year... *newer*
- **Older Adults:** key topic we are currently funded to work on, consistent with previous years that a lot of agencies haven't worked in the space of serving older adults, MFPC needs to improve our capacity to articulate why serving older adults is a crucial element of equity in Marin

Discussion and ideas:

- Use social equity and older adults as a lens.
- Have a table of the topics that we have covered in each category as well as links to those materials and resources over time (social equity - redlining, climate change - soil and climate action plans, etc.)
- Make the state issues relevant on the local level - and keep space for issues that emerge out of local communities.
- Engage with the local ag community.
- We only have so much bandwidth; there are topics that will be important to our region, to themes MFPC prioritizes,, and to people of color -- ID where to put our energy.
- MFPC policy focus: perhaps MFPC should prioritize the levers that can create the biggest change for the most amount of people
- Another specific piece of legislation that is going to move somewhat in 2021 at the state-level is "SSB Preemption" -- giving local governments the power to vote for a soda tax, which MFPC lost a few years ago.

### **Next Steps on MFPC Policy Platform - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Approved (*living document*), added to MFPC website, & shared via email - Winter
- Disseminate to partner organizations (HEAL Collaborative, Drawdown Marin, Emergency Food groups, etc.) & sister efforts - Spring
- Refine, develop tracking tool, & decision-making matrix TBD - Summer
- Add local foods section & update annually with new content - Fall

### **Policy Updates - Steve Schwartz & all**

- Senior Nutrition Updates - New Letter of Support for Farm to Seniors Budget Request, help from lobbyist Rebecca Marcus, making progress

- Farm to Seniors won't be a bill, but language may be added to other bills. Hoping it will be a budget ask instead.
- Team met with staff from Governors' office 3/15 to discuss budget request.
- Budget is expected to move earlier than usual, next step is to meet with Levine this Friday (**Steve, Reba, and Liana -- contact them if you are interested in advocating for Farm to Seniors**).
- There will be an updated letter in the future for people to sign on to.
- Potential for all financial asks for seniors to be packaged into one bundle around senior nutrition support, Cathryn to keep MFPC posted.
- How to target the use of money toward all of the "pandemic debris" over the next few years?
- [AB 888 Mobile Slaughter Operations](#) (Levine)
  - Homegrown issue with local ranchers and people working with Extension offices in Marin and Sonoma, Levine has signed on.
  - Rancho in Petaluma got closed down, then Marin Sun Farms offered slaughter, then didn't again, so recently local ranchers have to send animals far away. This bill is about on-farm slaughter utilizing mobile facilities. No action needed now but fits under MFPC Climate Change theme. Can learn more and vote to endorse at next month's meeting (perhaps Vince Trotter can join).
- [AB 125 Food and agriculture: climate crisis: COVID-19 recovery](#) (Rivas)
  - No action item currently, however the bond is a bill that needs to be advocated for, so stay tuned for future sign-on letters. Bond language includes a lot of broad language, but there is a good amount of alignment with MFPC Policy Platform, so can be fast-tracked in the future.
- Pandemic EBT Updates
  - Electronic benefit card to be released again in April-June of 2021 with some good expansions (now open to preschool age children and undocumented families)
- SB 364 Universal School Meal for All Update (Skinner) -On CFFN priority bill list as SB 364 (Skinner). MFPC will submit LOS using the CFFN letter. **\*\*Vote to endorse: APPROVED\*\***
  - Reminder to keep a running list of MFPC policy work, endorsements, LOS, etc. Can include a column for "status"

Summary of sign-ons since last meeting:

- Center for Food & Agriculture Budget Request - [Sign-on letter](#) (Levine) = Approved via email. *(Since this topic is not on MFPC Policy Platform, Liana circulated it to MFPC membership, in contrast with the following two items which are central to MFPC Policy Platform and thus did not require membership pre-approval)*
- Sign-on letter - support H.R. EATS Act - to provide SNAP for college students
- Sign-on - support CNIP (+Market Match) in FY 21-22 Budget

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:33 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.



# FEBRUARY 2021

## 2/16/21 – MFPC Meeting Zoom conference call – Notes

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Karla Santana (UC Davis), Karleen Zalkin ( ), Laurel Weitz (UC Davis), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting)** - Liana Orlandi

**Annual Evaluation** ([take eval here](#)) - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Annual evaluation discussion in small break-out groups
  - **Liana's Group --**
    - **Working well:** continuing networking, collaborative space for updates, learning about orgs work during Covid, MFPC communications to membership has been clear and positive
    - **Not working well:** not having clear policy action that MFPC as a body is working on, rather than supporting others, need a strategic vision for work in Marin
    - **Strengthened in 2021:** attendance (Especially during working meetings such as today's, rather than learning meetings) and recruitment, Covid and the supply chain disruption, need to push for hazard pay for essential workers
  - **Reba's Group --**
    - **Working well:** shortening meeting from 2 hours to 1.5 hours, leadership structure, consistency of agendas and notes, platform to share resources and leverage each other's resources, being welcoming
    - **Strengthened in 2021:** looking at MFPC mission and focus, need to dig in deeper to root causes of inequity of our food system, need to engage local residents in these areas, increase community advocacy, strengthen partnership with policy leadership in the county on a local level, be a driver of MFPC's own policy as well
  - **Julia's Group--**
    - **Working well:** useful to build relationships and network, food and ag elements come together well, place of intersection of on the ground work with envisioning policies to support this
    - **Strengthened in 2021:** more intentional about how we are communicating to reduce email communication overload (reduce one-off emails), reduce cross posting of info with other collaboratives, more focus on strategic policy engagement, what is MFPC long term goal (ie: 5 years), where could MFPC be

more directed, action oriented, and strategic, have time to share more deeply the work other orgs are doing (potential missed opportunity)... In terms of recruitment - can we have a conversation to ID who is missing from the table and why, and what are barriers to participation?

- **QUESTION FOR COUNCIL:** what would it look like if MFPC really focused on policy, carved out our unique niche, drilled down on policy and worked on moving forward a signature policy, *instead of* having as many learning opportunities
  - We are trying to do a lot of different things, in favor of narrowing in order to have more impact and progress over time, what is the value of our collective coming together?
  - Need to understand MFPC mission more to answer this question?
  - Benefits to narrow focus = move the needle, yet how would we arrive on what to narrow it down to and who is the driving force behind this decision? Don't want to overlook the involvement of impacted communities in this decision process, don't want the driving force to be top-down.
  - **Potential topics:** school lunch (good food purchasing opportunities and partnership with small farms), food delivery program and alleviating loneliness for elders during Covid, Covid support for essential workers, urban ag incentive zone, cottage food bills and small business owners, comm gardens & intergenerational gardens, update general plans with environmental justice in mind... perhaps broad title of increased access to healthy local food as umbrella, then tier coordinated strategies for different populations
- Please continue to think about this and give us your thoughts and feedback - via the [evaluation](#), as well as private message to Steering Committee, if desired
- Will report back on Annual Evaluation results next month

#### Policy Platform - Julia Van Soelen Kim

We've spent a lot of time in small groups developing the buckets and content, ready to formalize and adopt it and move it towards its next iteration. Intended to be a living document represented our collective knowledge, expertise, and collective learning. Help MFPC become more efficient and forward-thinking.

**Four buckets:** 1) food assistance programs (Marin lowest of the state in terms of participation rate in CalFresh); 2) climate change and relationship to local ag (potential topics including: ranching and the seashore, plant-based diets, and organic ag); 3) food equity and racial justice (unique challenges to accessing land and food in Marin for BIPOC communities); and 4) older adults (barriers to accessing healthy food, as well as impacts of food insecurity).

- Vote: APPROVED. Will distribute final doc on letterhead as PDF, as well as keep a living document in Google Drive
- Plan next steps: perhaps choose just one topic and drill down for action steps, rather than choose multiple topics

## Policy Updates - all

- [SB 107 \(Wiener\)](#) CalFresh—Simpler for Seniors (Marchon): another attempt to get a CalFresh bill passed the finish line (started 3 years ago; last year was SB 882): <https://nourishca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NourishCA-FactSheet-SB107-2021.pdf> -- Bill would simplify the CalFresh application for older adults and people with disabilities, as well as to allow participants to complete application without needing the in-person signature; retain the telephonic signature option beyond the Pandemic. Marin County Board of Supervisors supports. Next step for MFPC is to sign on to a new LOS.
- Universal school meal for all “Lunch for All Improves Learning for All” (Senator Skinner, no number yet) also in process, early stages. Wait for bill number, then all hands on deck for outreach and support, Marchon will circle back with MFPC then.

## Council Business - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- MFPC has gotten another round of funding from MCF (sub-award through Innovative Health Solutions)
- New member presentations: time at each meeting to hear 2-3 minutes from new members about their organizations and funding
  - Wendy Tobiasson (IHS & liaison with Community Gardens): left a corporate job and is interested in local food supply in the county. Attending meetings for 1.5 years, helped with assessment and goals last year. Working with IHS on data analysis, grant writing, data mapping, as well as data analysis and grant working for Conscious Kitchen. Bay Area project: West Contra Costa Unified School District has delivered 11 million meals (food boxes with week's worth of meals) and over 3 million pounds of produce during Covid, early March first 100% organic box (large enough purchasing power to get the same price for organic), 22,000 served.
  - Anyone else? Let us know if you haven't given a new member presentation. Can apply to be a member [here](#).

## Announcements

- The county has created a COVID 19 page for older adults, so please share with your older clients who want information specific to their concerns. <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/older-adults-and-persons-disabilities>
- 3rd try, SB 107, similar to the failed attempt last session SB 882 and the year before with SB 285: <https://nourishca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NourishCA-FactSheet-SB107-2021.pdf>
- Cultivating the Commons report: <https://foodfirst.org/publication/cultivating-the-commons-an-assessment-of-the-potential-for-urban-agriculture-on-oaklands-public-land/>

## Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, March 16, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# JANUARY 2021

## 1/19/21 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Abby Runte (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Amy Do (guest), Anita Sparks (Edna Maguire Elementary School garden), Becca Ryan (Marin Master Gardener), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cara Storm (getStarted), Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Claire Peaslee (West Marin Climate Action), David Lewis (UC Cooperative Extension), Dawniele Pasha (Hall Middle School Garden), Diane Ziesing (Marin Master Gardeners/School & Community Gardens), Elise Semonian (guest), Erin Duggan (Corte Madera Rec Dept), Ethan Frankel (UCLA), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Florencia Parada (Marin Community Clinics), Glenda Corning (citizen), Isai Garcia (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Jeannette Perez (Marin Master Gardener and elementary school garden), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Juliette Martinez American Heart Association), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Laurel Weitz (UC Davis), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Leslie Meyers (guest), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Lise Ciolino (Sausalito Beautiful), Margaret Wallace (Canal Community Garden), Mimi Enright (UCCE Sonoma), Nancy Holland (guest), Patricia Ravasio (Corte Madera Parks & Recreation Commissioner), Peggy Thow (Marin Master Gardener), Peter Tiernan (Novato City Planner, Novato Live Well Network), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (Ceres Community Project), Rob Bennaton (UCCE Contra Costa & Alameda Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor), Royce McLemore (Marin City Housing Authority), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Vanessa Lyons (Bayside/MLK garden), Sandy Turner Parry (North Bay Children's Center), Tonya Koenker (proposed Cove Garden), Vicki Crase (guest), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

**\*\*NOTE:** The recording of the presentation and panel discussion on Community Gardens can be found [here](#) (use passcode: x\*9%ET^&)

**Presentation: State of Marin Community Gardens 2010-2020: Past, Present, Future**  
(Lauren Klein, UCCE Marin)

Unique moment in time for Community Gardens with the pandemic. Last decade has shown significant effort to move the needle, now a great time to advance shared goals of Comm Gardens. Best Practices, barriers, opportunities...

- [Presentation](#)
  - Benefits and types of community gardens
  - 2010-2020: events and accomplishments... in 2016 1 in 5 people in Marin are food insecure - BOS took this info seriously and MFPC created Food Day

Resolution that year... 2020 pandemic sparked "Grow an Extra Row" and additional policy work

- Stats: 130 gardens in 2020 (up from 80 in 2010); over 7000 lbs of produce donated, low income seniors identified as a target group for advocacy; seed library and give-away; location of 12 neighborhood comm gardens across Marin and considerations for these gardens
- Future: challenges and hurdles (restrictions and time lags); school gardens need much support (funding, staffing, etc);
- Potential aid: staff support to facilitate logistics of community gardening; consolidate municipal codes and practices county-wide (11 municipalities!) and coordinate around issues; treat all food cultivation as essential business; ID volunteer groups to help; county and municipal staff support; potential of private lands
- Testimonial: Volunteer Community Gardener in Mill Valley Anita Castro (Plant Pathologist, Edna McGuire School Garden): maintaining the 1 acre garden during the pandemic, connected to Community Action Marin who would accept smaller quantities of food for donation; 500 students at the school, 50 families have come through during the school year = 1500 hours of volunteer time; 18 raised beds and orchard with 26 trees produced 1200 lbs of food; not really part of the school district, run by the PTA (garden's budget was , one challenge is confusion in school community about why they are there; fostered friendships, connection and mental health during this trying year. The garden is funded 100% by PTA the most of it going to the salary of the garden educator (full time 40hrs a week during school year). We are using a rainy day fund to pay her 20hrs a week this school year. But officially no money is being raised for the garden this year.

**Panel: Community Gardens & Urban Agriculture in Marin County** (moderated by Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- **Royce McLemore**, *Manager, Marin City Golden Gate Village Community Garden & Marin City Housing Authority Representative*
  - Maddie and Clarence Boatman Community Garden for about 25 years there; community orchard, berries and vines, and about 25-30 plots for gardeners; focus on ethnic foods especially greens; began as flat dirt and now raised beds; plots are free and open to the community; most are public housing or Marin City residents;  $\frac{3}{4}$  used by individuals,  $\frac{1}{4}$  is community garden (produce grown by like the gardener for community members); always looking for volunteers; land and water from Housing Authority; Lauren Klein shared storage shed and other support; help from other donors (Sausalito Rotary Club, Wareham Development, a group of Eagle Scouts, etc); a couple plots raised up for disabled people to use easily; one plot is a school plot; still working on the intergenerational garden; Marin City's MLK Jr. Academy school garden also active with help from Conscious Kitchen.
- **Pat Ravasio**, *Corte Madera Parks & Recreation Commissioner - [PatRavasio@gmail.com](mailto:PatRavasio@gmail.com)*
  - Bit of a sad history of comm gardens in Corte Madera - devoted gardeners came to town council and some people liked it and others didn't - Pat has been working on understanding the challenges and visioning what is possible for the future.

