***Access to Healthy Foods for Low-income Families Action Plan***   
 **1. Establish waste minimizing practices and policies with supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, schools, hospitals and any other large feeding institutions, restaurants and stores by supplying excess to food banks serving Douglas County (for low-income families)**

Action group: Verdell Taylor, Shana Talley, Raven Naramore, Suzanne Rice

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| What needs to be done? | Who will take actions? | By what date will the action be done? | Resources needed (financial, human, & other ) | What individuals and organizations should be informed/involved re: these actions? |
| Identify the policymakers | Rev. Taylor |  |  | Rev. Taylor will mention it to his congregation and greater community, and Raven will reach out to her contacts. We believe that the inclusion of this voice is essential to long term success and implementation. |
| Explore options for change in school cafeterias | Raven |  |  | Raven will email Paula Murrish to discover the policies governing food waste, portion allocation, and purchasing requirements in the public school system. |
| Identify what local supermarkets in town currently do with wasted food (record as loss or donate?) | Rev. Taylor |  |  | Rev. Taylor will contact Dillons and Hyvee and Raven will contact Checkers and the Merc to discover the policy for removing “expired” foods from the shelves and 1. placing it on clearance 2. throwing it away. This step has the greater goal of utilizing the food that needs to consumed immediately in the institutions who have daily food preparation. |
| Education about respect for food and eliminating the throw-away society |  |  |  |  |
| Explore compost collection at a local plot of land and then sell dirt to community by the truck load |  |  |  |  |
| Ask for update from Just Food regarding purchase of refrigerated truck and plans for increasing food recovery. | Eileen | 8/19/13 |  | Food Policy Council |
| Complete an assessment of available supply of excess food among various institutions and mapping out of logistics needed. Also, interview institutional donors to understand concerns/needs. |  |  | Intern/volunteer |  |

1. **Implement a choice-based system with whole foods incentivized in local food banks/ pantries and assure availability of healthy food choices**

Action group: Cyndi Treaster, Connie Detweiler, Nancy Thellman, Steve Lopes, Jeremy Farmer, Suzanne Rice, Christina Holt

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| Meet with Lawrence Community Shelter to learn about their food needs, explore how their commercial kitchen might be used for processing fresh produce for canning or freezing and also involve shelter guests in learning about canning/ freezing | Nancy Thellman |  |  |  | 8/2/13: Nancy had preliminary conversations with Jeremy Farmer. Next step will be meeting with Loring Henderson, Lawrence Community Shelter. |
| Meet with LINK & extend invitation to join this group, explore possibility of developing recommendations/ guidelines for food/ meals (to promote healthy options) | Jeremy |  |  |  | 8/2/13: No update |
| Work with K-State Extension to increase opportunities for low-income residents to learn about how to can and freeze perishable food (that might otherwise go to waste) | Connie |  |  |  | 8/2/13: Connie held healthy cooking classes at Edgewood Homes; 13 people attended. She teaches cooking classes incorporating ingredients on food pantry shelves. Connie is waiting to hear back from Jeremy Farmer about nutrition education/ food demos at Just Food. |
| Support Douglas County Food Policy Council efforts to build the local food hub/ explore how gleaned or rescued food might be frozen, canned or dehydrated for use during non-growing season | Nancy |  |  |  | 8/2/13: Much progress being made by Dg. Co. Food Policy Council. Kansas Health Foundation grant has been received ($70,000) to do a feasibility study to hire a consultant to study Douglas County as the aggregation point for a 17-county food hub (including Wyandotte and Johnson Counties). Intent is to grow public-public partnerships to take action based upon results of the study. |
| Engage in outreach to other local agencies/ pantries (to invite them to join in these efforts) | Christina/ Jeremy | 8/2/13 |  |  | 8/2/13: Christina and Verdell met with Erika Dvorske about the United Way’s Self Sufficiency working group around food insecurity, and explored how to ensure communication between the groups. |

