Food Access Cross-Cutting Team
Meeting Minutes
Intervale Center Hayloft Space, 180 Intervale Road, Burlington
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 9am-12pm

Meeting Objectives:
- *Learn more about how we can support Incorporating Lived Experience work and decide next steps*
- *Review the final draft of the Food Access Toolkit*
- *Reflect on 2018 work plan and brainstorm for 2019*

Attendance: Erin Buckwalter, NOFA-VT; Faye Mack, Hunger Free Vermont; Shane Rogers, VSJF; Sarah Alexander, Intervale Center; Emily Falta, VT Foodbank; Lisa Masé, Harmonized Cookery; Amy Davidson, UVM Extension EFNEP; Sophia Weiss, VT Foodbank; Suzanne Kelley, VT Department of Health; Jennie Porter, NOFA-VT; Claire Condagin, VYCC Food & Farm Program; Joseph Kiefer, Good Food Good Medicine; Carly Monahan, Salvation Farms; Andrea Solazzo, VT Foodbank; Chris Meehan, VT Foodbank; Molly Anderson, Middlebury College; Sarah Danly, VSFJ

Action Steps:
- The group is interested in an engagement workshop, to happen early in 2019. Erin and Faye will follow up with other interested F2P groups and with Curtis. A subcommittee of the CCT will work on planning over the next few months.
- The feedback on the Food Access Toolkit will be incorporated and the next version will be shared with the CCT in the spring. In the meantime, contact Lisa and Joseph if you would like a copy to start using.
- Erin and Faye will draft the 2019 work plan based on the group's feedback. Some additional ideas have been raised but the main projects are all continuing into 2019.
- See the Updates section of the minutes for important advocacy & engagement opportunities.

Agenda and Minutes:

Presentation on Incorporating Lived Experience: Curtis Ogden, Interaction Institute for Social Change
- 3 core questions to think about in engagement work: Why, Who, How?
- Group brainstorm of "why engagement"?
    - To make sure it's all the right work
    - You don't know what you don't know unless all voices are heard
    - To make sure solutions are appropriate for the group
    - To have buy-in from the group
- Often groups think engagement is the right thing to do but don't really know why – which can lead us astray in designing the engagement.
- Who do you want to engage? Saying "everybody" is concerning – not possible. Often people say "the community" or "public" which are code words for something else. Be more specific – residents? Non-professionals? Beneficiaries of services? Marginalized communities? All of the above?
- "What does engagement mean to you?" leads to how we want to engage key partners on a spectrum of communication (low) -> gather input (medium) -> co-create (high)
- Discussion: why haven't you done as much engagement?
    - Lack of knowledge institutionally on how to do it
    - Takes a lot more time and energy – organizations already feel strapped for resources. Worried that they won't be able to do it in a meaningful way

- o Concern about tokenism – doing it in a disrespectful way
  - o How do you ask this of people who aren't paid to do this work?
  - o Hard to think about doing things outside the way we normally do.
- Doing engagement is not automatically inherently virtuous. It can be done badly.
- Question from the group: This group is a collective of different organizations. To do engagement well, is it at this collective level or is engagement better served within individual organizations?
  - o Curtis's thoughts: In doing work with networks, the answer is both.
- Question from the group: What would be the next steps if we wanted to move to co-creation?
  - o Look at some of the examples that already exist out there. Also consider what roles don't yet exist in our organizations that would be required to do engagement work well.
  - o The ongoing work to build relationships.

Group Discussion:
- Erin shared the results of the survey of the CCT members on this subject. The majority of respondents thought it was really important for us to provide information and resources to organizations in the Network to help them incorporate lived experience better, and to help those who are working directly with individuals in their own organization. People also asked a number of questions, which could be used to develop a training.
- Other parts of the F2P network also need this information and are interested in the idea of a training.
- How can this group be inclusive of people who don't have enough time to engage? What if we stop thinking about building engagement in a meeting setting and instead think of alternate gatherings that can be easier (or more appealing) to make time for, such as dinner, or gleaning together.
- We need to think back to the why/who/how questions – what is the intention for having the CCT engage in these events, or is it more effective for us as individual organizations?
- This does speak to bigger questions around collective impact and F2P and having broader, regular participation in terms of strategic decision making.
- The CCT is interested in starting with a training and working with Curtis and the others at the Interaction Institute. This training may be framed around engagement within each individual organizations, and then a later phase of this process could be figuring out what kind of engagement to pursue collectively as a CCT.
- While planning a training, can simultaneously think about other approaches like hosting a dinner.
- VSJF also offers a $30/hr stipend for key constituents/stakeholders who are not representing an organization, to be able to attend regular F2P meetings.