- New town management is awakened to the need for growing food and working with the environment and climate.
- Identifying various areas prime for community gardens... but going to need community support and volunteer work. Schools may be interested.
- Needs: leadership (will put together a team and provide support, but need a champion) - current town manager will work to make it happen. Average comm garden takes 3-6 years to get started! Corte Madera is primed and ready!
- **Peter Tiernan**, *Novato City Planning Commission, Community Garden Supporter*
  - Long and frustrating process, city has dropped the ball, but newly prioritized - 1.5 acres of land recently designated for comm garden in fall 2018.
  - Needs: infrastructure improvements, needed by city of Novato since it is city property; water is also an issue. Hard to ask people to participate until there is an actual project, but do need help.
  - In the General Plan and area has been ID'd, but still in pre-planning mode (could be on a 10 year trajectory).
  - Vision: up to 60 plots, 10-15 ADA, 40-45 raised beds
- **Ryan Thayer**, *Nutrition and Wellness Program Manager, Community Health and Prevention Division, Marin County Public Health Department, County of Marin*
  - HEAL identified a goal of food equity in Marin: how do we support food equity around making upstream system shifts that prioritize the needs of BIPOC people in Marin, want to co-create a vision from the community level up. ID'd communities to work on
  - Questions they are asking: What does food security look like? What activities contribute to this? Community leadership opportunities? Earth-centered practices? Intersections throughout?
  - Marin is one of the most inequitable counties in CA -- BIPOC communities are generally not involved in the County-level decision-making process. Prioritizing changing this.
  - COVID has exposed the vulnerabilities of the food system, and community gardening holds a lot of potential as a solution in this area.
  - If interested in joining effort, contact Ryan:
- **All panelists Q&A -- guiding questions:**
  - **What opportunities and momentum currently exist for growing comm gardens in Marin (in addition to Corte Madera and HEAL)?**  
Need for resources to run gardens and produce food, but opportunity around the BLM movement and equity issues around food insecurities... how could there be opportunities for workforce development and employment? Could explore county-wide partnerships? Continuity is key -- look at history (MV school garden is a history of rags to riches). Marin City garden plots turn into community plots when individuals can't maintain them anymore. Question of the role that water districts could play?
  - **Any policy barriers you've run into?**  
Corte Madera gardens shot down by beautification committee (can look tattered, appreciate tips and support in keeping things look tidy), and the fact that it would be in the town park and could lead to congestion (location is key).
  - **Support needed to advance your comm garden goals? Role for MFPC?**  
Novato could use help. Find out restrictions up front in order to get it going (city wants to relieve itself of liabilities but still have say over how it will be run), tips of



suggestions with water and infrastructure (ie water hookup costs \$25,000 in Novato! MFPC could advocate for reasonable water hook up fees for community gardens. Does that fee reflect the actual cost of hookup?) Would like to hear tips and what has worked from those who've gone before them - ([How to start a community garden resources](#) from Marin Master Gardeners). Get student from IVC farming program to help? All help is welcome in Corte Madera also. Marin City can always use seeds and starts. Compost and topsoil would also help, and tools occasionally (SF Rec and Parks supplies compost once or twice a year). How can resources be leveraged to deal with the workforce issue?

- **Opportunities for MFPC:**
  - Follow up with helping jurisdictions around the county adopt policies?
  - Need for higher level leadership / clear mandate from the County... role for Drawdown Marin?
  - Marin County has a Policy Platform (Community Health Needs Assessment) - guides pieces to work on & can be aligned with and leveraged into municipalities... MFPC can align with as well
  - Advocate for County funding
  - Awareness and linkage among groups
- **Upcoming work on community gardens in 2021:**
  - Wendy working on updating policies by municipality to understand planning codes
  - Adding equity layers on MMG community garden map

## **Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz)**

- Senior Nutrition Updates:
  - Budget asks and supporting legislative work
  - Assemblymember Levine is interested in championing the budget request for the two proposals, will think about carrying legislation for Farm to Seniors piece
  - Work for MFPC: re-work the letter MFPC wrote in June to Assemblymember Levine AND decide if MFPC wants to put another \$1500 of MFPC funds to another lobbyist. Questions or concerns? Would like to hear about experience with prior lobbyist and if this would be money well spent? More timely than ever with Covid, had a positive experience with prior lobbyist, but might not be needed if Assemblymember Levine says he will lead legislation in the next couple of weeks - could hold off and decide then?
  - Do not have enough voting members on the meeting to vote -- preliminary thumbs-up and will return to Steering Committee to decide.
- Proposed State Food and Farming Bond:
  - CDFA?
- Policy Agenda:
  - In progress, finalizing and next steps to disseminate to community members and partners, will present next month (themes: senior nutrition and farm to elders, equity, covid vaccine rollout and impacts for food and farmworkers, urban ag and community food production)

## **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- MCF has indicated they plan to renew our funding for next year through IHS, so focus on older adults and Covid response will remain, but with flexibility
- Wendy: Catch Grant -- we were able to secure the seafood grant which allows for fish from local fishermen going to families in need (solano and Marin counties), food will start to flow in the next couple of weeks (1-2 deliveries to each site locally) -- helps both fishermen and families. \$50,000 as part of the grant to be distributed to community partners involved in this program.

## **Announcements**

- Abby: a local blueberry farm, Sonoma Swamp Blues, is going out of business and selling all of their 15 yr old blueberry plants (they live up to 70 yrs). The farm has offered us a big discount, \$35/plant, if we buy in bulk. Please email me if you're interested in purchasing some blueberries or have any questions! [abby@interfaithfood.org](mailto:abby@interfaithfood.org).
- Julia: Lauren Klein will be interviewed on KWMR's Christina Desser show, West Marin Radio, on Thursday, January 21 at 12 noon (among other hats she wears, Christina is a Marin County Planning Commissioner). You can hear from Lauren interviewed on KWMR West Marin Radio about thriving community and school gardens across Marin [here](#). [Click on "ARCHIVES", scroll and click on show name as "Enthusiasms/Specials", and put the date in as 2021-1-21. The interview was done at 12 noon.]
- Claire: Local Food action page and the context, including gardening events: [www.westmarinclimateaction.org](http://www.westmarinclimateaction.org). We have just begun Zoom conversations exploring ways that home gardeners (and new or improved community gardens) can feed more people locally, as the climate crisis continues).
- Linda: For those who want to plug into the Aging Action Initiative and receive our communications (and meet other professionals working with older people or on intergen projects), please ask [sami@agingactioninitiative.org](mailto:sami@agingactioninitiative.org) to be added to the mailing list.
- Julia: [Food and Farming Resilience Bond focus group discussions](#) happening this month. You are invited to join a conversation with some of the members of a newly forming coalition of sustainable agriculture, climate, food access, community health, and worker safety advocates to support a bond targeting these investments - Reba attended one already and said it was a very good discussion.
- Steve: there will be yet Another CARES Act from the Feds (That 's COVID RELIEF ACT). This would likely included Biden's promise for more 'stimulus' for individuals but much more. New administration and new asks for at federal level FYI.
- Rob: Restorative Commons: : Creating Health and Well-Being Through Urban Landscapes
- <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/8810>

## **Virtual meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, February 16, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# DECEMBER 2020

## 12/15/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin), Cathryn Couch (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Wendy Tobiasson (Innovative Health Solutions)*

### **Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi**

- Liana: Help@Hand is looking for volunteers to try out technology designed to improve wellness for older adults. Please share with your communities ([flier](#)). They're looking for Spanish-speaking participants age 60+ Registration form: [MarinHHS.org/Help-at-Hand](http://MarinHHS.org/Help-at-Hand)
- January MFPC meeting focused on community gardens - Tuesday 1/15/21 from 3-5pm
- Hot-of-the-press [policy brief](#) from UC ANR Nutrition Policy Institute on California Nutrition Incentive Program at Farmers' Market
- Help celebrate UC Cooperative Extension's Centennial - Take a look at our ["Then and Now" series](#)

### **Learning Opportunity: AIM's Center for Food & Ag Master Plan [presentation](#) - Andy**

Naja-Riese, Agricultural Institute of Marin *\*share intros, timely events, & updates in the chat box*

- AIM's Center for Food & Ag Master Plan [report](#)
- Vision for new Center for Food & Ag: develop new center focused on experiential learning about local food and ag, create a marketplace to support small-scale farmers in our region
- Farmers market model focused on producing organic and regenerative foods, with the potential to help climate change, enhance public awareness of healthy soils, pastures, and seas... elevating farmers market model to highlight sustainability
- Gallinas watershed council was once the land of the tidal Miwok peoples
- One of seven projects endorsed by DrawDown Marin as a project working on reversing the climate crisis
- Lead to reduction in diet-related disease and chronic disease
- Promote economic development
- Audience served? 350 small to mid sized family farmers, specialty food providers. "Local" defined as California, certified with visits to actual farms
- Farmers market will be open air and zero waste
- Visitor center to help people navigate food and nutrition assistance and services (CalFresh, Market MAtch, WIC, etc)
- Demo electric kitchen to demo cooking healthy meals on a budget to visitors

- Zero waste: donate extra produce to community members, compost on-site
- AIM's Path to Racial Equity: focused on support for BIPOC producers and artisans -- some stalls offered at no cost to BIPOC producers, as well as link to existing BIPOC producers to offer mentors and guidance
- Offer on-site technical assistance and trainings, education
- Rainwater cistern to irrigate landscaping. Goal of composting toilets on-site and blackwater system, but the County isn't on board yet
- Experiential learning programs, gardens, talks, demos, etc throughout for kids, families, seniors, etc.
- Edible and carbon sequestration gardens
- QUESTIONS from MFPC:
  - Status in planning and building process: project is currently in phasing development stages, planning for goals each year based on funding sources. Master Plan is completed, working on a business plan and capital campaign. Aiming for 2022-2023.
  - Commercial kitchen or teaching kitchen to be rented out for value-added products from local businesses? Currently debating whether they would rent out the kitchens and site (currently there are kitchens for rent in Marin that are under-utilized). Looking at the option for farmers testing out new value-added products or for chefs testing out new local food recipes.
  - Any disaster resources in place? Thinking about how they could use the space for food aggregation and distribution in the case of an emergency, how to implement.
  - What are the biggest hurdles coming up? Fundraising is currently the biggest priority (challenging to fundraise during a pandemic). Regulatory issues and challenges as well (i.e. with EHS policies around Cottage Foods that make it prohibitive for some producers to be in the market, as well as the costs of County permit process for people setting up booths).
  - [Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations](#) (MEHKOS)
- QUESTIONS for MFPC:
  - How can we ensure the market side is universally accessible and inclusive? Heart of the City Farmers Market in SF doing a good job of this (hire community members, encourage dollar bags, charge lower prices compared to other markets, etc). Marin's seniors and need for curbside pickup (trend may continue after pandemic)... build curbside pickup into the design to help seniors? Shade zones and hydration stations for elders. Bus access and bicycle parking options. Garden space will include children's play spaces also. Considering partnering with MGs and CA Native Plant Society on the gardens.
  - Consider having an online way that seniors could order produce and hire local low income people to help do those deliveries out to seniors.
  - Consider getting a direct Smart Train "market run" that runs people just back and forth between San Rafael and the market to make it easy to do that trip with more runs during market hours

- Perhaps volunteer shoppers for seniors or those with disabilities?
- Signage in different languages?
- Consider a work program to make pavers and perhaps rammed earth bricks for the building.
- Use building effort as a training opportunity for solar installations etc.
- **MFPC support:** Having MFPC representation in the design process. Advocate with the County to support the project with funds for things like permeable pavers, solar canopy, etc.

#### **MFPC Policy Platform** (Julia Van Soelen Kim) *\*review & comment prior to the meeting*

- Intended to be a place to include problem and solutions statement, highlight key issues, and address equity impacts on children, older adults, and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- Internal purpose: living doc of our collective expertise, knowledge, and learnings over time
- External purpose: policy agenda we can bring to others to advance our goals; help us save time as we endorse policy.
- All of the bucket areas are meant to lift up local food and agriculture -- embedded in everything we do.
- Review each bucket area: CalFresh and Food Assistance Programs, Climate Change, Food Equity and Racial Justice, Older Adults
  - Climate change bucket questions -- want to gauge MFPC interest in further learning: ranching in the seashore, plant-based diets, and organic agriculture
- Please continue to add comments and edits to the [Policy Platform](#)
- Early 2021 we will take the doc to MFPC for a full Council vote of approval

#### **Policy Updates** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- [Letter of Support to Congressman Huffman](#) to request his support for additional emergency funding for FINI/GusNIP Programs (funds market match) -- can [add individual organization name here](#) if interested in further support.
- Approval of Letter to Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff ([draft doc](#)) -- reach out to Julia or Andy if interested in joining this effort. Cathryn interested in seeing the draft of the letter. Goal: draft done by the end of the week, get it out by the end of the year. **\*\*VOTE: approved\*\***
- Proposal: Provide recommended language from our policy platform (especially Farm to Elders) for the [County of Marin Legislative Platform](#)
- Resource and policy opportunity -- Policy Brief: California's Vaccination Plan Needs to Prioritize Farmworkers, Their Families and Agricultural Communities ([doc](#)). **\*\*VOTE: approved\*\***

**January Meeting on Community and School Gardens on Tuesday 1/19/21 from 3-5 PM**



Join the Marin Food Policy Council  
*for a virtual meeting on*

## COMMUNITY & SCHOOL GARDENS: A SOLUTION TO FOOD INSECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY... PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

**HEAR FROM:**

**THE COUNTY, MARIN  
MUNICIPALITIES, AND  
COMMUNITY GARDENERS ON  
BEST PRACTICES GROWING  
FOOD TO MITIGATE OUR  
3-FOLD INCREASE IN  
PANDEMIC-INDUCED  
HUNGER**

**Tuesday 1/19/21, 3-5 PM  
via ZOOM**

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, January 19, 2021** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

**11/17/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Abby Runte (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Howard-Gibbon (Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC*



*Cooperative Extension, Marin), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Kyle LaRue (Conservation Corps North Bay), Laura Oprisch (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Lori Davis (Sanzuma), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Nancy Vernon, Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sarah Estes-Smith (Aide to Sup. Sears), Sheila Walsh, Stephanie Felton (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (citizen)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi**

**Panel: Historical Redlining in Marin County & Impacts on Food Access Today**

*- with Liz Darby (County of Marin), Julia Howard-Gibbon (Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California), and Ricardo Montcrief (ISOJI)*

Goals of the presentation:

- Center racial equity in our work.
- Understand the history of redlining (in addition to learning the current landscape) which is necessary to move forward in our collective work.
- Expand our capacity to understand connections between housing and food to expand our policy advocacy. As we go farther down the line, if we understand this history better as Council, we will be better prepared to act on housing issues related to food indirectly if not directly.