***Access to Healthy Foods for Low-income Families***

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1. **Establish satellite food pantry locations to provide access to whole foods for low-income families**

Action group: Haley Harrington, Verdell Taylor, Jeremy Farmer

***Access to Healthy Foods for Low-income Families***

1. **Establish a system that engages low-income families as food growers and small business operators**

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| Contact Jennifer Smith at the Extension Office. Jennifer created a map of all of the community gardens in Douglas County last year. This map was going to be our seed data to compile a database and data visualization of existing resources. Additionally, Landon was going to identify new gardens in one of the two high-school catchment areas in Lawrence and other municipalities in Douglas County. | Landon |  |  |  |
| Learn more about the pallet garden approach adopted by Just Food. The group would explore how this strategy can be brought to scale to meet the needs of Douglas County residents. | Cyndi |  |  |  |
| Learn about the Common Ground program in Lawrence and Douglas County. Identifying plots of land will identify resources available for creating new community gardens in Douglas County. Also, Chuck will work to create (update) a resource map of existing community gardens and use geospatial data to track available resources. | Chuck |  |  |  |
| Explore creating a task force for helping low-income citizens to create their own family gardens. |  |  |  |  |

Action group: Cyndi Treaster, Chuck Sepers, Brett Ramey, Haley Harrington

***Access to Healthy Foods for Low-income Families***

1. **Enhance the capacity of the food system to handle large-scale donations (e.g., storage, transportation)**

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Action group: Steve Lopes

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| Find out what the SNAP enrollment process entails. |  |  |  | Raven |
| Check with DCF to see if there is any problem with having a non-DCF worker assist community members with the enrollment process. |  |  |  | Connie |
| Identify places in the community where an enrollment facilitator could hold hours, on the short list are Just Food, Dental Clinic, Health Care Access, and Senior Center. |  |  |  |  |
| Identify people who could either volunteer-or if there are funds to support a position, a paid employee, possibly someone who receives or has received SNAP benefits, so has personal experience navigating the system and who can alleviate some of the culture of shame that sometimes surrounds receiving benefits. |  |  |  |  |
| Identify the resources needed for an enrollment facilitator to operate i.e., computer, phone line, confidentiality form. |  |  |  |  |
| Also discussed including a one pager in the mailer sent out to parents of children who receive free or reduced lunches about SNAP enrollment parameters and places and dates when an enrollment facilitator would be available |  |  |  |  |

1. **Establish new opportunities to purchase fresh produce in North Lawrence and other parts of Douglas County with limited options, including farmer’s markets, integration into existing retail options, or opening corner stores.**

Action group: Nancy Thellman, Brett Ramey, Chuck Sepers, Haley Harrington

***Access to Healthy Foods for Low-income Families***

1. **Implement environmental changes (e.g., moving bus stops closer) that make access to local food banks/ pantries and farmers’ markets easier**

Action group: Eileen Horn, Christina Holt, Chuck Sepers

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| 1. Study Transportation Access to Healthy Food assessment and determine next steps | Christina, Chuck, Eileen |  |  |  | 8/2/13: Jay Decker will join meeting and present to group in October |
| 1. Encourage the implementation of private grocery vans  * Eileen will contact Dillons * Christina will contact Jan Hornburger at Hy-Vee | Eileen, Christina |  |  |  | 8/9/13: Christina reached out to Jan Hornburger at Hy-Vee and Jan spoke with the store manager, who asked Jan to look into the feasibility of Hy-Vee providing this van service to pick up customers willing to spend $30 or more and bring them to the store. They are less interested in purchasing a van, but more interested in seeing if they could lease a service. Jan will look into this and be in touch with the group. Jan is interested in talking with a grocery store that has implemented this service, and how it has worked for them. |

1. **Establish case management and outreach enrollment at local food pantries and schools that links and enrolls people to SNAP and food stamps programs**

Action group: Cyndi Treaster, Verdell Taylor, Connie Detweiler, Raven Naramore, Shana Talley

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