



**Food System Collaborative
June 7, 2011
Serna Center, Sacramento**

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants: (see below)

Next Steps

- The next meeting of the governance workgroup is June 22nd from 9:30-11:30am at Valley Vision.
- The next quarterly meeting of the FSC will be held in late August or early September; more information to follow
- The Food Charter will be presented at the Woodland City Council meeting on June 7th at 6pm and at the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting on June 28th at 9am. *(Note: The Yolo BOS presentation date has since been changed to the July 12th meeting.)*
- Valley Vision will develop a draft Declaration of Principles to be reviewed by the governance workgroup.

Outcomes:

The meeting agenda included three sections: a panel discussion with **school food program experts**, an update on the **work of the governance workgroup**, and a discussion of the **ag sustainability policy workgroup**.

School Nutrition Panel Discussion

- Ann Evans – Davis Farm to School Program
 - Davis School District has 8,500 students with 18% eligible for the federal free & reduced lunch program
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Davis Farm to School program and Davis Farmers Market Foundation included four focus areas:
 - 60% of school food is to be sourced from within a 300 mile radius (currently at 49% and evaluated every year)
 - Reduce waste by 50% (improved recycling program)
 - Continued educational opportunities including farm field trips and a garden in every school to teach using the “whole child” approach
 - Community education (i.e. educated community about the need for the program and got support for a parcel tax to support the program)
 - Davis residents approved a parcel tax that allocates \$70,000/year to go to the Davis Farm to School Program
 - Provide cooking lessons for nutrition services staff
 - Focus on making the program sustainable – integrating the community rather than focusing on one or two champions
 - Action for FSC: Think on a regional level (e.g. SACOG).

- Brenda Padilla – Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Nutrition Services Director
 - Change comes through support from the administration and focus on the “whole child”
 - Healthy Foods Task Force – looking at every aspect of SCSUD Nutrition Services
 - Streamlining processes to increase funds for healthful food and staff training so they can begin to focus more strongly on food and service
 - Brings student voice to Nutrition Services and also encourages students to try new foods
 - Nutrition Services is working with CFPA to increase participation in the breakfast program Brought in local farmers to supply fresh produce to salad bars; are also working to expand salad bars to include whole grains
 - Need better facilities and training: working on a plan for state of the art facilities that will allow scratch cooking and provide a safe, consistent product
- Cathy LeBlanc – Camptonville Community Partnership
 - 85% of students receive free or reduced meals
 - School garden is connected to the curriculum
 - Cafeteria
 - Manager “sneaks” vegetables into other foods (e.g. bread), makes own dough, uses whole grains
 - Every student is required to take from the salad bar
 - Focus on eating experience, including using real flatware and dishes
 - Kitchen runs at a deficit but school board accepts this because they know student nutrition is important
 - Would like to open cafeteria to local businesses so employees can eat there, bringing more money into the school to spend on providing meals to students (currently up for school board consideration)
 - All kitchen scraps go into compost/worm bin, which is also integrated into curriculum and garden
 - Based on 2004 legislation, schools are required to have a wellness policy in place, so Camptonville Community Partnership is doing presentations to new school board members and community members to raise recognition of the existence of these wellness policies as a tool to promote health in schools and community wellness
- Tia Shimada – California Food Policy Advocates
 - Breakfast First Campaign: Three-year initiative rolled out last year with the goal of working on access to and nutritional quality of breakfast
 - Campaign focuses on larger districts because they often have the most students eligible through free and reduced program, but will serve smaller districts as well
 - Currently SCUSD has 27% participation rate, so 73% of eligible students are not receiving breakfast at school
 - Since schools get more federal reimbursement dollars for increased participation, increasing participation is economically beneficial to school nutrition programs
 - Issue: school breakfasts are often served before most students get to school
 - Solutions:
 - Classroom Breakfast – has a 75-80% participation rate; and teachers report it increases sense of community and does not take away from instructional time
 - Second Chance Breakfast – serving breakfast later in the day (during early morning recess or extended morning passing time); students walk by mobile cart or go to cafeteria