Speaker questions:

- Please help us understand the history of redlining in Marin County and your connection to the topic?
- Help us understand more about Community Reinvestment Act opportunities?
- What are policy opportunities/policy solutions to address historical redlining in Marin County and increase impacted communities' access to stable housing and healthy and local food?
- Help us understand redlining's connections to broader land ownership, access to healthy food and the means of production of food from farm scale to backyard, if any?
- How does historical redlining fit within the current context of gentrification in Marin County?

**Panel**

**Liz Darby, CDA, County of Marin -- [presentation](#)**

- Working with communities to address Covid pandemic with Marin HHS, in addition to housing focus
- Importance of access to credit
- Race used to determine financial potential of a community in maps of "grades of security"
- Today  $\frac{2}{3}$  of neighborhoods determined hazardous are still inhabited by black and brown people

- Housing shortage with military troops returning to the US from WWII
- Homes developed could only be sold to white people, so only white vets benefited from mortgages with 0-5% down
  - Cost of mortgages was often less than rent
  - Black veterans were denied same opportunities, remained in sub-standard housing situation in Marin City
- Racially restrictive covenants to provide protection against “inharmonious use”
- Equity accumulated in these homes enables white families to fund college, second homes, retirement, etc.
- Historical effects of this racial discrimination are widespread. Created by government, and thus is government’s responsibility to right.
- Neighborhoods that were redlined in the 30s are now being gentrified
- Now POC suffering disproportionately from COVID-19 - more are getting the virus,

**Julia Howard-Gibbon, Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California -- [presentation](#)**

- Help people with discrimination complaints via: counselling, provide referrals, represent people in complaints, investigate complaints, bring cases on behalf of their agency, fair housing education for the community
- Housing in Northern CA, Marin
- Settlers stole land from natives, white amassed wealth from slaves, then took land back from freed slaves through largely illegal means, discriminatory housing policies still exist today
- Four big issues
  - Redlining: addressed above
  - Restrictive covenant: addressed above
  - Steering: when agents steer whites into white neighborhoods and steer POC in POC neighborhoods
  - Block busting: white flight when POC move into neighborhoods - agents making a huge profit
- *De jure* segregation
- Public housing began during the depression on a segregated basis
- After WWII influx of black and white people to work in shipyards in Marin City and Sausalito, housing development increased
- FHA created along with loans for suburbs (if kept white) - explicit federal policies establishing segregation - continued until Fair Housing Act of 1968 (but by then POC had not amassed the wealth that white homeowners had been, harder to get into markets)
- \$7,000 home then sells for \$1.3 million now
- Recent “reverse redlining” increasing the wealth disparity - POC have lost money since 2008, been worse hit by banks in recession
- Patterns of disparity goes along with access to resources
- Grocery stores relocated to suburbs along with white flight, supermarkets more able to take advantage of economic opportunities and drove out small markets

- Redlining also forced small mom and pops that were left behind to have to shift to sell shelf stable items (junk food), alcohol and tobacco to remain financially competitive. Led to the rise of high liquor store concentrations in communities of color nationwide
- Insurance companies are still reluctant to insure businesses in inner city
- Banks are also reluctant to give loans to businesses in inner city
- Life expectancy in Marin: 85 years White, 80 years Black, 76 years Latino
- Black community population is being pushed out of Marin
- More than 8 in 10 low income households cannot afford their rent
- Inequitable zoning policies have the effect of segregating communities and increase generational wealth disparity
- Marin's 80% protected land (open space and ag land) has contributed to housing crisis
- Large-scale investigation testing landowners in Bay Area looking for racial discrimination, found occurrence in 80% of tests
  - Next steps of tests: if based on a complaint, will contact landlord to advocate for renter, or file a complaint. Also write reports they distribute to the community, take note of properties to monitor in future with follow-up audits. File lawsuits.
- In terms of lending, if you see discrimination with ag land, can call Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

### **Q&A and discussion**

- Are there similar orgs or surveys happening around ag land purchasing or grocery retail sector? Not aware of similar models. County level also puts together a report to BOS acknowledge housing in the county and impacts of housing, ID areas with disparate impacts.
- Subsidized affordable housing in Marin City means it is not overcrowded, whereas rent is market rate in the Canal so there are multiple families living in units - this leads to higher incidence and spread of COVID among Latino population than Black.
- Community Reinvestment Act of 1978 to address discrimination in housing and small business lending - still happening now? Loan access for minorities is still treated very differently - disproportionate numbers of POC are still denied loans. African Americans aren't applying for as many loans, and are denied at a higher rate on top of that (and often denied under the "Other" category). Marin is not a very welcoming community, so even POC that could afford it might not be so inclined.
- Ag farm workers often undocumented and thus don't have a voice. Unique situation because their housing is tied to their work - if they lose one, they lose the other. Thus addressing ag workers is more complicated.
- Is local grocery store development (i.e. in Marin City) still barred based on restrictions around insurance and business loans or other large issues?
- Shared values: we all love open space, our families, safety, etc... the difference is that some are benefitted and others are burdened by the same policies working in these areas.

- **Question to ask in policy development: Who does this policy benefit, and who does it burden?** How do we make sure we get good information about possible burdens?
- **Action steps for or thoughts on the role of MFPC?**
  - Instead of telling communities what they need, start listening to them and work to give them what they need. For example, Marin City has a low COVID rate because the community figured out what they needed, and the county provided that - in the way that worked for them. LISTEN.
- Where does MFPC go next with this topic? Learn more? Impact you?

### **Policy Updates** (Steve Schwartz & All)

- Letter of Support for EAH Fair Housing Proposal (Liana Orlandi)
  - Proposal to dev state owned surplus property near San Quentin and Larkspur Landing on SFD, for low income subsidized housing (affordable housing for 89 families), including community gardens - "Bayview Agrihood Proposal." If the proposal is accepted, they will present to MFPC to brainstorm collaboration opportunities. **\*\*Vote: APPROVED**
- Update on Master Plan of Aging (Steve Schwartz)
  - Does include the two proposals we have been advocating for at the state level, Governor is supposed to announce the Plan in December. Reached out to Assemblymember Levine to follow up about introducing legislation to help fund senior nutrition.
- Biggest civil rights lawsuit ever lost was black farmers against USDA, look for a letter soon regarding the secretary of agriculture in the new administration. CFFN notes to not appoint a separate individual; both recommendations can be combined from MFPC. Liana and Steve to follow up to MFPC via email.

### **Council Business** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- [MFPC Policy Platform](#): please check the specific section(s) you worked on in previous meetings' break-out groups and provide feedback before the December MFPC meeting on Tuesday, December 15.
- December MFPC meeting: policy platform work (see above) and AIM update on Marin Civic Center farmers market permanent home
- January MFPC meeting: municipalities and community garden learning and engagement
- February MFPC meeting: reflection on 2020 and planning for 2021
- Grant Opportunities:
  - Marin Community Foundation HEAL Older Adults Collaborative Grant through IHS - MCF will regrant the current grantees at same level of funding due to the pandemic (thus MFPC will continue its funding through MCF as part of a larger collaborative effort focusing on older adults and equity issues that are pandemic related)

- CDPH grant for COVID-19 Inequities & Social Determinants of Health (from Kathy Koblick) - comes out in early December, contact Kathy Koblick with any questions

## Announcements

- Felicia: United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #2 Zero Hunger, presentation from Ryan Thayer embedded in page:  
<https://www.systemsthinkingmarin.org/sustainable-development-goals-for-marin-county/2-zero-hunger/>
- Steve: Oct 28, 2011 — In Marin County, it is unlawful to restrict housing choice on the basis ... homeowners and real estate agents used these to keep out Blacks, Jews, and other ... that would simplify the process of invalidating restrictive covenants.  
[https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/cd/federal-grants/analysis\\_of\\_impediments\\_to\\_fair\\_housing\\_choice.pdf](https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/cd/federal-grants/analysis_of_impediments_to_fair_housing_choice.pdf)
- Ryan: Community Vision is a CDFI that supports food work in the Bay Area  
<https://communityvisionca.org/breaking-down-the-strategic-plan/>

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15** from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# OCTOBER

## **10/20/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), David Lewis (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Jeff Creque (Carbon Cycle Institute and Marin Carbon Project), Jonathan Wachter (MALT), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension, Marin), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Meg Davidson (SF-Marin Food Bank), Patricia Hickey (Carbon Cycle Institute), Pelayo Alvarez ( ), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sami Mericle ( ), Sarah Hobson (West Marin Fund), Wendy Tobiasson (citizen)*

**Introductions (Announcements at end of meeting) - Liana Orlandi**

**Presentations: Climate Action Plan, Agriculture Chapter (MALT, Marin RCD, Carbon Cycle Institute, UCCE/Marin County)**

*- with David Lewis (UCCE), Jeff Creque (Carbon Cycle Institute), Jonathan Wachter (MALT)*

**Background: MFPC has previously focused on Climate Change and its influence on the local food system and agriculture going forward.**

**What does a CAP do, and specifically the ag chapter?**

- AB 32 passed by Gov Schwarzenegger meant that local jurisdictions needed to track emissions and come up with targets and goals to reduce these emissions. CAP is a way to do an emissions inventory and reduction plan. CAP to reduce emissions is not enough to reverse climate change, but is one avenue. We have long ago passed the point where reducing emissions will solve the climate problem - now we have to remove a significant percentage of the legacy load of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Ag is a significant sector of human activity with an incredible opportunity to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Ag is the only climate mitigation space in which real significant efforts can also deliver co-benefits (increased food and forage production, improved water quality and habitat, etc.). Keeping ag viable and increasing local food security are entwined.

**David Lewis, UC Cooperative Extension [\\*\\*PRESENTATION\\*\\*](#)**

- Local jurisdictions take up Climate Action Plan (CAP) to look at how the community with address greenhouse gas emissions (measures, implementations, targets, goals)
- Some targets asked of local entities by the state; local entities can aspire higher as well
- Marin is setting a higher target (50% reductions) than CA (40% reductions)
- Marin introduced an ag chapter in its 2015 CAP, which set the stage as a first step
- 2020 CAP is expanding the chapter on agriculture - The revised CAP sets a goal of reaching 30% of the acreage covered by a developed and implemented plan.
- CAP is an inventory of greenhouse gases and emissions from different sectors (variety of sectors are contributing, and as Marin writes its plan for the unincorporated parts of the County, ag contributes about 32%, verses 9% countywide
- Largely come from manure management (usually dairies), and a small amount from synthetic fertilizers
- 117,000 tons/year emitted by agriculture
- 2020 CAP received a planning grant from Department of Conservation
- 19 plans completed currently, up from 3 plans in 2015
- Full implementation of practices outlined in these 19 plans would see 11,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration per year - or 10% of greenhouse gases emitted by ag in Marin
- Currently we are at about 8-9,000 tons sequestered - beginning to chip away
- 19 beneficial practices that have been vetted by research institutions and fed agencies
- Next question: if we could scale up across all Marin ag land, what is the potential?



- Stream restoration plan potential: measure how much carbon is in the sediment and soil, use mapping techniques to calculate the percentage of Marin streams are restored and could be restored (about 5,700 acres). If you were to do that restoration, over 20 years 1 million tons of greenhouse gases would be sequestered.

#### **Jonathan Wachter, MALT**

- Analysis of potential to scale up used a number of approaches to estimate full extent practices could be implemented across Marin
- Carbon farming plan potential: using windbreaks (average of 9 ft of windbreak per acre of ag land) = 426 acres of windbreak across the whole county. Scale this up by research-based sequestration factor = 1,900 metric tons of CO2 sequestration per year.

#### **Jeff Creque, Carbon Cycle Institute**

- Dairy plan potential: question of dairy manure management and emissions, and possibilities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions here. Looked at models that had been developed for CA dairies as well as other models. Combined manure handling strategies with other on-farm practices including composting, grazing management, and agroforestry to envision if Marin could work towards a carbon negative future.
- Marin's dairy industry is largely grass-based production, so it is in a good position to be producing carbon-neutral or carbon-negative dairy products.

#### **Next Steps**

- October 12 webinar on Climate Action Plan from the perspective of all sectors, available to review and provide public comment here:  
<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2020/cda-draftc-ap-100620>
- Provide any public comment in the month of October, because it will be finalized in November and put forth to BOS on December 8.

#### **Discussion**

- Food resiliency and how to create a complete cycle... Have there been soft calculations on the real cost of bringing so much of our food into Marin?  
There are different scales of this work being done at the state and national level, as well as industry-specific (such as the carbon cost of producing a gallon of milk that is then distributed across the country). This group is working on the use of energy and the emissions of food production in this specific region. Another group could work with an economist on this question of the real cost of local vs non-local food production and consumption.
- Having an ag chapter addressing the emissions mitigation potential is hoped to lift targets and goals beyond mere emissions reduction.
- Are there job creation opportunities that have been studied?  
This group is not doing research on job work, but would be interesting.

- What about reducing meat consumption?  
Marin's ag makeup and the highest and best use of soil and water resources: of the 180,000 acres in ag production, only 400 are in crops (due to limited water resources and cooler marine climate for longer grass growing season), making Marin predominantly a grazing livestock ag area. Majority of ag contribution to emissions is from conversion of forest to rangeland in south america. Our understanding of the global warming potential from livestock methane production is reduced - only persists in the atmosphere for 10-12 years. If we can reduce methane emissions from a dairy, we can essentially effect a reduction in global warming potential over time. Grass-based livestock farming has the potential to be a climate solution rather than part of the climate problem. When you pull animals off of grasslands, thatch builds up (a form of fire suppression).
- How 'small' do these solutions go? Urban Ag, for example?  
This group's efforts focused on larger scale ag lands in unincorporated Marin, but many of the practices are applicable on smaller scale levels. Haven't quantified in urban drawdown opportunities, check Urban Sustainability Directors Network for this work.
- How are the windbreaks and restorations done: planted trees, seedlings? seeds?  
Not prescribing specific planting in the CAP, but there are a variety of ways to implement the practices.
- Do windbreaks, in slowing wind, slow soil erosion, help sink carbon, etc?  
Windbreaks are an excellent practice in that they deliver many services -- woody biomass of trees is a long lived carbon storage, their roots sink carbon, and the downwind effects can be tremendous (if you block wind in a water-limited landscape, you can significantly increase downwind plant yields).