Review Food Access Toolkit
- The subcommittee working on this project (which has formerly been referred to as the Food Justice Rubric) shared an updated draft and is seeking one final round of feedback from the group.
- Small groups first used the tool for their own organizations and then provided suggestions/feedback. There were a number of suggestions which the subcommittee will incorporate into the next draft.
- Members of the CCT can see using this tool at organizational meetings, for example in work planning.
- The subcommittee with share another (and hopefully final) draft in the spring.

2018 Work Plan Reflection and 2019 Brainstorm
2018 Work Plan Reflection:
- This meeting helped move forward both the food access toolkit/food justice rubric, and the voices of lived experience conversation.
- The planning module work has continued and although the timeline has been extended into 2019, the group will be sharing progress in the spring.
- Shane Rogers from Rooted in Vermont appreciates the partnership and has been able to focus in more on food access issues in Rooted materials.
- The Right to Food project was discussed at several meetings and the current status is that the CCT feels

it is a worthwhile project, but no individuals have the capacity to be the champions moving the work forward, and there are several other large projects as well. This may be removed from the workplan while it is indefinitely on hold.
- Strategy 2: an additional implementation idea is of working more directly with these communities.
- This group had quite a few meetings in 2018 (5 full-group meetings, plus regular meetings of both the Planning Task Force and the Food Justice Subcommittee.) A lot has been accomplished and group members appreciate that meetings are structured in a way that they can miss some meetings and still be included in giving feedback when they do attend.

2019 Work Plan Brainstorm:
- Because the 2018 work plan had so many large projects, it feels somewhat like a 2-year work plan, and not much needs to change. The 3 main projects will continue to be the town planning project, the food access toolkit/rubric, and the engagement workshop/conversation.
- Additional activities:
  - Have time for organizations to do mini-presentations on what they're doing – which will help with better collaboration. A related idea is for group members to visit each other to learn more about their work – this may be an outcome of the mini-presentations.
  - Continue learning journeys with panels that include the voices of program participants
  - Invite relevant outside groups to come give updates
- The CCT would like to have the engagement training towards the beginning of the year, maybe April.
  - Erin and Faye will mention this at the upcoming F2P steering committee meeting since other groups are interested as well.
  - The CCT would like to have the training done well before the August deadline for applications to the F2P Network Gathering, to have time to discuss proposing a session.

Updates
- Planning Resource: Work has continued, although the timeline is extended into 2019. There was a session at the F2P Gathering, which went well. Attendees were interested in knowing more about the basics of planning before jumping into the food access work, which may have implications for the content of the resource. Taylar Foster, the consultant working on the resource, will also be running the session at the NOFA winter conference.
- Transportation: Vermont is working on updating its Public Transit Policy Plan, which is very relevant to food access. There was a series of public engagement meetings (now completed) but the online survey is still open. This is also the early stages of an 18-month process so there will be an opportunity for public input at later stages as well.
- State Health Improvement Plan: the state is also working on updating its SHIP (State Health Improvement Plan). There are 5 priority health conditions, with a focus on the intersections of these based on the roots of inequity. The plan is also considering the umbrella issues of transportation, food access, and housing.
- Volunteering and donating opportunities: There is a big uptick of people offering to volunteer, and of donations (food and otherwise) at this time of year. Vermont 211 is collecting these opportunities so if you encounter anyone looking for opportunities in their communities, you can direct them to 211.
- Proposed rule change for benefits programs for immigrants: The proposed rule change would count participation in food programs as a public charge, which hurts immigration applications. Please submit a comment opposing this rule change; it only takes 5 minutes. You can submit a comment as an individual and/or an organization. Quantity of comments is important but it's also important that at least 30% of the comment is a unique statement – templates will be counted together as a single comment. You could use a template and then add your own language at the end.

Wrap Up & End