- Grab-n-Go Breakfast – mobile cart before school; removes need to go to cafeteria
 - Challenges: getting buy-in from stakeholders and making sure that changes made at the district level are sustainable (e.g. not based on one champion, but focused on changing policies)
- Question & Answer Session
 - What are the federal nutritional requirements for breakfast?
 - All models operate under federal breakfast program, so nutritional standards are set at the federal level; those standards are currently under review and will hopefully be updated to better align with current dietary guidelines
 - In the classroom breakfast model, how do you deal with the stigma of free/reduced students as opposed to full-price students?
 - Classroom breakfast actually reduces the stigma since all the students have the option to eat and there is no money exchanged
 - Have you followed up with graduates of Camptonville District to see if the fresh and local focus of school food has improved their eating habits?
 - Have not been a part of the program long enough (two years), but as a community, a lot of people are very invested in eating well: relevant food issues make it into the community-run newspaper, farmers market is a social activity where people come together, CSAs are starting, etc.
 - How does the Parcel Tax work?
 - Per state law, any district can create a parcel tax to raise funds for school
 - To do a specific allocation of funds, 60% of the vote is needed; in Davis, residents voted to funnel a small percentage of this tax for the farm to school program
 - How do the funds show up in the Davis program? Labor and food costs; also funds half of an administrative position working to increase free/reduced meal participation to 100% (at 80% right now)
 - Is SCUSD proposing one significant kitchen upgrade or doing upgrades in all schools?
 - To really offer more choices and ensure consistency and safety, SCUSD would like to have central processing, including fresh baked goods and preparation (peeling, cutting, etc.) of fresh produce
 - What do you do to address nutritional needs of students over the summer?
 - SCUSD is working with State Department of Education Nutrition Services to offer summer feeding to those sites which offer childcare or host activities/educational programs over the summer
 - This summer, SCUSD will be running the same program it always has, but will use it as an educational opportunity to improve the program for the summer of 2012.
 - Have you looked into vocational education opportunities for students through working in the kitchens?
 - SCUSD - student engagement effort will have a few students working in the kitchens next year that are paid and fed; benefits both parties because Nutrition Services gets immediate feedback from those students on the quality of the food and the students learn valuable job skills
 - Camptonville – Cafeteria manager hosts evening cooking classes for students and families

- Are you viewing school nutrition changes as an overall system change (e.g. looking at labor issues)?
 - SCUSD – Yes, and partnering with the Healthy Foods Task Force to do that, but also need to create sustainable partnerships with community-based organizations, growers, farmers, etc. and focus on internal issues to maximize how much money the district has for food
- How can we focus on all kids, not just those who are eligible for free/reduced?
 - Issue is that some families do not qualify for free/reduced and still cannot afford (national cut-off is just over \$43,000 for family of four)
 - Need to make the cut-off more relevant to the geographic region in which the family lives, rather than adhering to one national scale
- *What action can the FSC take to help with these initiatives?*
 - Look regionally - create a goal using the lens of health/hunger/agriculture, focusing on a linear plan and leadership
 - Create school wellness policies
 - Support bills and policies that streamline federal reimbursement/commodities paperwork (CFPA can also help school districts navigate that system)
 - Help find a way to integrate more California specialty crops into the food system instead of having them sent out for processing, e.g. create a 5-year pilot program with just a small amount of money to see if such a program would be successful in schools
 - Explore Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh program to get fresh local produce into schools
 - Help more families apply for free and reduced meals by connecting with community assistance groups and helping them communicate with schools
 - CalFresh/CalWorks families are directly certified for free/reduced lunch and the legislature is looking at doing a reverse process as well (AB 402)—when a free/reduced application is filled out, a CalFresh application is submitted as well