#### **How can MFPC be involved in this effort?**

- Hopefully we've learned about yet another benefit of ag in Marin to give us more voice in the role of Marin's ag working lands, can add a nod to climate management
- This knowledge can help inform MFPC policy platform bucket on climate change and the food system
- Reach out to David ([djllewis@ucanr.edu](mailto:djllewis@ucanr.edu)), Jeff ([jcreque@carboncycle.org](mailto:jcreque@carboncycle.org)), or Johnathan ([jwachter@malt.org](mailto:jwachter@malt.org)) with any questions
- Watch Kiss the Ground to learn more about solutions

#### **Policy Updates** (Liana Orlandi & All)

- CFFN has made a commitment to put equity at the center of their work, which aligns with MFPC's endeavors to focus more on equity that we have in the past
- CFFN asked membership to vote on whether or not CFFN should take a stance on Props 15, 16, 17 and 22 - Approved
- Links to endorsement forms in email from Bonnie
- Does MFPC want to take further action at this time? Should MFPC be listed as endorsing each of Props 15, 16, and 17, and opposing Prop 22? **VOTE: approved**

- Steering Committee will submit the statements
- How did the 2020 Legislative season shook out for bills they were tracking (see email with chart)
  - AB 2043 (MFPC sent LOS) -- signed into law
  - AB 2054 (MFPC did not take a stand) -- vetoed by Gov
  - AB 3121 (MFPC did not take a stand) -- signed into law
  - AB 3073 -- signed into law
  - AB 1876 -- signed into law
- Latino Coalition for Healthy CA factsheet shared by Julia -- policy recs to increase food access and provide resources to communities impacted by Covid \*more info on social media under #LatinxCovidFacts
- Yesterday CA announced \$60 million in new investments in emergency food from CARES Act relief fund (Marchon)
- P-EBT 2.0 rolling out - extend P-EBT to the end of the 2021 school year. New set of cards will be mailed out in the next coming weeks. (Marchon)

#### **Council Business - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Update on Black Lives Matter work -- continues each month. In addition to state props discussed, is there anything local we should be aware of surrounding racial or social justice? Can always email the Steering Committee with anything.
- Update on Policy Platform
- Recap what's next for the rest of 2020
  - November: redlining and implications on food access
  - December: Policy Platform, AIM permanent farmers market, year-end activities  
\*\*There WILL be a December meeting on Tuesday 12/15, as the third Tuesday is 10 days prior to Christmas\*\*
- Potential education efforts for Marin residents about ag in Pt Reyes and in West Marin

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:30 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **9/15/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Meg Davidson (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (citizen)*

## **Introductions & Share a Word (Announcements at end of meeting) - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

### **Policy Platform Development - Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Review updated problem statements, key topics, and identify next steps. Combination of 1-2 people moving things forward and group process.

- CalFresh (Reba)
- Climate Change (Julia)
- Food Equity & Racial Justice (Ryan)
- Older Adults & Farm to Institution (Steve) -- did not meet today

Facilitators take notes here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZiIl6lITpMfVS3gFGLmOhMB3tsCZwmbILlkyWrzbzE/edit?usp=sharing>

Tasks within groups:

- 1) Introductions (name, organization, role)
- 2) Re-visit and define the problem statement
- 3) Identify the key sub-issues that fall within the bucket.
- 4) Identify specific equity impacts on children, older adults, and BIPOC.

Example: [National Agenda for a Sustainable Food System](#)

### **Report-out**

- **CalFresh** (Steve): PEBT clarification, addition to problem statement about maximizing enrollment even during natural disaster, nutrition incentives clarification, added bullets around equity. Could add something around addressing Marin's low ranking of CalFresh enrollment - data supporting why the issue is so important for Marin. Possibility to explain effects of Covid on enrollment, what did we learn?  
*Feel the group is a 4.5 in terms of completing this bucket (1-5).*
- **Food Equity & Racial Justice** (Ryan): who is a part of this group and who isn't, sensitivity around terminology and the use of the term "food desert" vs the term "food apartheid" - how are we holding ourselves accountable to ensuring all can participate. Regarding recruitment: is this a welcoming space, is this the right space? Could we stipend community members to participate, do we need to set up a model to go to them? Baltimore example: community members came in for a short period of time and engaged around topics that mattered to them (utilized local papers and gave members stipends). Both the *WHAT* (policy topics) and the *HOW* (we do our work together). Race Counts report published in 2017 available at [racecounts.org](http://racecounts.org). A Portrait of Marin is a MCF report that talks about the disparity issues.  
[https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mcf-redesign-assets/pdfs/A\\_Portrait\\_of\\_Marin.pdf?mtime=20170106150247&focal=none](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mcf-redesign-assets/pdfs/A_Portrait_of_Marin.pdf?mtime=20170106150247&focal=none). MFPC is planning fall learning (hopefully November) on redlining in Marin - if anyone has contacts for potential presenters, please

let us know (Sharon Turner, Katie Rice public comment on redlining still in the language of her home)

*Feel the group is a 2.5 in terms of completing this bucket (1-5).*

**Next steps:** work on an engagement plan - would that be a structure worth exploring? It would help us understand the problem better, may or may not help ID solutions (maybe that's where MFPC work would come in?). Some hesitation about going back to the community asking about problems again without offering solutions, though this is not an excuse not to engage. Could take some solutions that have begun and ask for comment to help refine solutions? How to tie in with HEAL? Work on our *HOW* before continuing on the *WHAT*.

- **Climate Change** (Julia): worked on narrowing problem statement. Key point: don't want to reinvent the wheel and make sure our work is aligned with climate action plans of Drawdown Marin and various municipalities, look to them as leaders and align our work, while holding the unique role that food and farming has in this topic. Permaculture can be a key element of the discussion.

*Feel the group is a 3 in terms of completing this bucket (1-5) -- halfway, need time to make work succinct, and make climate change link to other policy areas as well.*

*Perhaps each group can explain how they link to the others so we can eventually form a coordinated statement.*

- Three months of group work; now is time for the Steering Committee and key volunteers to take it to the next step in forming a final draft - if interested please contact the Steering Committee. Steering Committee to align with HEAL work in the meantime as well. Learning sessions next two months (Climate in October and redlining in November) and then present on this in November or December. December MFPC Meeting -- please save Tuesday, December 15 and plan on joining us to wrap up 2020.

## **Policy Updates - Steve Schwartz & All**

- **Request for Introduction of Anti-Hunger Proclamation** (Marchon Tatmon) - September is Hunger Action Month, aligns with Gov Newsom taking legislative action on AB 826. Want BOS to write a Hunger Action Month Anti-Hunger proclamation for this on-going crisis, especially during Covid. Timeline: as soon as possible. Marchon to make it more specific to Marin County, MFPC members encouraged to provide feedback to Marchon directly as well, and Marchon will let the Steering Committee know if he needs anything in support.

**Vote for MFPC to be a co-sponsor of the proclamation (comfortable bringing the proclamation to BOS): approved.**

- **Master Plan on Aging** (Steve Schwartz) - Gov announced in June 2019 he'd look for input until October 2020. Nothing included on food initially, so some FPC advocates wanted to make sure food was addressed, stakeholder advisory committees met, drafted a plan that could impact aging issues for the next 10 years - draft (with 700 recommendations!!) released Saturday meeting.

**Next steps: recommend sending a follow-up letter to Dept of Aging thanking them**

**for including what they did and make sure food content stays in the final.** Steve and Reba will propose to Steering Committee.

**Vote to submit supplemental letter: approved.**

- FRAC [sign-on letter](#) to [Extend School Meal Program Waivers](#) (Julia Van Soelen Kim) -- *skipped*

#### **Council Business** - Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Update on Black Lives Matter work and focus on food justice for BIPOC communities in Marin
  - Planning fall session on historical redlining: hopefully in November
  - Meeting trajectory for the remainder of the year October: Climate Change learning, November: redlining learning, December: report back on policy platform and wrap up 2020

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## AUGUST

### **8/18/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Hannah Appel (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Molly Maguire (Bolin Community Center Kitchen), Paula Freeman (Covia), Poco Giacommini (San Geronimo Community Center), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (citizen)*

**Introductions & Share a Word (Announcements at end of meeting)** - Liana Orlandi

**Policy Platform Development** - Julia Van Soelen Kim introduce breakout rooms, facilitators take notes here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZiIl6lITpMfVS3gFGLmOhMB3tsCZwmbILlkyWrzbzE/edit?usp=sharing>



*Goals: increase efficiency, consistency, document what we learn and get down collective knowledge in one central space.*

Revisit problem statement and buckets:

- CalFresh (Reba)
- Climate Change (Julia)
- Food Equity & Racial Justice (Liana)
- Older Adults & Farm to Institution (Steve)

Tasks within groups:

- 1) Introductions (name, organization, role)
- 2) Re-visit and define the problem statement
- 3) Identify the key sub-issues that fall within the bucket.
- 4) Identify specific equity impacts on children, older adults, and BIPOC.

What is a policy platform, and what is a goal?

- Goal: collectively have a living document we have built together than inventories the topical areas that we have shared expertise in. If something is added to our policy platform, this enables our SC to weigh in and move more quickly rather than wait until the next monthly meeting. As we continue learning we can add to this living document. As members come and go, it gives us an opportunity to know that we don't lose that knowledge when someone needs to step away, can capture the knowledge in the policy platform.

### **Policy Updates - Steve Schwartz & All**

- [AB 826 \(Santiago\) Food Assistance](#) (Marchon Tatmon) -- vital piece of legislation especially during this pandemic. Establishes a one time emergency food assistance fund for Californians affected by COVID. It reaches everyone; does not depend on immigration status. Not federal govt assistance. Would be like a CA issued EBT card, separate from CalFresh. It passed through the Senate Human Services committee and is heading to the Appropriations committee now. SF-Marin Food Bank is accepting letters of support, has a template, Marchon will email the letter with instructions. Letter needs to be sent out by the end of business day tomorrow (Wednesday 8/19).
- [CA Master Plan on Aging letter on nutrition funding](#) (Cathryn Couch) -- over a year ago state agencies were charged to develop a Master Plan on Aging, there have been a series of stakeholder meetings working on these recommendations. Distressed at lack of mention of food and nutrition in the conversation, no linking with health outcomes, quality of life, etc. No board statement that food security is a human right and underlies many other components of the recommendations. Drafted 4 overarching principles addressing food, nutrition security, and health, getting ready to send to the Director of Aging, to submit to the Master Plan. This is not legislation, but it is laying the foundation for how we approach policy opportunities going forward; this is the document that lays

the groundwork for many other programs within CA and Marin County. Trying to roll something out in October. Asking partners and collaborators to sign on. If your individual organization would like to sign on, please email Reilly Briggs at [rbriggs@ceresproject.org](mailto:rbriggs@ceresproject.org) with your name, title, organization, and logo by COB Thursday 8/20. MFPC has a commitment to focusing on the needs of older adults, similar to many of our member organizations. Perhaps MFPC should do something in addition to this letter to make sure all programs, needs, and policy solutions are called out. Language in the letter allows space for other programs perhaps not mentioned yet. Comment that we may want to do an additional letter talking about other programs with specific asks.

**\*\*Vote to sign on to letter: APPROVED\*\***

- State funding for senior nutrition initiatives update <http://interfaithfood.org/static/media/uploads/finalseniornutritionletter8-7-2020.pdf> (Steve Schwartz) -- we've hired an advocate (lobbyist in Sacramento), letter went out, we have some 10 statewide groups signed on and it really started with the MFPC and our member orgs - total 55 groups, which builds momentum. Legislature will be in session a couple more weeks, thinking might be a smaller budget (impacted by CARES Act stalled currently in DC). Meeting with Sec of Agriculture and Albert Straus tomorrow, speaking with other reps - working on it from many angles. Still time for you and others to sign on - this is a long game. Question to Steve from Cathryn if he has asked CAFF and CCOF to sign on to this? (CAFF asked, no commitment yet. CCOF, not asked directly.)
- Pandemic EBT -- SF-Marin Food Bank working on advocating for another issue of PEBT in 4 areas: adjusting definition of school closures, establish standard benefit levels for modified school schedules, granting states discretion to establish eligibility and benefits for children in specified regions, and providing states options to address Unmet Need of Child care-eligible children. Successful thus far: approx. 90% of eligible applied for the current round of PEBT state-wide!
- Other CFFN Updates: Farm to school, and farm worker support -- state approved \$10 million for Farm to School funding (we had signed on this). Being asked for right now: support for bills supporting farmworkers in this COVID moment - contact Steve Schwartz if your organization is interested, Steve to share info with MFPC. Steve to communicate MFPC support directly with CFFN.

#### **Food Justice as Social Justice - Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Determine next steps for Black Lives Matter Statement: *tabled for next month*  
If you would like to help with this work and writing public comments, please reach out to Liana or any Steering Committee members.
- Share any anti-racism policy work locally: *none now, to remain a standing agenda topic*

#### **Evaluation Poll - Liana Orlandi**

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

# JULY

## **7/21/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Bonny White (Marin County Free Library), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Maggie Gori (Catholic Charities), Meg Davidson (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson*

**Introductions & Share a Word (Announcements at end of meeting) – Liana Orlandi**

**Policy Platform Development – Julia Van Soelen Kim introduce breakout rooms**

*Goals: increase efficiency, consistency, document what we learn and get down collective knowledge in one central space.*

Create problem statement around topic, and specific sub-issues in this topic.

Initial topics to develop outline of the Policy Platform (with equity lens and older adults lens woven throughout):

- CalFresh
- Climate Change
- Food Equity & Racial Justice
- Older Adults

Additional topics: (local) food supply chain, food availability, food access as upstream health prevention strategy. Suggestion to rename the first category: Healthy Food Access. Nutrition security?

