

## FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE

### MEETING MINUTES, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

#### TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Brand, Susan Motika, Wendy White, Bernie Orsini, Mark Lara, Andrew Nowak, Krista Garand, Leo Lesh, Jeremy West, Julie Moore, Kristin Tucker

CSI: Lyn Kathlene & Jewlya Lynn

#### GUESTS:

Laurie Kester, Colorado Farm Bureau and local producer

Community Garden person

#### LUNCH & DISCUSSION OF THE FOOD SYSTEM PRIMER

##### Background (introduction):

- Farm to School Primer is a statewide document to “inspire” people to want to engage in Farm to School.

##### Discussion

*Question Posed: Do we want, as the Task Force, to review these types of draft documents?*

- Yes – we want to provide feedback. Keeps us informed on what is going on, and gives us a role and responsibility with projects they may not have started. Also appreciate opportunity to make sure information is accurate, because “experts” aren’t always right. Our level of expertise makes us a key group to review these types of materials.
- Keeps us from recreating the wheel. Helps build awareness.
- Criteria that help us define whether we should review materials: Specific to Farm to School, includes information on best practices and frameworks,
- Agreement to use email dissemination that always has the subject line Review Opportunity: Farm to School Related Material with a firm deadline and reminder email halfway to the deadline. When possible, send as an appointment to make the deadline firm.

*Question Posed: Who should receive this document (the Primer)?*

- Suggestions: Send to food service directors and encourage them to put it on their websites, in order to disseminate to parents. Press release (plus twitter, Facebook, and blog size posts) announcing availability that is sent to

mommy/parent groups, parent-teacher-association network, statewide associations, state agency partners, food councils, LiveWell coordinators, etc.

- Encouragement to post the link to the document on our own agency websites and share with the producers and schools in our own networks.
- Encouragement to have the intro to the document to encourage all parents to read it, not just those interested in Farm to School.

*Question Posed: Are there any content concerns?*

- Content concern: School lunch price is very low while breakfast seems high. This number does not reflect Colorado costs and may not reflect the non-food costs accurately (some of the percentages of what goes into a school lunch price don't reflect the experience). Also, doesn't describe the difference between the reimbursement rate and the actual cost.
- Suggestion: Update the national school lunch price to be a more recent year and try to use more Colorado data. Be very clear on what goes into the cost of the lunch (labor, food, non-food). *Note:* Task Force acknowledged this information is likely not available.
- Discussion around the strategies for determining costs per meal, which can be fairly comprehensive in approach.

*Question Posed: What is the intent of this Primer? How do you use it – what is the next step you can take?*

- The Primer is intended to start conversations and spur action.
- But what about the next steps? Perhaps the end of the Primer needs a title change – where do you go from here? Next steps. More accessible language.
- Suggestion to have “start small” in the end section on what to do next. And then have a short example of what they can do – include “who do you contact at your school – Contact your food service department.” Suggestion of bullet on “patience.”

### **Decision Items:**

- **Decision Item 1.** Provide feedback to the authors of the Primer, including any additional comments sent in by the Task Force members by Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, COB.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

### **REVIEW CHARGE OF THE TASK FORCE**

#### **Background (introduction)**

- Leo reviews the statutory charge

#### **Discussion**

- NONE, group agrees to move forward to the roadmap

## REVIEW AND REFINE ROADMAP

### Background (introduction)

- Summary of February Task Force work on the road map.

### Discussion

- ID one-time capital improvement grant \$ needs to be a core activity/strategy of the TF
- Assess and develop responses to barriers within state policy. Will work in small group today.
  - Mark agrees it needs to be addressed. His county commissioners are supportive. See county as already paying labor costs through other programs like prison training, and greenhouse training.
  - Leo sees as important – state and fed are regulations but there are no regulations on CRE, they don't what is really going on in the districts. Need state, city & county involved from the beginning to do the FTS changes needed. Federal government lags behind. But when you go through a CRE or audit, then the Federal government is involved.
  - Susan talks about the legal intern that can provide legal research.
- Expand and develop Information Hub for FTS in Colorado that has information as well as peer networking component, using resources already out there to build capacity. TF agrees the Hub is still a priority. We have put in FY2011 Specialty Crop Grant for it but need to plan it out carefully now.
- Create/expand FTS Pilot Programs focused on multiple models (FTS and Food Hubs). Evaluation tools are already available. TF agrees it is a priority.
  - Mark: Growers and producers need to be included. Co-ops need to be established because not one farmer is going to have enough for a school.
  - Jeremy & Andy: Colorado school based food hub is underway. Producer food hubs are co-ops by another name.
- Susan: TF documents their work, what the TF is doing. Not just the final legislative report in 2013.
- Can the roadmap be shared?

### Decision Items:

- Need to educate public agencies and get resources. Need to educate policymakers so they pass bills that are helpful not harmful.
- The roadmap revisions:
  - Add producer-based food hub to multiple models in pilot.
  - TF commits to task: Assess and develop responses to barriers within state policy. Change from dotted box to solid border.

- TF will capture what it is learning, where it is going in a “report.” Not on the roadmap but part of the work.
- Share roadmap with date of most recent version.
  - Make sure jargon and acronyms are spelled out on the back or somewhere. Be consistent on acronyms (FTS vs FtS, etc.)

## INTRODUCE BREAKOUT GROUPS

### Background (introduction)

- Intent of the breakout groups is to design the process, not identify the content. It is critical to be clear what the purpose, who should be involved in the design, who the audience, how to make it useful, etc.
- Start with purpose: What does success look like for an Info Hub, etc.
- Will spend 1.5 hours in small group. Bring back to full group for critique from the large group. What is missing, can it really be done (realism filter). Need to prioritize. We don't want the kitchen sink plan/consensus based plan with everything fail because you can't do everything. So, we may need to give up the really big picture in order to focus on what can be done.

### Discussion

- TF split into three facilitated groups to flesh out work plans.

## FULL TF DISCUSSION OF WORK PLAN BREAKOUT GROUPS

- Discussion was captured in the note section of the three Road Maps. See files:
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## NEXT STEPS

### Decision Items:

- Next TF meeting in September
- Subcommittee work in the summer
- Once a month email for full TF decisions
- Jeremy offered Greeley, maybe at a farm, for next meeting.