FSC Governance Workgroup

- Review of mission statement (ratified at April meeting)
The Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative links rural and urban efforts working towards a viable and inclusive food system in the six-county region.
- Discussion and ratification of Vision Statement
We envision a regional food system that embraces our diverse cultural heritages and unique agricultural assets to provide healthful food for all in a secure, economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially equitable manner.
 - Comment: how do we work to bring more diversity into the FSC itself?
 - Approved by meeting participants
- Values Statement
 - Based on discussions at and following the governance workgroup, developing a values statement will be tabled until a later time. Instead we will use the food charter as a Declaration of Principles. Explanations and definitions will be added to the charter but no conceptual changes.
 - Meeting participants agreed with this direction, so governance workgroup will move forward with this

Ag Sustainability Policy Discussion

- Issues to focus on: having the Food Charter adopted, the Farm Bill, increase EBT usage and acceptance, ongoing issues such as food distribution and food hub issues
- Developing a policy agenda campaign
 - Until governing body is seated, actions will have to be more reactive
 - Need to make proactive work more of a priority in the long-run (e.g. how do we pair with Greenwise to encourage change)
 - Use knowledge and networks available within the FSC to inform people about current policy action opportunities
- Once defined membership criteria are developed by the governance workgroup, FSC members will be able to speak on behalf of or as a member of the FSC. Until that time, what it means to speak “as a member of” is unclear.
- Until Governing Body is formed, system is as follows:
 - Any policy issues that people need supported should be sent to Adriane (adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org) and include: what the issue is and what action you would like people to take
 - If you cannot attend governance or policy workgroup meetings, but have input, send to Paul Towers or Trish Kelly who will bring it to the meetings
 - FSC will be alerted when the Food Charter is being presented

Member Announcements/Events

- Slow Food Sacramento presents Urban Ag Fest benefiting Plates Café & Catering (a program of St. John’s Shelter for Women & Children) on Saturday, June 18th. There will be a wine and appetizer reception at 4PM (\$25) featuring hands-on farming education (beekeeping, chickens, vegetable gardening and more) as well as a gourmet dinner at 6PM (\$85) prepared by Plates Café and Catering. For details, menu, and reservations, visit www.slowfoodsacramento.org
- The next meeting of the Governance Workgroup is on June 22nd from 9:30-11:30AM at Valley Vision. An email invitation will be sent.
- If you are interested in learning more about the Healthy Foods Task Force or attending any of the meetings, please contact Robyn at robyn.krock@valleyvision.org.

**If your organization is having an event that you would like posted on the website, please email adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org.

Participants:

Chris Aguirre – Valley Vision
Danielle Boule – Alchemist/UC-Davis
Maryellen Burns – Community Member
Marta Chavez – SETA
Kory Clift – Freedom Farms
Megan Contreras – Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Paul Cultrera – Sacramento Natural Foods Cooperative
Leo Dabaghian – Community Member
Lisa DeGrasse – GraceSource
Stephanie Diehl - SCUSD

Mary Helen Doherty – Alchemist
Dawn Dunlap – Health Education Council
Ann Evans – Davis Farm to School Program
Ed Garrett – Fresh Spin Farms
Melissa Guajardo – Soil Born Farms
Allen Gunderson – Alchemist
Michael Guss – Western Nevada Development District
Brandon Ida – Office of Senator Barbara Boxer
Trish Kelly – Applied Development Economics
Alexis Koren – SCUSD Youth Development
Lisa Kresge – California Institute for Rural Studies
Robyn Krock – Valley Vision
Kari Lacosta – Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui
Stephanie Landrum – Kaiser Permanente
Adriane Lepage – Valley Vision
Cathy LeBlanc – Camptonville Community Partnership
Brandon Louie – Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Charles Mason – Ubuntu Green
Bill Maynard – Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition
Alyssa McClelland – Dairy Council
Bill Mueller – Valley Vision
Brenda Padilla – SCUSD Nutrition Services
Heather Reed – California Department of Education
Jim Rodgers – West Sacramento Youth Resource Coalition
Brenda Ruiz – Slow Food Sacramento
Asael Sala – Pesticide Watch
Tia Shimada – California Food Policy Advocates
Deborah Tamannaie – California Department of Education
Paul Towers – Pesticide Watch