Breakout room feedback:

- Positive: participatory, able to have a good conversation, not awkward or clunky as feared, increase the speed and amount we could accomplish.
- Negative: we didn't know the groups we were in or necessarily have the content knowledge, no screen share option in breakout group, didn't totally understand the prompt

## Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz & All

- (old business) Updates & Action Items on Pandemic EBT & Online CalFresh (All)
  - P-EBT put \$365 in hands of parents of low income kids, but 1/3 of eligible people were going to have to enroll. We put together a letter to the superintendent of schools about the extended deadline from June 30 to July 15, as well as option to double benefits through market match. The superintendent responded positively within 24 hours = success.
  - With the governor's announcement on Friday of no in-person instruction in schools, it will be more important to have a new chunk of P-EBT dollars. Heads-up to look for a potential opportunity there.
- (old business) Update on Marin Sheriff's budget reduction (Reba Meigs)
  - Thanks to folks for being willing to make a quick decision in a short amount of time due to relevancy. \$1.7 million reduction in the budget to be reallocated to address racial inequality issues in the county. Process of making comments around the sheriff's budget yielded additional work:
    - Stop sheriff working with ICE
    - Request to closing down part of county jail
    - Exploring with HHS at how we respond to mental health calls to 911, looking at alternatives
- (old business) Update on Senior Farmers Market Promotion Program (Steve Schwartz)
  - Needs more funding, only serving 37,000 seniors statewide. Lots of effort over the last 3 years to improve the way the 500 seniors in Marin are served. This year CA decided to do things differently, not work with local county and regional folks, instead work with CA association of food banks. No advocacy asks at the moment.
- Senior Nutrition state budget asks (Steve)
  - Expand Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Letter ready for sign on. Contract with Rebecca (lobbyist) is up at the end of the month - we may want to extend for a couple months. Grow the number of eligible seniors from 37,000 to 147,000. Any risk to asking for more money given that the program isn't being run how it previously has been run? Supposedly these changes are just for this season, and if money is awarded it can be put towards Area Agencies on Aging.
  - \$5 million to launch a new senior serving institutions with fresh food (similar to Farm to School) - including skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities.
    - Lots are owned by larger corporations that are embedded with complicated decision-making structures and existing contracts for food procurement. Lot of work to be done with who to reach out to. Lots of hurdles including ownership of facilities and bureaucracy. Needs some thinking through to make it actually viable. No foundational work that has been done with that group of entities. We don't know if there is any demand in that group - we need buy-in first.

- We do have someone on our team who has been talking with folks regional to get a sense - and short list - of interested parties. If you know of others, please let Reba and Steve know.
  - Does it make sense to limit aid to facilities operated by non-profits? Carve out some of the money for technical assistance providers?
- Federal advocacy opportunities (Steve)
  - CARES Act (3 different), Heroes Act in the House right now. Would like to see MFPC take a stand to expand P-EBT funding to offer it again in the fall?
- (new) SB 729 (Portantino) (Liana Orlandi)
  - Create a statute codifying Gov executive order extending paid quarantine leave to food sector workers.
- (new) AB 685 (Reyes) (Liana Orlandi)
  - Requires 24-hour notice to employees should COVID exposure occur, also requires employers to report positive tests to Cal OSHA & Department of Public Health.
- Child feeding sign-on letter circulated by CA Food Policy Advocates - asking USDA to waive remaining waivers. Deadline is Friday, July 24th

#### **Linking our Work to Draw Down Marin (Wendy Tobiason)**

- Food is a good way to connect people to climate change - it isn't separate.
- There is still a lot of recoverable food going to the landfill.
- It is really hard to make a living as a farmer.
- DrawDown was set up to ID projects already happening that we can try to do more of - expand on what is already working rather than trying to reinvent the wheel
- Pillars identified: Grow food locally, encourage people to shop locally, and compost waste
- Local Food and Food Waste committee has identified 6 ideas:
  - Ag community events to do an online curbside pick-up
  - Healthy food videos made by students - contact Lori Davis with Sanzuma if interested
  - AIM Center for Food and Agriculture endorsed by DrawDown committee
  - Update on ExtraFood.org work and projects
  - Organic disposal discussion - new requirements around reducing food waste are coming into effect... how to coordinate with ZeroWaste Marin to get more green material composted rather than head to the landfill
  - More resilient food system concept - not clear enough yet on an ask. How can we bring groups together to talk about climate change? Add a sentence in letters of support on how work supports climate change, where appropriate?
- Are there opportunities for collaboration or approaches with MFPC and DrawDown Marin? Set up a focused activity to define how to create a more resilient food system in the county?

**Food Justice as Social Justice** (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim) - *moved to August MFPC meeting*

- Determine next steps for Black Lives Matter Statement
- Share any anti-racism policy work locally

**Announcements**

- To get AAI's newsletter, email Sami at [support@agingactioninitiative.org](mailto:support@agingactioninitiative.org) to be added to the list. Monday 2pm sessions on issues affecting older adults - food has been identified as a topic of interest.
- Food Bank Drive Thru Food Distribution: Northgate Mall. Please spread the word! Wednesdays 11:00-2:00pm -Weekly registration required. Registration opens at 10am on the preceding Thursday: <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/drive-thru-registration/>. No internet access? Call 628-272-8430.
- Webinar: July 23 12-1pm, Healthy Food Access Policies and Prioritizing Equity Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis  
[https://www.vermontlaw.edu/news-and-events/event/hot-topics-2020-healthy-food-access-policies-and-prioritizing-equity-amidst?utm\\_source=Healthy+Food+Policy+Project&utm\\_campaign=e2bb0e409b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_12\\_13\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_19c261563e-e2bb0e409b-360895377](https://www.vermontlaw.edu/news-and-events/event/hot-topics-2020-healthy-food-access-policies-and-prioritizing-equity-amidst?utm_source=Healthy+Food+Policy+Project&utm_campaign=e2bb0e409b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_19c261563e-e2bb0e409b-360895377).
- UC ANR 2020 Food Systems Resiliency Spotlight Webinar Series, including Webinar #2 - California Food Systems: Partnerships and Resources on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 am with Andy Naja-Riese with AIM. Get more information and register online here: <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=30590>.
- Move meetings to avoid zoom exhaustion?

**Virtual meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## JUNE

**6/16/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Alexandra Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Maggie Gori (Catholic Charities), Melanie Raquel (Marin Housing Authority), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sandy Turner Parry (North*



Bay Children's Center), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson

## Introductions & Announcements – Liana Orlandi

- Linda: AAI started weekly info sessions about topics concerning people who work for older adults. If interested in receiving the AAI newsletter, email: [support@agingactioninitiative.org](mailto:support@agingactioninitiative.org).
- Lauren: several school gardens are growing food specifically for donation over the summer (San Pedro, Edna Maguire, Tam Valley, Redwood High School), as well as a couple community gardens (2 Mill Valley gardens)
- Wendy: data project - food bank has been setting up new sites across the county and delivering increasing amounts of food (150,000 up to 250,000 lbs of food/week)
- Cathryn: 2 efforts going on; 1) Rockefeller Foundation focus area around climate and food systems, gotten interested in opportunities revealed by COVID to create transformational change as we build back after COVID (coming out with report at end of June/July with high level priorities, systems level policy change); 2) Aspen Inst Food and Society Initiative around food as medicine to integrate food as a health care intervention. Contact Cathryn at [ccouch@ceresproject.org](mailto:ccouch@ceresproject.org) any with thoughts, research questions etc.
- Felicia: [systemsthinkingmarin.org](http://systemsthinkingmarin.org) recent blog on systems thinking "One Book to Save the World" - <https://www.systemsthinkingmarin.org/2020/06/09/one-book-to-save-the-world-thinking-in-systems-by-donella-meadows/>

## Food Justice as Social Justice - Statement on Black Lives Matter and Discussion on anti-racism policy work locally (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- Statement from Liana and the MFPC Steering Committee: *The Marin Food Policy Council stands with the Black Lives Matter movement. We acknowledge the deep pain and inequity caused by generations of systemic racism - including within our food system. Racist policies have dictated where people live, their ability to access land to grow food and the ability to purchase and sell culturally appropriate food in their own communities, as well as, have limited access to capital to start and sustain food businesses. Marin Food Policy Council's 2016 report, "Equitable Access to Healthy and Local Food in Marin County" highlighted Marin City's status as a food desert – one more way that racism survives in our local food system. Given the inequities that persist, we commit to envisioning and elevating anti-racist policies, magnifying the voices of Black communities in Marin County, and partnering with other organizations to create meaningful change.*
- Should MFPC issue a formal statement and work together to move this draft forward with greater input and perspective from MFPC members, or is holding space here preferable?
  - **Yes**, important to stand up and say what we believe
  - Suggestion to add brown lives matter as well. BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) or center attention on Black Americans specifically? Specific movement

around Black Americans now is very real, but perhaps a both/and situation now where BIPOC could be included as well?

- Lots of statements like this are coming out right now, might want to consider something about setting a goal or timeline in addition to an intention? Increase specificity? Something like “We want to see Marin County meet \_\_\_\_” etc? MFPC can work towards this specificity. Perhaps to work on a Policy Platform that will include an equity lens?
- **MFPC will take this feedback and revise to send out to our listserv and get on our website/public record, and use it as a living document that informs decisions going forward. Marin Voice piece (600 words max)?**
- Is there current local anti-racism work that we could and should be engaging in?
  - Budget discussions at the county level - not only is the sheriff department not taking 10% cut, but asking for more funding - this funding could be reallocated. There is no reason funding should be increased at a time like this. The board will meet next Monday June 22nd. Marin Organizing committee is working on a statement supporting no increase in funding this year. **MFPC vote on drafting a letter asking the board to not support an increase in funds and reallocate any funds to equitable food access in Marin.**
  - <https://8cantwait.org/> looks at police reform and current policy, county-specific
  - Work to support black farmers? As well as other people of color? Find specific groups we can support or invite to MFPC? Black and Indigenous-led farming collective in Oakland that we may be able to work with around amplifying the farming work of Black Americans in Marin - <https://www.blackearthfarms.com/>, and Gayle Meyers, Farms To Grow, Inc. (supports black farmers).
  - Work around the County in areas of education (Marin Promise), housing, economics and jobs, law enforcement... Work with food and COVID links to housing and place... people coming from other counties to serve Marin (such as farm workers and other essential workers), need assistance as well.
  - The Marin Equity Initiative (Leadership for Equity and Opportunity alumni group) to figure out next steps for Marin to move the needle.
  - Renaming statues and places tied to colonial practices (such as Sir Francis Drake) - hearings happening this next week so should act quickly.
  - How organizational efforts led by white leadership can connect with orgs on the ground led by POC and step back to let them take the lead.
  - Would like to hear directly from farm workers about their situation, as well as from people who are working in Marin but can't afford to live here.
  - IJ and editorials would be helpful to bring awareness to our efforts and the needs of the communities.
  - MFPC Policy Platform work has been on hold, but these threads should feed into the MFPC Policy Platform that we do develop.
  - CFFN is using interesting approaches around racial equity and bringing that lens to all policy choices that the org makes.

- Reba and Ryan can pull numbers to show decreased funding for food equity work to show the need for increased funding (deflected from police).
- MFPC can work to make discrepancies in Marin more visible/known/talked about - need to elevate the message that there are hungry people in this county.

### **Community Garden Municipal Policy discussion (Lauren Klein)**

- Deeply rooted in equity root: not everyone has equal access to healthy fresh food - or the land to grow their own - in Marin.
- Support demand, grow resiliency, flourish!
- Collaborative grant focused on supporting senior residents in Marin; Lauren's piece has included senior residence gardens. With flexibility from MCF, Lauren is shifting her focus back to policy work she began in 2014, and she needs MFPC ideas and support.
- MFPC decided that a focus would be local food production and community gardens (trying to make them easier to make) in response to UCCE Needs assessment in 2010 revealing huge demand for garden plots county-wide. Marin BOS adopted a Resolution on Equitable Access to Healthy and Local Food including research that came out of this initiative.
- Lauren looks at policies in municipalities that prevent the easy and ready creation of gardens. Asks for community gardens to be deemed a "permitted use."
- Currently there are 11 comm gardens, 4 cities in Marin with no comm gardens (2 of which have the demand). Have tried on 2 occasions to establish gardens in Corte Madera, heading into a third try. Mill Valley, San Rafael, and Larkspur are success stories - they have involved Parks and Rec depts in partial staffing to support their comm gardens. These still have long wait lists.
- Novato and San Rafael have comm gardens listed as "permitted use", but have still not broken ground (location sighted in Novato).
- County is supportive of comm gardens in its General Plan; we are not alone (but we are somewhat behind). There even is language in the General Plan to encourage creation of comm gardens and edible landscapes, including town land! This doesn't necessarily mean that they won't run into lots of challenges - need to streamline.
- There were 800 victory gardens in Golden Gate Park!
- Interest in estimates of what the potential amount of food production is possible with community gardens in Marin - how many people would be impacted and how that would contribute to addressing Food Insecurity in Marin. This data could make conversations more impactful. How do we make the case that comm gardens work deserves to be looked at in a significant way - show that we could actually move the needle on Food Insecurity. Even just using rough numbers of food production possible and how much Food Insecurity that would alleviate. Value to our community of addressing the issue. Policymakers want specifics, numbers. Could look at the estimate of what is currently in our communities (from Comm Gardens map), and project what it could be based on land that is available? Would this data blow people away? Or highlight the healthy eating

active living perspective instead? Both? Hyper local issue and decision. Have waiting lists changed during COVID?

- Can we get mention and inclusion in climate action plans as well - as a local solution? Marin County is updating CAPs now. All Marin municipalities except one and county encourage community gardens as climate mitigation in their Climate Action Plans, but it doesn't make it happen in a timely way.
- Due to the 10% budget cuts looming right now - now is not the time to ask municipalities to spend money on this. Anything jurisdictions can do that is free is a more realistic ask right now, such as public land being made available without permits, rather than asking for funding for staff. Highest ask is getting comm gardens into the language of GPs and eliminate restricted language during updates (free). Letters need to be tailored for each jurisdiction.
- Lauren is asking to institutionalize comm gardens and have them supported by municipalities. **First step is a letter of support that Lauren is working on - will circulate to MFPC along with meeting minutes looking for feedback. Preliminary thumbs-up vote of approval today for MFPC to co-author this letter of support along with UCCE: . Also ask for individual organizations to sign-on where it makes sense.**
- Does MFPC want to do a roundtable with elected officials? Work on shared use agreements with schools?
- This is work MFPC has led with UCCE in the past, but it wasn't the right time - people seem more amenable to change right now due to current urgency around food insecurity as well as climate change.
- Importance and power of localizing food systems is huge, name "community gardens" makes it sound a little quaint... perhaps use "community food production" or "urban farming" or other name. Workforce development and job creation. Words matter. Locally empowered gardens also drive agency and empowerment and food sovereignty.
- Future to feed the world is looking at small local farming.
- 10-15% of Oakland food could be sourced from within the city if available land was used for food production. Urban Tilth.
- Sonoma County third of comm gardens are on faith-based sites, rented for \$1/year.
- SB 1000 mandating all municipalities to update GPs and include racial equity lens and environmental impact lens on food access, could tie back to the equity conversation and be a leverage point to discuss with local decision-makers.

## **Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz)**

- Updates & Action Items on Pandemic EBT & Online CalFresh
  - Julia will provide a concise report-out of items in this area.
  - Lots of activity in the County trying to get people to enroll - over 9000 people (including undocumented people) in Marin are eligible for this. About 3,600 need to enroll (by June 30!).

