**Health & Education Cluster**

**Minutes 10/20/14**

1. **Check-in / Set meeting for next month:** Brittany Wager from ASAP would like to attend cluster meetings, but due to the current time is unable to. Laura will contact Brittany to see if she or someone can attend our next meeting which will be on **Monday, November 17th from 6:00 – 7:30pm**. Cristina will see if the space at Handmade in America is available. Members in attendance: Laura Cheatham, Timothy Sadler, Cristina Hall, Liz Marascio, Ginny Parker, and Courtney Hall.
2. **Reviewed and approved agenda**
3. **Reviewed 9/15 minutes –** Decision made to review minutes before meeting in future meetings to save time. All agreed. Minutes approved.
4. **Summary of General Council Meeting** (Laura)
   1. MoTW was cancelled due to the weather. Have not started to talk about a new meeting time yet and may not be able to since the General Council is tackling several internal priorities through the end of the year.
   2. Other Cluster Updates:
      1. Farmer Support – developing a survey looking at barriers to investing in local markets (before the planting season begins in 2015)
      2. Policy Mobilization – reviewing sustainability plan & food action plan
      3. Water – working with the city to address property storm water and discussing the possibility of green landscapes to increase wild food
      4. Land Use – working on strategic plan
      5. Pollinator – proposed to dissolve the cluster since there is an alternative organization (Beekeepers USA) working on bee issues. Proposal to address some of these issues in the Land Use Cluster (such as pesticides). General Council will be voting on this next week.
   3. Funding Committee Update – Food Policy Council did not get the RWJF prize for $4,000, but the committee continues to look for other grants and funding sources.
   4. Discussed having a historian/secretary role to have more continuity and consistency.
   5. Laura will send out an email about some of the events that are happening around town (was originally on tonight’s meeting agenda).
5. **Cluster Strategic Planning** 
   1. Clarifying question – who is maintaining the data now? Currently, there is not anyone tracking metrics right now, but this is something that will be discussed at the Food Issues Forum in December with many NC food policy councils with the same needs.
   2. Amongst the top priorities, there is only one related to our cluster (Long Term Goals #6 – Identify economic development opportunities). Idea to: Test kids in city schools to figure out what they are comfortable eating.
   3. City schools do provide some local food within a 100-mile radius; however, they cannot get food from other local places because they do not meet the sanitary regulations. There is red tape involved in local food options.
   4. There are some parts of Top Priorities #4 (food mentoring) that are applicable to our cluster. Education around food options at places like the food bank where there might not be as much bureaucracy involved.
   5. Idea – Local Food Tastes Better Campaign
   6. Top Priority #6 – Creating curriculum and menus. What do we need to know? Who do we need to know? Who do we already know? Boils down to creating a baseline for ourselves – comes back to creating a resource list of what is already been done in the community for health, local foods, and nutrition.
   7. Idea – have a meeting or event where we invite organizations that are working on these issues to present (for example, like the event for Who’s Who in Local Food in Buncombe County).
   8. See what local schools are already doing. There is work being done with the snack bars. Ideas from schools also included a family dinner night and farmers’ markets at schools. Education needed for both parents and children.
   9. Idea for value-meal of whole foods menu for concession stands.
   10. Suggestion to set aside 15-20 minutes for brainstorming.
   11. Some of the clusters are strictly policy and others are more project-based. Want to keep our objectives aligned with policy and can pursue funding from the county or state.
   12. Could add on to Top Priority #6 – “By identifying policy barriers for implementing…” TO: Promote the adoption of local and healthy foods and funding for City and County schools by:
       1. Identifying the existing community resources already working on this
       2. Identifying the current barriers to adopting local and healthy foods and funding
       3. Create recommendations for future policy revisions to address these barriers
   13. Idea - set aside 10-15 minutes in each meeting for a key player organization to present about what they are doing in the community
   14. Partner with policy mobilization cluster to draft legislation.
   15. City adopted the Food Action Plan and the Tree Commission has an edible plant list.
   16. Homework proposal: Review Food Action Plan
   17. Scope is beyond the schools but also the parents and the community.
   18. Decision point to decide as a cluster which role we are going to take. Potential Role: Function as a connector / identifier of community resources working for local food / healthy food initiatives to see who is already out there and what the gaps are.
   19. Consensus on the top two priorities:
       1. Promote the adoption of local and healthy foods for the Buncombe County community/City of Asheville with an emphasis on City and County schools by:
          1. Identifying existing community resources already conducting education on health, nutrition, and local food consumption to establish a baseline of work.
          2. Identify the current barriers to adopting local healthy foods within local policy. As the Health & Education Cluster, we will function as a connector / identifier of community resources working for local and healthy food initiatives. (will ultimately support #4 under long-term goals)
   20. To move forward we should: develop a template of questions to ask different organizations.
   21. Courtney will talk to School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to see what their main issues are in schools.
   22. Laura will build in time to the agenda to discuss action steps for priorities.
6. **Closing Round**