LiveWell Lawrence Coalition

Access to Healthy Food for Low-income Families Work Group

October 4, 2013 meeting summary

Christina welcomed the group at 8 AM.

**Attendance:** Haley Harrington, HCA Intern Maddie \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (?), Jeremy Farmer, Amanda Schwegler, Christina Holt, Eileen Horn, Steve Lopes, Patty Metzler, Raven Naramore, Chuck Sepers, Charlie Bryan, Erin Ice (LDCHD Intern)

**Announcements:**

KU Fights for Hunger events in October include Campus wide food drive October 1-31;

October 8, 12-1 PM “Hunger at Home”, panel discussion, Alderson Auditorium, KS Union;

October 17, 7 PM, “A Place at the Table” documentary, Liberty Hall, suggested $3 donation;

October 24, 7 PM, Hunger Advocacy Training, Malott Room, KS Union.

October 15, 4:30-6:30 PM, LiveWell 5th Anniversary Celebration, Abe & Jakes (recognition 5:15 PM).

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Intern Erin Ice will be helping with documentation of the work group’s progress in the Online Documentation and Support System. Erin also serves as Center for Community Outreach Daily Bread Co-Coordinator.

**Transportation Access to Healthy Food presentation**: Unfortunately, presenter Jay Decker suffered a broken foot just prior to his scheduled presentation. Postponed to the next meeting.

**Small Group reports:** Raven reported on progress from her group. She and Verdell Talyor are working with local grocery stores to learn more about their policy for expiring food. They are hoping to divert usable food (e.g., yogurt) to supplement local school breakfast programs to add additional healthy options. Raven also reported that they are looking into feasibility of having a SNAP enrollment outreach person (or volunteer team) who could rove between agencies such as Just Food, Health Care Access, and the Douglas County Dental Clinic. Need to explore whether SNAP paperwork could be turned into DCF (SRS) by this case worker. Jeremy Farmer suggested reaching out to Norm White, which Raven agreed to do. Christina will reach out to Norm and invite him to join our working group. Eileen Horn has a full-time intern from the School of Education’s Community Health Program. Charlie will reach out to her to see if this might be a project that this intern would be interested in spearheading. Suggestion: could also look at/ learn from other communities who have implemented a similar model, and/ or the VITA model for training folks to help low-income people with tax returns or the Navigators of ObamaCare model (where volunteers help with enrollment).

Amanda reported on the KU food pantry 1st and 3rd Thursday’s of the month at ECM (4-8pm). Prior to the 10/3 food pantry, outreach was done at Stauffer Place Apartments (where a number of non-traditional and international students live), which resulted in increased participation in the pantry. There are 10 trained core volunteers. This is a pilot with possibility of KU food pantry being housed in on-campus Union in the future.

Chuck Sepers reported that a complete list of community gardens has been compiled.

Jeremy reported on the Just Food garden project. More clients are getting involved (15 people are helping regularly). They are learning gardening skills and a partnership with Earl May (who donates tomato plants) enables them to take plants home with them to grow at home, too. The garden project is time-consuming and they would like to see it grow next year; will need additional staff/ volunteer support.

Jeremy also reported on National Homelessness and Hunger Week, November 16-24, which a Just Food AmeriCorps volunteer is coordinating for our community. Plans include a Food Stamp Challenge (invited participants include City and County Commissioners, Leadership Lawrence 2014, as well as other community members). Will include a social media component for advocacy/ awareness.

Jeremy shared that Just Food should be receiving the grant from the City this week to purchase the refrigerated truck (to enable safe transportation of perishable foods recovered from local stores).

Christina will invite Greg Moore (Director of LINK) to join the work group. Others are welcome to invite other folks who should be at the table, including people experiencing food insecurity or who have experienced food insecurity in the past.

**Discussion of applying for LiveWell minigrants:** Building capacity for SNAP outreach, training cooking class instructors, and the Just Food and/or North Lawrence garden project could benefit from paid staff (such as an AmeriCorps VISTA person). There was interest in pursuing grants ($2,000) to hire staff (approx. $4,000 for a VISTA). VISTA’s areas include poverty and healthy futures, including food and access to health services. VISTA is a 3-year project, with VISTAs brought in for 1 year at a time. Charlie Bryan will work on funding application. Charlie stated there is a good chance of our group receiving support, as WorkWell already has its own dedicated funding, and the Healthy Kids work group is likely to be able to use Schools Foundation funding. A total of $20,000 will be available in mini-grants.

**Consideration of securing paid staff:** There was discussion of employing either VISTA (capacity building) or AmeriCorps (direct source) volunteers to increase capacity of the work group. Consensus favored further inquiry.

**Work Group meeting schedule:** Charlie facilitated discussion about the current meeting schedule, perhaps increasing it to monthly, rather than bimonthly in order to keep momentum. There was discussion about perhaps small groups meeting on the off month between work group meetings.

**Next meeting:** December 6, 2013

**Adjourn:** 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lopes, Communications Coordinator