- USDA technically could extend P-EBT once next school year begins, but under federal law they can only extend the program through Fiscal Year 2020 which ends on September 30th, and only if there is still a public health emergency designation in place. CDSS and CDE will likely request an extension of P-EBT for the next school year if it looks like it will be needed and at that point we will put pressure on USDA to accept the waiver request. Between now and the start of August, USDA is unlikely to act on any requests for waivers of a P-EBT extension. They have been extending waivers on a month by month basis.
  - Food Bank working with 6 organizations on P-EBT Application assistance in San Rafael, Novato, Marin City, and West Marin. Food Bank looking at funding to support P-EBT Applications. Spotlighted the opportunity on Spanish radio. Will have updated applicant numbers at the end of the month. State is swamped, difficult to get through to help lines for clients to set up programs. Drafting a letter of challenges asking for more guidance from the state.
  - Schools worked on messaging going out county-wide in two rounds to ensure that families were aware.
- Update & Letter to CDFA on Senior Farmers Market Promotion Program (Steve Schwartz)
  - Model changing due to COVID, plan was to delay and change the way it worked with farmers markets. Area Agencies on Aging, AIM, and other orgs wrote a letter asking for the integrity of the program to be preserved, and this will likely happen.
  - Interfaith and others putting funding towards a lobbyist (Rebecca Marcus) to work on this, looking at options for the June as well as August budget.
  - If we don't have a victory in the short term, we build understanding and allies. Also, Rockefeller is working at a federal level to extend P-EBT and have identified a form of B-EBT that should be available on an ongoing basis anytime kids are out of school for 3+ days.
  - This is the first time that MFPC is stepping up into a place of co-sponsoring direct policy education advocacy work at the state level as opposed to signing onto the work of others. **Looking for other orgs who would like to be part of this process with Steve and Reba, as well as non-profit organizations with small pots of money they would like to contribute to this advocacy process.**
- Farm to Elders proposal (Steve Schwartz)
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California sign-on letter to support the Latinx community during COVID-19 (Liana Orlandi) - time sensitive so it was sent out in-between MFPC meetings. A Letter on increases in SNAP was sent out the same day, Liana will send both out to MFPC to look over.
- **Letter to BOS to request no increase in sheriff budget** - Reba to draft. MFPC vote: Julia doesn't know if UCCE, HHS, and other county departments can support that, sensitive to wording of the ask. Take a breath and pause, and out of respect for our work in food justice, perhaps can word it delicately enough to support. Start with MFPC comment on racial justice shared earlier by Liana, add onto that. Reba to draft, will

distribute to MFPC for feedback - watch your inbox. **VOTE: MFPC members voted to see the draft letter first before approval.**

#### **HEAL Update** (Julia Van Soelen Kim)

- CalFresh, Food Now, Built Environment groups are meeting every other week during COVID to talk about emergency food response, invite MFPC members to join if working in this area.

#### **Linking our Work to Draw Down Marin** (Wendy Tobiasson)

- Presentation to DrawDown Marin: lot of food resiliency opportunities around climate change and equity access and food insecurity. AIM got fully approved, others some approval. *Full presentation is tabled until July meeting.*

#### **Closing** (Julia Van Soelen Kim and Liana Orlandi)

- Question of returning to holding MFPC meetings from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (rather than ending at 4:30)? Discussion: some yes (relevant important work), but majority *no* (too much zoom these days - be more succinct in shaping agenda and holding people to agenda times).

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 21 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## MAY

#### **5/19/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Alexandra Danino (SF-Marin Food Bank), Andy Naja-Riese (AIM), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Cathryn Couch, (CERES Community Project), Juliette Martinez, Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi, Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Kelly Brown (Covia), Maggie Gori (Catholic Charities), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Paula Freeman (Covia), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Roxana Yekta (Marin County HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sandy Turner Parry (North Bay Children's Center), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Summer Sullivan (Petaluma Bounty), Susan Lopes (Mill Valley Chamber), Wendy Tobiasson*

#### **Introductions & Announcements** – Liana Orlandi

- Cathryn - AB 3118 - fund pilot for medically supported food moved out of committee and has gone to appropriations (food as a medicare supported benefit). Can forward email for letters of support. Please submit Letters of Support to the Assembly Appropriations



Committee via the Position Letter Portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>. Letters should be on your organizational letterhead, and be addressed to the Hon. Lorena Gonzalez, Chair, Appropriations Committee and should be submitted by noon on Tuesday, May 26. Please also send a copy to Vanessa Cedeno, Supervisor Chan's Deputy Chief of Staff at [vanessa.cedeno@acgov.org](mailto:vanessa.cedeno@acgov.org).

- Wendy - Local Food and Food Waste team presented to DrawDown Marin, there's interest in some suggestions (including AIM's permanent market, drive-up farmers market concept, compost solutions, measuring and mapping food issues in Marin and linking organizations working in these areas)
- Julia - Marc Levine Town Hall webinar (with Andy from AIM and Meg from SF-Marin Food Bank) was well attended and had great resources.

**Update from Marin County HEAL Collaborative - Ryan Thayer & Roxana Yekta**

- HEAL Collaborative meeting weekly to try to connect the different sectors and partners. Looking at larger picture response efforts and how they are being implemented on the ground level (such as Marin Recovers and the business sector and recovery food element). Also working on the Great Plates (restaurant meal delivery program). Looking for gaps and looking at the work through an equity lens. Working on a strategic planning process and metrics to support an equitable food access landscape supported by data. Data from: agencies collecting bulk food (tracking how many lbs of food is being delivered to see where gaps are), CalFresh data, demographic data to get an accurate picture of the county landscape. Group is meeting Tuesdays 11:30-1pm, and all are welcome to join the call.

**Panel discussion: Pandemic EBT and CalFresh EBT Online** - Alexandra Danino (SF Marin Food Bank), D'Angelo Paillet (Health and Human Services), Roxana Yekta (Health and Human Services), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Andy Naja-Riese (Ag Institute of Marin), Paula Freeman (Covia)

**Pandemic EBT** - support for families of kids eligible for free and reduced meals at grade K-12 schools in 18 different school districts - does not require an application and comes directly to families in need. Cards began to be mailed May 8th to 4,260 people - \$365 per child (a one-time \$ award). School districts sending a letter regarding P-EBT through online system, "Peach Jar", and robocalls to everyone in the 18 school districts. Gave information in English and Spanish ahead of time of families receiving the cards in the mail. Challenge: need to dismantle concerns about Public Charge and online shopping. P-EBT can be used *for up to one year* anywhere that accepts EBT (in-person), at grocery stores, participating farmers markets (+ market match), and online at Amazon & Walmart. Award was already given to 4260 eligible kids + 3634 potential kids still exist = 7,894 total eligible in Marin. Happening through the month of MAY, need to get the word out for 3,634 potential newly eligible applicants. Application period is May 22-June 30, 2020. Not sure if this applies to children in daycare and Headstart - assume it is not, although holding subsidized spots could be a window of possibility here; could be a potential advocacy opportunity. More info at:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/EBT/Pandemic/20200508-P-EBT-Outreach-Toolkit.pdf>.

**Advocacy opportunities for P-EBT:**

- **Extending P-EBT benefits through Hero's Act** (House of Representatives proposed and passed overwhelmingly, moved to Senate for a vote - claimed to be dead on arrival) If House and Senate can coordinate and get it passed, will help more than just extending P-EBT, including: offset deficits states will face (CA = \$54-58 million deficit), will establish fund for hazard pay for essential workers, help with sick leave, and more. Need to reach out to our Republican counterparts to turn the bill into a bi-partisan bill. Do so now - Senate vote in the next week. Community based orgs can submit Letters of Support, also reach out to our networks to people who may have connections to Republican legislators. More info on Hero's Act:  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6800/text>.
- Could encourage Marin County to educate retailers about P-EBT program including signage letting consumers know P-EBT is accepted there, to extend the impact of P-EBT
- Get more retailers to accept EBT and lift all boats: opportunity to gain a more clear landscape of which retailers currently accept EBT, layered with demographic info of income and CalFresh application submissions and recipients, to inform a County strategy to recruit more retailers as part of recovery efforts.
- Since P-EBT is reaching so many families who may not have historically received CalFresh, this could be a way to inform folks of CalFresh resources for aid for the longhaul.
- Farmers markets (AIM San Rafael, Fairfax, and Novato markets) focus is signage so people know they can use their EBT and P-EBT benefits there, including market match; and if people don't have it, that they can apply. It is possible for a family to have both CalFresh card and P-EBT cards, and thus receive up to \$20 a day through market match. Outreach to kids of migrant farmworkers in Marin and Sonoma is important, to ensure they have the opportunity to apply for the program. Sample messaging from the state doesn't include reference to farmers markets, market match, CSAs or produce/farm stands.
- Would be nice to show support of our local farmers, many of whom are on the CalFresh program, to show the whole picture of the issue.
- Learned from additional CalFresh (D-CalFresh or D-SNAP) the registration window was too short. Can we extend the date to enroll? Through June 30th? Advocate to schools to send families a letter, a separate communication or reminder to people who aren't automatically enrolled (could be a school board decision or individual school admin decision).
- CA Dept of Education has access to a list of families on free and reduced meals - they should auto-enroll these families. Families newly unemployed won't necessarily have their kids enrolled in free and reduced meals. New unemployment applicants might not be informed of EBT and P-EBT when they apply.
- Marin Recovers website mentions signing up for CalFresh when searching for "EBT", but it might help to put info there about P-EBT as well as specific opportunities like the Market Match.

- Work local to ensure that current efforts reach as many people as possible, or work higher up to ensure greater benefits for longer, or both?

### **CalFresh EBT Online -**

- CalFresh online EBT recently approved (previously cardholders could not place orders online), though options are limited (especially in Marin) to Walmart and Amazon Pantry.
- Attempts to troubleshoot around zip codes that it is and is not accepted - very limited.
- This is a long-awaited achievement, especially timely given Shelter in Place order. Generally this is a good thing: CalFresh also recently available to a greater number of people due to newly eligible SSI recipients, simplified application process, application assisters network, increase in maximum allotment, waiver of recertification process and "star 7s". Still needs work on its limitations.
- Challenges: No info on the front page of Amazon for SNAP users (people don't know where to go). [www.amazon.com/SNAP](http://www.amazon.com/SNAP) has info, but it's not accessible from the main Amazon site, where people need to register their cards. Lots of education is needed. Amazon's 3-4 platforms are confusing. Amazon Fresh (aka fresh food, healthier options) is not available for delivery to any Marin zip code. Also, only certain items on Amazon Pantry say "SNAP eligible." Have to spend over \$35 for free delivery, otherwise have to pay for delivery with a credit card other than your EBT card. Having the option of delivery is a really important part of the issue (need to be able to get good food with the money people have on their cards). Original Pilot Information and app: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/onlinepurchasing-rfv.pdf>.
  - New York was part of the pilot program through FNS. Only used a couple retailers to start off the pilot, and Walmart and Amazon were selected because they had the ability for pin pads embedded on their websites.
  - Website needs to be certified to accept EBT, so subsidy websites of Amazon that aren't certified won't work.
  - More vendors are in the process of being certified (including Safeway). Pushing for USDA to expedite the process of adding more vendors at the federal level, but there's a lot of red tape involved. More work needs to be done. Recommend we advocate to the Western division of FNS so they see the need and can rush the process to get more vendors certified.
  - What level of government to advocate on? Local steps to get vendors ready, reach out to AccuLink so more can use the pin pads, reach out at state level to push Western FNS and USDA. Want farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs to be eligible also, can contact CDFA.

### **Advocacy opportunities for CalFresh EBT online:**

- FNS form that interested retailers need to complete to apply - logistical challenges, will likely be complicated to get more vendors involved. Only so much Western FNS can do - a letter is worth a shot but might not get anywhere. Should do advocacy at the state level, and encourage local retailers to apply.
- Retailer requirements form: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-requirements-provide-online-purchasing>.

- Link to application process to be sent out by Marchon.
- Online EBT Purchases Advocacy Questions and Policy Priorities per CAFB-  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1amG8IbB2yljqOVY6gv-U9K4hVZn8\\_kJT/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1amG8IbB2yljqOVY6gv-U9K4hVZn8_kJT/view).
- WCLP on CalFresh and Online Shopping:  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/94143890839747088>.

Online EBT Purchases Advocacy Questions and Policy Priorities per CAFB:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1amG8IbB2yljqOVY6gv-U9K4hVZn8\\_kJT/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1amG8IbB2yljqOVY6gv-U9K4hVZn8_kJT/view).

CalFresh and Online Shopping Webinar, June 2nd, 2020 CAFB with Jessica Bartholow from WCLP: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/94143890839747088>.

**DRAI (Disaster Relief for Immigrants)** - another state-program for undocumented people who were not eligible for CARES Act Stimulus. It's \$500 per person. Goes live today or tomorrow.

### Policy Updates - Steve Schwartz

- SB 882 (Wiener): "[CalFresh—Simpler For Seniors](#)" (Marchon Tatmon)
  - Going through its first hearing at the state capital right now, moving quickly. Thank you for the letters received (MFPC has already submitted Letters of Support). Weiner's colleagues are feeling good about the bill, things are looking good. More info:  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB3118](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB3118).
- Update on "[Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors](#)" (Roxy Yekta)
  - Currently working with social services and whilestestop on the program (launched yesterday, running 2 weeks, potential to extend through June 10). 1000 applied, about 500 recipients eligible, with spots for 500 more (whistlestop is handling the intakes) = higher level of interest than other aid, not eligible if receiving other assistance, under 65, and other factors. Currently working with restaurants on coordinating. \*Stay tuned for more - potential topic for June meeting, especially if program is extended.
- AB 2043 (Rivas): [Agricultural Employers and Employees: COVID-19 response](#) (Steve Schwartz)
  - Farmworkers should be eligible for healthcare and similar benefits has been reduced, but still will be some OSHA protections.
- AB 1022 (Wicks): California Anti-Hunger Response and Employment Training Act of 2019
- AB 3256 (E. Garcia): Climate Resilient Bond
- Update on Farm to Elders proposal (Steve Schwartz)
  - Trying for a budget request for this. If we want to spend some money on a lobbyist in Sacramento, we can (with money from MCF grant), Julia, Reba & Steve are working on this, looking to create a white-pager on the issue.

