

**Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy**

**Thursday, December 12, 2024**

**9:00AM-11AM**

In-Person; Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute:1607 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501 and on Zoom

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:01am

B. ROLL CALL

Francisca Kika Ortiz - Present

Nate Crail - Present

Maria Sanchez-Tucker - Excused

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Present

David Sundberg - Present

Susan Perry - Present

Emigdio Ballon - Excused

Tejinder Ciano - Absent

Said Assali - Present

Jasmine Meyer - Present

Peter Ives – Present

We have a quorem

Staff:

Pam Roy

Helen Henry

Guests:

JoDee Powers

Harrison Gibson recently moved to Santa Fe from Fort Worth, TX where he was on the Tarrant County Food Policy Council

Sergio Mata-Cisneros - Government Relations Director for The Food Depot

Shauna Woodworth - Farm to School Coordinator for Cooking with Kids

Herbert Foster - Santa Fe County Community Planner, Transfer Development Rights Program

Introductions from our guests

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –December 12, 2024

Prioritization and Agenda Order

Peter moved

Sue Seconded

Approved

## D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES –November 14, 2024

Said moved

Jasmyne seconded

Approved

## E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

JoDee announced that she has just completed her masters degree.

## F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

### 1. Farmer's Market Nutrition Program Letter of Support

Sue sent out a draft letter to state legislators in support for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), otherwise known as the WIC and Senior WIC programs. These are a one-time or in some cases two-time additional supplement for seniors as well as for WIC moms and kids and pregnant and breastfeeding moms to be able to shop for local foods, especially at farmers markets and they have a high redemption rate.

The Council made some edits during the meeting so that the letter could be approved.

Peter: Suggestion to also send copies of the letter to governmental entities and our political leaders in our city and the county to let them know what we're doing. Maybe do a presentation in early January and then follow up with a debrief after the legislative session.

David agreed that our communication with all entities is important. We might want to do a short meeting of the legislative committee to address giving presentations to policy makers.

Peter moved

Sue seconded

Approval with the in-meeting edits

Sue and David will sign and date

### 2. Legislative Update - Pam Roy SFFPC Coordinator and Hvtce Miller, Santa Fe County, Intergovernmental Outreach Coordinator

Hvtce was not present.

Pam went over a flyer that was created for the NM Food & Ag Policy Council with a list of legislative requests for the upcoming legislative session, emphasizing improving access to nutritional programs, culturally significant foods, expanding farmers and ranchers opportunities to sell into local programs - really building out that local economic opportunity. There is an upcoming meeting with the Office of the Governor to go over all of this.

Per an NMDA report, historically, about 4% of what we produce is what we keep here in New Mexico and about 96% of everything we grow and raise in New Mexico is exported.

The report showed, though, that almost, so 10.8% is now locally grown, raised, and stays in New Mexico, an expansion that happened within five years, partially as a result of our response to the pandemic.

Pam went over the programs that need funding (both federal and state), and talked about the Governor's Food Initiative and all of the programs and areas that it covers. We're hoping for some increases in the budget.

The Farm Bill will not be considered by the Biden Administration and will need to be considered by the new administration.

We are hoping for a temporary continuation of current funding for the Farm Bill which will support the ongoing programs.

Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute is going to do an evening with legislatures on the 29th of January. And the NMFAPC will host New Mexico Food & Farms Day on the 30th of January at the legislature and do a virtual Civic Engagement Training on January 16.

We have a lot of new legislators coming in and this will be a way for us to orient them. Peter brought up the fact that the incoming federal administration is reported to be in favor of cutting benefits such as SNAP. Should we anticipate this and try to find a way to address potential shortfalls?

Pam mentioned some of the national organizations that we have been working with on the Farm Bill who will also be working to address the potential of decreased federal funding in the new administration. Some of our federal legislators will be stepping into leadership positions and introducing additional legislation that could support food assistance programs.

Sergio: They are supporting a bill at the state level for the state to submit an outreach plan because there is a lot of misinformation that goes around and people are going to stop applying for benefits. Organizations like the Food Depot and Roadrunner are doing a lot of the community navigation, so it's really important that there be funding from the state and also from the federal government to continue to do that.

The state does not have the funding to make up deficits if programs like SNAP are cut.

Jasmyne: Question about changes in the produce prescription funding (Fresh RX).

Pam: The office of the governor and the agencies are focusing on a food is medicine initiative through the Medicaid waiver but this does not replace the Fresh RX program (they are different). The Medicaid waiver program currently seems like it may only benefit about 3,000 people. Also, historically, this has resulted in a loss of purchases in local food.

Pam said that we can think about carrying a bill to support the Fresh RX program for \$500,000. Pam is meeting with Kirstan Hansan at the SFFMA about this. We need to coordinate with our partners on this and take a sensitive approach.

Sergio - Food as Medicine program - we need to encourage local buying; it is also important to involve all of the people who work with these programs and to also guard against the privatization of this program as has happened in other states.

David asked about the funding for meals in ALTSD's budget. Pam said that they have included a request for this funding to be recurring in the budget that they sent to the Legislative Finance Committee.

David asked about the enhanced CACFP (capital outlay). Pam doesn't know but will try to find out.

David: Is there any funding for education outreach around SNAP Double Up Food Bucks and nutrition education? Pam said that we can find out about this because there is money in the various agency budgets. New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association Department of Ag would be the folks to answer that question.

