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## Food Security Task Force

Minutes: December 21, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

The following were in attendance at the meeting:

Matt Slater, Cindy Smith (C), Katharine Frase(C)

Marcie Passarella, Nicole Fervan , Lisa Rodriguez(minutes),

Dave Humphrey( YCH), Wini Bonamico ( Agency Relations Associate for Feeding Westchester), Monique McCoy (Agency Relations Manager for Feeding Westchester)

Introduction: Introduced Monique McCoy and Wini Bonamico from Feeding Westchester. Feeding Westchester was invited to the meeting to Share their knowledge of hunger across Westchester and what other communities are doing.

- Three out of four pantries were represented. Have reached out to the fourth pantry which is in the Seventh Advent Church on Whitehill Road. Having trouble making contact. Monique said they are a pop-up pantry (meaning they only began operations within 2020 and are not part of the long-standing partner network). They are getting pallets of produce and dry food which they distribute every Friday.
- Matt was contacted by Popeyes and they are looking to donate monthly to the Food Pantry. Donate food 1 time per month to each of four pantries. Vijay is the contact person. Need to make sure it is not bulk food. Cindy agreed to call Vijay and figure this out.
- Dave Humphrey is from Yorktown Community Help from YCC building in Yorktown. They distribute one time per month. Meals delivered is from The Senior Nutrition Center. Those are not related to the pantry. The pantry is separate from the Nutrition Center. This is funded by the town. The food is cooked at the Center. YCH cannot get food from Feeding Westchester because they only feed Yorktown. Monique said that she can probably still provide some food. Connecting Monique and Dave.
- Matt reached out to family whose house burned down, and they are hoping to get gift cards. Cindy will try to provide grocery store gift cards.

- Health Disparity Issues- Two discussions: the first was about flu shots. Katharine spoke to the health department, but vaccines could only be done indoors, and the Presbyterian church does not have the capability. Second, with vaccine now coming we would like to maximize the number of people who are aware of its' availability. Monique will be working on getting information on the CoVid vaccine to clients. Have to be sure to get the information out to African American and Hispanic families. That should be happening by February. Thinking about a mobile site to distribute the vaccine. Another option may be to set up a tent at the Food Pantry sites. Want to make sure our clients are not overlooked and that no disparity exists.
- Cindy (St. Marys)-Toy distribution was not as smooth as expected, although bags of toys were organized by name of client. Many people who signed up did not show up to pick up toys. Left over toys went to the Yorktown Police and Fire dept. for distribution. One hundred eighty families signed up for toys. Three hundred families came for food. Katharine (Presbyterian) Distributed coats to two hundred families.

**QUESTION: How do we know who we are missing? There are a number of subsets, seniors, members of the community who are not mobile, children and families.**

- Will need to get the data from St. Marys and YHC. Presbyterian information sent as a different email. Will get data from Pop ups and Food Pantries as well from Feeding Westchester (Monique)
- It was suggested that we extract data and see if there are cluster areas. Are we missing groups?
- Need for seniors may be different. Qualification for Wheels on Meals are different than other services. Sometimes it is not about affording food but more about being unable to get out.
- Data from School Districts: Economically Disadvantaged: Yorktown School District: 12% of the 3300 students (about 400)  
Lakeland is at 21% of 5591 (over 1,000)  
Mobile Pantry was at the George Washington elementary school but has moved to the JV mall.

- Concern is that there are nowhere near those numbers that are being served. Lakeland was bringing \$2,000 per week to feed students from teachers during this pandemic.

Nicole and Marcie volunteered to try to organize the data.

**How can we make our community members aware of what services exist and they can receive?**

- Matt suggested inviting superintendents or social workers to the next meeting to see if they can help with communication.
- Perhaps each agency can give a snapshot. How do we share the information from each pantry?
- Katharine suggested What about an historical look at hunger and how it has been affected by the economy/. Tell the story. Hunger is not a need that goes away as people are vaccinated. Start looking at unemployment data and future trends.

Marcie had some pies from Wilkens from Fundraiser. They suggested donating to Jan Peak House.

Next meeting January 25, 2020 at 7PM.