- Update on Policy Platform (Julia Van Soelen Kim)
- Legislator is looking at bringing back a Sugar Sweetened Beverage legislation
- Federal bill HR 6774 (McGovern): presented to Congress on pilot program of CERES work
- Farm to School info coming up in the next couple of weeks - contact Steve if interested.
- ACTION ITEMS for MFPC:
  - SB 882: already taken actions, no known needed now
  - Great Plates: stay tuned for advocacy opportunities for this in the future, potential content for June MFPC meeting. Will share flyer in meeting minutes.
  - AB 2043, AB 1022, and AB 3256: all prioritized by CA FFN - Steve and Liana will keep MFPC updated on these as MFPC has already expressed interest in supporting them. Chance to sign on to letters coming up soon, look for live links in meeting notes.
  - Farm to Elders: contact Steve if interested in working on this proposal
  - HR 6774: Reilly will confirm with Cathryn if there is advocacy needed

**Closing** – Liana Orlandi

- Richard Levins reading
- Coronavirus underscores how important a resilient local food system is

**Virtual meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.**

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

# APRIL

## **4/21/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Ariana Gunderson (Conscious Kitchen), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Cathryn Couch, (CERES Community Project), Juliette Martinez, Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi, Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Roxana Yekta (Marin County HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Sandy Turner Parry (North Bay Children's Center), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Susan Lopes (Mill Valley Chamber), Wendy Tobiasson*

**Introductions & Announcements** – Liana Orlandi

- Wendy: the week of April 11 the food bank delivered 159,000 lbs of food!
- Linda: AAI working with clients and providing info to public (Zoom meetings 2-3pm daily, contact Linda if you want to know more.

- Susan: restaurants helping to feed people, launched GoFundMe for Mill Valley businesses
- Lauren: safety protocol draft for working in school and community gardens, surveying gardens in county to see if they are being used currently.
- Ryan: working to help connect food resources in Novato, please reach out to Ryan if you have ideas.
- Ariana: expanding school kitchens to try to feed people in Marin City, eager to expand to other locations – contact Ariana with ideas.

**AIM Video on Social Distancing options at farmers markets from ABC channel 7** - Liana Orlandi

**Update from Marin County HEAL Collaborative/VOAD** - Ryan Thayer & Roxana Yekta

HEAL collaborative has been meeting as a space for stakeholders to troubleshoot, offer support, provide for folks to connect offline in order to align efforts better in a variety of sectors: farmers markets, health clinics, nutrition assistance, food policy work, etc.

**Organizational Policies for Coronavirus** - Julia Van Soelen Kim

*If your organization has created new organizational food safety or public health policy in response to Coronavirus, please join the meeting prepared to share*

**Food and Beverage Policies (Reba Meigs) – organizational food & beverage policy work**

- Healthy Food & Beverage Guidelines developed by the FoodNow Taskforce: recommend water, unsweetened dairy, 100% fruit or veg juices, coffee & tea with no added sugar, and no sweetened beverages. Orgs look to adopt 70% - 100%, highlighting foods with no trans fat or added sugar and low in sodium, also looking at portion size. Important now as orgs are preparing meals.
- Environmental aspects and zero waste considerations also suggested.

**AIM's Farmers' Market Policy (Liana Orlandi)**

- AIM started a process with a wellness committee on a larger project. AIM adopted HEAL FoodNow Marin guidelines and it has changed their snack buying choices. Link for AIM's policy: <https://www.agriculturalinstitute.org/covid>.

*Question: Where are we seeing the greatest need for food in Marin County? Is this info available?*

Depends on demographics as well as location: pockets of food insecurity correlate to pockets of poverty (West Marin, Marin City, the Canal, children and older adult populations). School districts could be a resource on info where students are on free and reduced meal programs. Affordable housing info could be a source for older adults. Area Agency on Aging and food



banks are also good resources. Data and equity teams at the County working on putting this info together and will share at a future meeting.

### **Ceres Community Project (Cathryn Couch)**

· All essential businesses must require certain protocols, including symptom and temperature checks for workers; social distancing, hand washing and face masks in buildings and on deliveries (such as all disposable containers); and other protocols for kitchen (switched to all-paid staff rather than rotating volunteers in kitchen for consistency, continuity, safety and risk management). Cathryn emailed MFPC listserv the full list of Ceres COVID protocols.

### **Agricultural Institute of Marin (Liana Orlandi)**

· Safe markets during COVID-19: hand sanitizer stations and social distancing in the beginning. As the weeks went on, conversation continued and protocols progressed: aisles are wider, booths are farther apart, produce is selected and bagged for customers, cancel all community gathering elements (artists, musicians, etc), all food is to-go, asking shoppers to be one person per family and spend only 30 minutes at the market, relying on market staff to remind folks as well as market participants, marking ground with X's to suggest 6 feet. Rollin Root: 2 staff (1 handles money and 1 handles food, 1 customer at a time), all shoppers asked to wear masks beginning next week. A work in progress, AIM staff is emailing market participants each week with reminders.

*Question: Suggestions on how to help the public shift social norms in gracious and kind ways, to reduce confrontation?*

AIM market managers are always managing behavior in a public space and practice using non-confrontational language already, this is an extension.

*Observation: People are sharing data and referring resources more easily in this climate.*

More of an informal process, verbal agreements are increasingly sufficient regarding policy and data. Cross-county conversations are increasingly useful and helpful (Lauren's example with community gardens in other counties). VOADs and COADs are meeting weekly, and last week was the first multi-county COAD call (breaking down traditional organizational and locational barriers).

### **Policy Updates – Julia Van Soelen Kim and Steve Schwartz**

Coronavirus policy updates at the local, state, or federal level (Roxy Yekta and Marchon Tatmon)

- CalFresh update: Pandemic EBT (separate and additional allotment for kids on free and reduced meal program, separate to household increase in EBT). Working on messaging efforts and how to spread the word. EBT purchases will be possible online starting next

week through Amazon Fresh and Walmart, free delivery on orders over \$35 (already had a contract with Amazon so moving forward first). Decision made at the federal level, not state. But a state could push for a pilot program to other (smaller) stores to start with them. Andy with AIM looking with online EBT concerns, looking to gather and submit comments and concerns (to allow other vendors to accept EBT online purchases as well) – **\*ACTION ITEM:** Steering Committee can work with Andy to see how MFPC can be supportive of this effort, follow-up with a letter on behalf of MFPC to Levine and McGuire saying we want this in Marin.

- Eliminating certain certification paperwork: March, April, or May renewal paperwork; interview waiver for initial approval process; implementing telephonic signature to submit applications. Some of this is due to SB 882 (Weiner).
- Is there any policy action that is needed from MFPC?
  - Food Bank is having a CalFresh Policy Action Day on April 22 (virtual) – template to send to elected officials pushing for an 15% increase in next COVID package to the federal government, to help boost the importance of SNAP – Marchon to share with MFPC
- USDA is offering an opportunity for purchasing products from wholesalers (including food hubs), hopefully this is something local farmers can participate in.
- Stimulus to support older adults in restaurants – info coming this week on how this will roll out in Marin.
- Senator Harris will introduce Closing the Meal Gap (calculate SNAP benefits using low cost meal plan which will increase benefits and transition Puerto Rico and other territories to regular help)
- Pandemic SNAP (for children on free and reduced price meals, an additional separate EBT card) and clients would not have to do anything to enroll in this program. State is looking for this to apply to kids on Medical or foster care as well. Timeline is not available yet. If they are undocumented and opted out of school meal program, will still get the card in the mail if they attend a school that uses the meal program. People could only apply for 7-12 days (short window, so a lot of elderly people didn't know about it).
- Unemployment in Marin February: 614 up to March: 8,000+
- Year ago local restaurants needing to get authorized to accept EBT for hot meals for certain eligible EBT holders (older adults); Marin was exploring this, also looking for this work at a state level so it wouldn't have to happen county by county, and Roxy can get an update. Food quality concern: restaurant meals program people have to meet specific criteria proving they can't prepare food, and almost all approved vendors are fast food purveyors. Critical time to make sure than fresh healthy food and meals don't get left out of the process.
- Policy advocacy opportunities for expanding list of eligible list of food purveyors of prepared meals added to May MFPC Meeting Agenda.

## **Non-COVID Policy Updates (Steve Schwartz)**

- Sustainable Ag Coalition says USDA is not planning on implementing aid for farmers as hoped, stay tuned.
- Promoting local food for schools. Give any feedback to MFPC Steering Committee this week on this timely ask from CFFN members: <https://forms.gle/KkXcsiNbMq8foXFYA>.
- Update on Farm to Elders proposal with Senator McGuire – something like Farm to School Program for Seniors: legislators will only be able to carry a couple things, as times are stretched thin with COVID now. Impressed with our work, but asking how can we share our stories given the current climate? Takeaway: look at mapping our impact; shape future work. Narrow agenda for legislators, yet our work on food security is very relevant to the times (getting emergency food to populations most at risk and supporting local farmers during crisis). Left the door open, but not much was promised – honest reality check. Running parallel with Master Plan for Aging is still an idea. Checklist of elements a legislative ask should include – Steve to share. The state is not going to release senior farmers market funding in the next two weeks like they normally would. If we are intentional about telling the right story and selecting the right pilot, it could fit in the high priority bill category – especially touching on isolation.

## **Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- MFPC is funded by a MCF collaborative grant through Innovative Health Solutions. Because of coronavirus MCF has released any restrictions and can be used to help the community in any way.
- Check-in on virtual format and the focus on coronavirus in recent agendas:
  - COVID focus is relevant and important and fundamental to the work we are trying to do
  - COVID has underscored the County's needs that we were already working on; like the focus on policy
  - SC to re-visit year plan involving the policy focus; zoom has been a good platform to allow us to continue collaborating
  - networking and connecting across orgs and telling positive stories is all important as well – encourage 3-5 people to share success stories/stats each meeting

## **Closing – Liana Orlandi**

- Richard Levins reading
- Coronavirus underscores how important a resilient local food system is

## **Virtual meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.**

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

# MARCH

## **3/17/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi, Adriana Rabkin, Heather Gilardi, Wendy Tobiasson, Paula Freeman, Lauren Klein, Felicia Chavez, Reba Meigs, Bonnie Nielsen, Steve Schwartz, Conscious Kitchen, Marchon Tatmon, Cathryn Couch, Irene Garcia, Maggie Gori, Alexandra Danino, Ryan Thayer, Madeline Hope*

### **Introductions & Announcements – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Liana: AIM farmers markets are open (considered an essential service) with new safety precautions in place
- Adriana: Marin VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)
- Paula: Covia run home delivered grocery program and market days are all closed through March, Margaret Todd is closed through the end of April
- Reba: Innovative Health Solutions serving as fiscal sponsor for MFPC, will have updates later
- Marchon: Food Bank pushing recently passed house bill HR 6201 first Corona virus response act
- Cathryn: call with Director on Aging and folks from food banks trying to figure out capacity in each county to provide delivered groceries & meals, as well as estimate the loss of volunteers that orgs are experiencing currently and how to aid this
- Conscious Kitchen: Bayside MLK school in Marin City is serving meals for pick up
- Maggie: Catholic Charities programs providing breakfast to kids in schools are closed, loss of frontline staff (furlough)
- Wendy: Drawdown Marin group meetings postponed

### **Roundtable Discussion – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

*Impact of Corona Virus on Emergency Food Programs, Food Insecurity, and Older Adults in Marin*

Guest speakers: Cathryn Couch, CERES Community Project; Adriana Rabkin, Marin VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) Coordinator; Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative

### **Cathryn Couch, CERES Community Project –**

- Currently all aid organizations are losing volunteer resources while getting increased requests for services – orgs need to coordinate with partners across the community.
- Meeting every other day with Director of Aging about additional resources community orgs will need to meet increased demand.
- Precautionary food safety measures ramped up: social distancing for all deliveries including packing boxes rather than food self-selection (food banks are looking at this as well), limiting people in kitchens to 10 at a time, spreading out, staying home if sick, no volunteers

over 65 allowed in kitchen, increased sterilization efforts, hourly hand washing, following Sonoma Co Health Department guidelines and reminding staff to read them.

- Pulling together info on current org capacity, potential to scale up, resources needed (assets and challenges). HEAL Food Now taskforce is working on a similar aim. Two levels of work: 1) assessment of our providers and what we are doing, 2) need for contact with community members, template for line of communication. Food resource guide specific to Marin City is an example (Marin County HHS should see this, can work on similar resources for Canal, West Marin, and other vulnerable communities – Reba to coordinate). Share assessment tools and response efforts!
- Please send any assessment tools that you are using to help expand reach to Ryan Thayer, HHS at: Rthayer@marincounty.org.

**Adriana Rabkin, Marin VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) Coordinator –**

- VOAD Marin (all Bay Area counties have one) is a collaboration of variety of community-serving organizations, great resource for community resilience, only org that represents all community orgs and has a seat in Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – thus a two-way communication channel with EOC for all of us and our clients/community.
- People need to expect to operate at a 20% work force (for those orgs remaining open).
- Able to help with volunteers (coordinate groups around the county, can encourage Marin EOC to open emergency volunteer center drawing on a database of 1000s of volunteers if enough need is demonstrated).
- In addition to older adults and people with pre-existing conditions, the homeless community is also hugely impacted.
- VOAD food service provider call – which orgs should be on this? If you want information about the Marin VOAD or wish to be included in any task forces (presuming Adriana can bring you in) contact Adriana Rabkin at MarinVOAD email: marinvoad@gmail.com; phone number: 415-295-5660.
- If you have volunteer needs – or want to volunteer – you can post them on CVNL (Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership): <https://cvnl.org/volunteerism/disaster-services/>.

**Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative –**

- Non-profits working with food for the vulnerable are all open for operation (working from home), recalibrating services under separation guidelines, but having the challenge of volunteers. Whistlestop is delivering food (packets of 5 frozen meals) one time a week, West Marin Social Services doing the same, InstaCart and markets such as United have home delivery options as well. 22,000 older people in Marin are living alone. County is expanding their resources to provide more meals on wheels delivery registration – spread the word. AIM mobile farmers market is looking for places that may need weekly visits. Go-to volunteer place is CVNL (see above), encouraging all orgs to go through CVNL. 457-INFO for people over 60 and disabled in need of assistance.
- Desperately in need of volunteers across the board since many are over 65 years old. Open conversation –

- Irene, SF-Marin food bank: changes in pantry network, recommend for agencies to look to food locator (refreshed daily) as situation changes frequently – refer people to: <https://foodlocator.sfmfoodbank.org/>.
- Bayside MLK will be adding groceries to meal services for families, coordinating with other schools to do the same. San Geronimo may become a pop-up distribution site next week, stay tuned.
- Liana, AIM: Rollin Root is affordable food available for purchase, will be available to do more work out in the community based on need.
- Reba: working on putting together community-specific resource guides similar to Marin City, even though things are changing so quickly; content may need to change in terms of how info is grouped.
- Steve, Interfaith Food: thinking about making sure small farmers stay in business as sales go down, want to make sure farmers markets stay open. Looking at congregations that have kitchens for use in making prepared meals. Market match proxy (if you are sick, have someone else redeem for you at a farmers market).
- Andy: farmers markets started getting shut down in different jurisdictions about a week ago, operators began meeting and worked on an advocacy campaign and were able to get farmers markets IDed as essential services during the Shelter in Place order, community members can buy food and use EBT and market match programs. Some markets have closed due to local issues, such as if located in a mall, etc. Dramatically changed layout and model of markets: no on-site seating, all food is to-go, working on pre-packed food, no entertainment or arts and crafts for sale. Response at markets has been strong, people feel safe shopping because it's easier to maintain distance than in a grocery store. Fewer people are shopping but avg transaction is higher (shopping for the whole week). Some small farmers have been severely impacted, particularly if over 65, many local restaurants have cancelled orders, some Marin farmers have lost 90-100% of restaurant orders, and some farmers have excess produce. Spoke with Marin and Sonoma Farm Bureaus (statewide call with Secretary Ross), supportive of operating farmers markets. Any policy support needed?
- Marchon: HR 6201 Coronavirus Response Act background: HR 6201 contains important provisions to give families and children some critically important resources to help put food on the table and stay safe during the COVID-19 emergency. This is a promising first step toward ensuring that low-income and vulnerable people are not disproportionately impacted by this public health crisis. Congress is expected to move additional coronavirus package(s) in the coming days and weeks to address other urgent needs. The act has passed the House, in Senate now (pushback: doesn't go far enough). Protects public health workers, establishes free testing, funds SNAP program more. Republicans may be holding for an elimination of payroll tax, which will help corporations more. More info: <https://frac.org/news/food-research-action-center-commends-the-house-for-passing-the-families-first-coronavirus-response-act?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=906e7add-00ee-4eab-9c30-3775ce49d5fa>. Call your Senators at (202) 224-3121 (Capitol Switchboard) and urge them to quickly pass H.R. 6201 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Can also reach out to your Senators on social media. Can also text COVID19 to 747464 or call toll-free at 1-844-633-2048. Vote to support HR 6201 – passed \*\*JVSK to confirm



- Linda: movement in the housing community on eviction moratorium, info to be coming soon. Would be municipality by municipality (starting with BOS), could also be statewide. Farmers, farmworkers, food service workers, people in tourist economy are all going to be impacted and housing has a direct connection to food security, so MFPC will continue to share info related to the housing topic – please share as items come up.
- Alex: SF-Food Bank working over the phone, challenging for some older adult volunteers. CalFresh Marin hotline: 415-767-5220.
- More work on the horizon: Ensuring Emergency Food Security Act, Pandemic EBT Act, and COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act – all following under Families First Coronavirus Response Act. For more info:  
<https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Families%20First%20summary.pdf>.

### **Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz**

- CFFN bill list and voting results: extended voting because of legislature taking time off. Want to make sure that Gov. budget list responds to COVID-19. CFFN advocated for bills that deal with food in various ways. MFPC has the opportunity to prioritize work on food access, support for small farmers, food security for older adults, etc.
- Updates and next steps on legislative asks: MFPC endorsed a couple things on nutrition for seniors, Levine's office said they would be interested in making a budget ask for funding for senior serving institutions, local farms, and community gardens. Next step would be requesting a meeting with Levine. Reba to join effort, open to other MFPC members. Funding/budget ask before bill ask; deadline for the bill allegedly has passed, though unclear timing now.
- Advocate to our local members of Congress to extend sign-up period and process (ie by phone?) for Disaster CalFresh. Potential to be woven into CalFresh.org website?
- Update on meeting with Mike McGuire, Save the Date: CFFN has monthly meeting with folks from around the state. Small meeting, perhaps 10 people from outside of Marin, handful of folks from MFPC to participate, plus some folks from the state. If you are interested contact Liana or Julia. Had been looking at April 3 at AIM, though will reschedule due to Shelter in Place – stay tuned.
- CalAIM project: Request endorsement for public comment & discuss opportunities for engagement
- Info from USDA Food and Nutrition Service:  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

### **Mapping Our Network – Wendy Tobiasson**

- Continuing survey of members and their organization's work, but somewhat on pause now. Can get in touch with Wendy at: (415) 694-3801 or wtobiasson@gmail.com if you haven't been interviewed for our membership survey yet. Working on cards with member organization info that could be circulated at MFPC meetings.
- Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim
- Update on policy platform, breakout groups, and focus areas for the year – heading in this direction, but COVID-19 received priority for this meeting.

- Update on membership with CFFN & CAFPC

### **Closing – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Lauren Klein shares Richard Levins reading
- Coronavirus underscores how important a resilient local food system is
- Linda's reminder that we are experiencing physical distancing, not social distancing
- Paula Freeman shares virtual senior center: Well Connected and Well Connected Español connect individuals to virtual classes, conversations, and other activities and are accessible by telephone. Programs are available in both English and Spanish. Social Call matches individuals for weekly friendly phone chats (and in-person visits in San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, and Sonoma counties). To refer anyone to any of these programs, please have them contact us at: (877) 797-7299 (English), (877) 400-5867 (Spanish), or [coviaconnections@covia.org](mailto:coviaconnections@covia.org)

Virtual meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## **FEBRUARY**

### **2/18/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi, Bonnie Nielsen, Felicia Chavez, Julia Van Soelen Kim, Lauren Klein, Linda Jackson, Marchon Tatmon, Reba Meigs, Steve Schwartz, Susan Lopes, Wendy Tobiasson*

### **Introductions & Announcements – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- o Membership: struggle to bring people from West Marin and South Marin here (geographic), we could improve diversity of membership and have yet to develop an active recruitment strategy.
- o Communications and meeting logistics: suggestion to send out reminder with information on meeting content 2 weeks ahead of time rather than just 1 week in the agenda. Struggle to find parking. Could do an annual meeting in location further West (like Rancho Nicasio). Steering Committee to put together proposals of alternate time and locations and report back.

### **Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz and Marchon Tatmon**

- CA FFN 3 different new ways CA is looking at supporting school lunches.
- Farm to senior-serving institutions bill: put \$5 million to aid senior serving institutions, getting more local and healthy food. Levine and McGuire are interested, MFPC to endorse. Opportunity to co-sign letter with HEAL funded collaborative partners listed individually as well. Who else in the state is interested in this? AARP, CFFN, Roots of Change all seem interested.

Other counties in the state? \*Vote to endorse: APPROVED, but lacking enough members present in the meeting to pass, will talk to Steering Committee.

- SFMNP – little sister to CalFresh and market match, want to see more funding to this, McGuire interested in doing this as a budget item.
- Could do a MFPC info package in preparation of the April 28 Aging Action Initiative Convening – could spend some time on this next meeting.
- Marchon: SB 882 CalFresh Simplifier for Adults (Weiner) – redone version of a bill that didn't pass last year (SB 285). Pulled out certain language and made it a smaller package focusing on seniors, simplifies the process to apply for CalFresh, eliminates some ongoing recording requirements, tries to alleviate mobility issues. Opportunity to make the process smoother. Aligned with CA Hunger Action Coalition and other statewide orgs. Actionable steps for MFPC: now just on the radar, will look for support and endorsement in the near future. CHAC lobby date in April, people welcome to join.
- SF/Marin Food Bank is focusing on more policy agenda items: schools and school lunches (restore state funding for nutritional meals at CA schools), and others. Reintroducing and ending legacy cuts done to SSI during the Great Recession.

### **Policy Platform Work – Julia Van Soelen Kim & Wendy Tobiasson**

- Having a policy platform would enable MFPC to stand firmly on topics we have expertise in and have already done the work on. Can use samples of partner policy platforms.
- Areas of Policy Focus from 2019/2020 planning: improve soil and water system health (land); support sustainable ag practices (systems); ensure access to local nutritious food; support community-based food solutions; reduce food waste; expand food and climate education.
- Eliminating hunger in Marin is heart of MFPC (the what), and largely is done so by localizing food systems (the how), and the rest (above) are all related.
- Goal for March: refine categories, narrow scope and focus, create our prioritized list of policies to work on through 2020.
- Notes from January meeting – alignment in 3 areas to arc over the year: more actively supporting and driving policy, identify what's next on our learning agenda, create policy platform, strengthen network, use data to convince, ID media opportunities
- Bolder Advocacy in Oakland does trainings on policy advocacy.

### **Mapping Our Network for Impact – Wendy Tobiasson**

- Wendy collecting member org info including goals, initiatives, and missions. Working on a list/chart/handout.
- Food Now taskforce app has some overlap with our mapping efforts.
- Who are the charitable direct service providers (immediate), advocacy people (medium-term), and big picture sustainability workers (long term)?
- Members could share their orgs goals for the year at the beginning of MFPC meetings?
- Next meeting: helping organize policy categories, knowing Master Plan on Aging is coming, knowing what input we want to have,

Closing – Julia Van Soelen Kim  
Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

# JANUARY

## **1/21/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi, Bonnie Nielsen, Bruce Richard, Cathryn Couch, Felicia Chavez, Julia Van Soelen Kim, Kathy Carver, Lauren Klein, Linda Jackson, Maggie Gori, Marchon Tatmon, Paula Freeman, Steve Schwartz, Susan Lopes, Wendy Tobiasson*

### **Welcome and Announcements – Liana Orlandi**

- Ariana Gunderson: Conscious Kitchen write up in Edible magazine
- Lauren: book on gardening at any age The Lifelong Gardener by Marin Master Gardener Toni Gattoni
- Wendy: DrawDown: Marin local food and food waste group, Edu & Food Access, Farm Pgms and Support, Composting sub-groups tasked with coming up with solutions to present to BOS. Wendy a go between MFPC and DrawDown.
- Amy: used to run IVC O F&G. Works with Christian Douglas at The Backyard Farm Company, with the mission of educating people on growing food (residential and corporate clients) around the Bay Area.
- Julia: Marin Communications Forum (First 5) session on Making Ends Meet in in Marin 9:30-11:30am next Tuesday at San Rafael City Hall.
- Julia: UC Nutrition Policy Institute looks at Food Insecurity in the Nation “SNAP Is Under Attack” policy brief and policy handout just published, summarize and expand on recent policy changes and proposals.
- Julia: New flier on Marin City community food resources, self-referral guide for Marin City

### **Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

Update on Marin Community Foundation HEAL Older Adult Collaborative Grant Proposal for 2020/2021

- We applied as a co-grantee to MCF HEAL Older Adult Collaborative Grant Proposal as collaborative grant with SF-Marin Food Bank, Innovative Health Solutions, Marin City’s Intergenerational Garden. Effectively the same as how it happened the last cycle. Our fiscal agent would be Innovative Health Solutions. Have not heard yet if we have been awarded the grant, but we are confident. If awarded, will continue MFPC funding through Feb 2021, would require MFPC continue working on needs of older adults in the county. Will announce winners soon.

Approval of new Steering Committee nominations

- Steve Schwartz nominated to join the MFPC Steering Committee. Julia, Reba, and Bonnie to continue on the Steering Committee. Liana to be voted in as Chair. \*All voted in.
  - Still have 2 seats available, please contact a Steering Committee member if you become interested in a leadership role.
  - General qualifications: SC seat term is 1 year, meet the 4th Tuesday of every month to plan next meeting's agenda, be a leader in meeting agenda design, welcome and recruit additional members, represent MFPC in public, etc. If you are interested please contact any of the current Steering Committee members and we will answer any questions and provide more details. Steve: nominate Alex and Lori for award through CA Association of Food Policy Councils.
- Please take the annual online evaluation survey (takes 3-5 minutes) – your feedback is critical.  
[ucanr.edu/MFPCapplication](http://ucanr.edu/MFPCapplication)

### **Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz**

CAFFN and Updates and Vote:

- CA FPC Legislative report card released in Sacramento last week (endorsed by MFPC).
- CA Association of FPCs also working on a report and would like MFPC to endorse. A couple articles in this report on MFPC work with Seniors. \*Vote to endorse: PASS.
- Master Plan on Aging with Governor Nusom (requested last March, supposed to be done in a year). CFPA out of Oakland wants to include food, MFPC could sign onto a letter. Does MFPC want to generate our own letter as well? Advised to be bold in our asks, ie: a minimum benefit for CA with state subsidies.
  - o Want to focus on food quality for aging in the next 5 years (CA adding funding to Older American Act, for instance)
  - o Google Master Plan on Aging for list of committees, sub-committees, and timing of meetings
  - o SSI Expansion lobbying and CA Hunger Action Committee lobbying, plan to help simplify the CalFresh application process. Food bank and other orgs have blank bills that aren't sponsored yet, looking for congressmen to do so.
  - o Trying to make a connection with food insecurity to the homeless population for Governor's state budget.
  - o For the first time in a long while \$80 million has been set aside in Governor's budget to improve school food
  - o Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative Farm to School pgm helps pay for procurement of healthy food and nutrition education,

### **Systems Mapping Our 2019 Educational Learnings – Wendy Tobiasson & Julia Van Soelen Kim**

Objectives: Identify 2020 focus areas, build off of 2019 achievements and learnings.

Group Exercise: 2020 FUTURE IMPACT BUCKETS and POSSIBLE GOALS

- Support Policy (or "Advocate")
  - o Create policy platform to streamline policy endorsements

- o Learn more to expand beyond letters into legislative visits
- o Learn more about topics outside our current sphere so we can act on them
- o Clarity on Policy Agenda/Platform & how MFPC is actively working to move it forward – Systems Level Change, where MFPC can/should lead (what is our scope of work?)
  - Support Known Ongoing Efforts (disassemble and distribute into other buckets)
  - Strengthen Local Connections to Create Efficiencies
- o Introduce and bring connections to FPC
- o Assemble grant working group
- o Build resources for public to support connections
  - Engage the Public
- o Inform public through reinforced connections
- o Flow Chart Mind Map to connect people to resources (like HEAL Marin Food Now is working on currently) ... 475-INFO for older adults in Marin to locate resources
- o Collect accomplishments
- o Regular networking
- o Tours and events
- o Media Releases
  - Support More Localized Food System
- o Support policy, systems, environment changes... facilitate local procurement?
- o Investigate local hubs to connect farmers, consumers, restaurants, markets, etc.
- o Learn more about markets, sales venues, what is the farmers market of the future?
- o Farm to School grants – support Marin schools applying for the grants?
  - Enhance Education (disassemble and distribute into other buckets)
  - Data and Reporting
- o Bring interesting facts and figures to meetings (get the data more visibility)
- o Monthly data sharing, support inter-agency sharing
- o Influence public food data access (Marin County COMPASS platform?)
  - DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION
- o Easiest way for members to contribute is their specific knowledge from their areas of expertise based on their fields of work
- o February Meeting: start on policy platform; understanding who is here and who is not; figure out how to tell the story better (both problems and solutions)

Closing – Liana Orlandi

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.