David: Any information about FSMA, which is the Food Modernization Act? This was started in 2012 at the federal level and most of our small producers who actually grow the food we eat have been exempt from that because they are below the \$250,000 income threshold per farm, but they might lower that, so that means that more farmers will need to have some sort of FSMA certification (food safety certification), especially if they are selling locally. This is a critical program for the whole system to work - we've got to have the food safety network and implementation in the state or it can limit access to a lot of those federal dollars.

David: What happens if there is no continuance on the Farm Bill?

Peter: This is not likely, but if it does this would be considered a shutdown and that would cause a lot of problems. If it is not passed, there will be no funding.

Sergio: There is agreement on the Hill about doing the continuance. We may need to have ongoing continuances which might be preferable for us, at least in the short term, because it means that they won't try to remake the Farm Bill. They are getting pressure from big ag about continuing the Farm Bill because of the subsidies that go to large farmers.

3. Fermented Foods and Food Safety-Environmental Department (Tejinder)  
Tejinder was not present. We can add this to a future agenda.

#### G. PRESENTATIONS:

Sergio Mata-Cisneros, The Food Depot, Government Relations Manager  
Sergio shared about The Food Depot's mission and vision (to create a healthy and hunger-free northern New Mexico) and an overview of the work of the food banks in NM. He has been with The Food Depot since September in the newly created position of Government Relations Manager. He went over who The Food Depot serves (9 counties - most of Northern New Mexico)

and where they source food from and where their funding comes from and talked about how they manage food distribution.

Sergio also talked about the New Mexico Regional Farm to Food Bank, which they administer, and how that works. He went over what they purchase as opposed to what is donated. They purchase directly from the farmer/rancher or food hubs as much as they can, mostly high protein foods - meat, eggs, nuts and also produce.

Advocacy: They are advocating for appropriations for programs but also growth funding which is a one-time appropriation that is broken out to three years. So they have met with both House and Senate leadership, and right now they are requesting \$30 million from the state legislature through the GROW initiative, which would be \$10 million each year for the next three years and then with the goal of going into recurring funding after that. For the first year, half the money could be up to use for infrastructure to scale up food distribution to expand the delivery of services. Second year, they would use 25% of that. And then in the last year, they would use all the \$10 million just to purchase food. Sergio will send his slides.

David asked about the types of food that they distribute? Sergio: It varies on the season and what they're distributing.

Peter: What is the status of the report on ending hunger and the recommendation to raise the minimum wage? Sergio: They are in discussion with the Mayor's office who has asked UNM to do a study on this, and he is open to the possibility of raising the minimum wage.

Pam: Out of the \$10 million, there was discussion about \$2 million being carved out for New Mexico grown specifically. And that's certainly something we want to advocate for. Is there a commitment by Roadrunner and The Food Depot to take a portion of that \$10 million that state request to put towards buying local?

Sergio: This is something that is in process. They need to maximize their purchasing efforts to close the meal gap.

Peter mentioned that it would be helpful to see the number of people who are food-insecure in each county presented as percentages of the total population.

#### **H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Sign up for NMFAPC meetings at - <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/meetings/>

Sign up for the Civic Engagement Training on January 16 on Zoom at - <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/civic-engagement-training/>

Learn more about NM Food & Farms Day on January 30 at the Capitol at - <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/food-farms-day-celebration/>

#### **I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Member check-in

David: Farmers Market Institute: They are wrapping Local Food for All this week, which meant having the mobile market out on the road. They're going to take a pause, hopefully relaunch it again in February. This is something they did as a pilot project and they really want to make it a sustainable enterprise.

On January 29th, they are hosting a legislative session at the Institute in the pavilion and they are inviting any organizations who are engaged in the regional food system to have a table.

David said that he received a wonderful note from Global SF about the meeting at Tesuque in October that said the meeting/tour was the highlight of their visit.

Sue: Nothing at this point. Glad to have new people at the meetings!

Peter: Peter has been working with one of the four groups from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute students who have been in Santa Fe since October working on different projects. His group was evaluating the city against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which includes food issues.

Jasmyne: They just hired a new program manager to support their northern NM program in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Taos, and San Miguel Counties.. Her name is Barbara Arnold.

They have successfully actually filled our funding gap for our produce prescription program, Northern Roots, with various foundation funding sources, as well as working with Presbyterian Health Plan Medicaid team to identify potential sustainable funding for it through looking at gaps in care for Medicaid members who are identified as food insecure.

Kika: They just got four new vehicles (with hopefully more coming) through Capital Outlay that came to help with transporting seniors. They are also getting new equipment for the kitchen. More seniors are showing up at the centers. There is also a collaboration with the Food Deport to park large trucks on their property.

She will be moving to PED in the Student Success and Wellness Bureau at the beginning of January.

Nate: Looking forward to continuing the discussion about the temporary ag structures.

#### **J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

David announced that Kika will be leaving the Council.

David noted that both Shauna Woodworth and Sarah (?) are working to get onto the Policy Council and Sergio will be coming on to fill Sherry's very big shoes.

Committee meetings:

Executive: December 17 at 9-9:30

Legislative: David will send out a Doodle

Temporary structures: January 13

1. Next Meeting:

January 9, 2025: (Hybrid)

2. Topics for future presentations

L. ADJOURNMENT 10:54am

These notes were taken contemporaneously and may contain errors and omissions.

Signed by *Helen Henry* Helen Henry.

I verify that these notes have been approved by a quorum of members of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council.

Signed by David Sundberg, Co-chair or Susan Perry, Co-chair

---