

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Location: Wednesday, April 19, 2023; United Way of Greater Knoxville

Type of Meeting: Educational

Recorder: Brett Foster

<p>Attending Appointed (Voting) Members</p>	<p>Bruce Crabtree Bailey Foster Brett Foster Laura Deubler Ross Jones Sara Keel Marisa Moazen Rylan Thompson</p>
<p>Attending Associated (Non-voting) Members</p>	<p>Adam Caraco Kara Finger Nicole Gross Travis Henderson Marissa McKeague Judith Pelot Charlotte Rodina Wade Seifert</p>
<p>Other Attendees</p>	<p>Madelyn Howe—Knox County Health Department Fiona McAnally—City of Knoxville Kimberly Pettigrew—United Way Greater Knoxville</p> <p>Kat Bike—Nourish Knoxville</p> <p>Liliana Burbano—UT Medical Center CJ Butcher—United Way Greater Knoxville Mary Clay Kline—Second Harvest Kendra Lindsay—Second Harvest Courtney Liles—Second Harvest Hailey Lewis—UT grad student Devalle Muhammad—Muslim Community of Knoxville Lillie Sutton—KCDC AmeriCorps</p>

<p>1.</p>	<p>Welcome and Introductions: Bailey Foster</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Presentation on Nourish Knoxville by Kat Bike: Building healthy communities by supporting relationships between local farmers, producers, and the public. Covering all across East TN, not just Knoxville. <u>Double Up East TN</u>—SNAP benefits are doubled at Nourish Knoxville supported farmers markets</p>

(up to \$20 per day per market to be spent on fresh produce). Applying for grant to hopefully expand program state-wide. 2022 stats: 1341 SNAP transactions with \$58,282 spent with local producers by SNAP customers. Resource guide available once reprinted: Veggie Know-How Guide—instructions on how to store and prepare fresh produce. Nourish Moves—age 2 and up can participate (Market Square and New Harvest currently); participants receive a pedometer to track steps, can receive \$3 in produce bucks; on 5th visit: double produce bucks; incentives for 10000 steps and 20000 steps. Nourish Kids—ability for kids to try fresh produce; happens once per month at each of their markets and some partner markets; must be ages 2-12 to participate—receive an activity, can try fresh produce, and receive \$5 in produce bucks. Field Trips—available for children, but also families, organizations, etc.; provide a simple activity (ex. scavenger hunt), educational resources, and a tour of the area. East TN Local Food Guide—created in partnership with Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project; free print and online listings of farms, CSAs, U-Picks, farmers’ markets, etc.

First Wednesday farmers’ market: May 3rd

Can contact Kat at programs@nourishknoxville.org

3. **Organizational Updates and Announcements:**

Knox County Schools Nutrition—wrapping up school year and planning for summer feeding; P-EBT will be ending with end of the public health emergency, but summer EBT has been made permanent; TN participating in direct certification Medicaid pilot next school year—hopeful it will increase direct certification numbers for an automatic qualifier of benefits.

American Heart Association—Stroke Awareness Month: May; AHA can support raising awareness for risks of stroke; materials can be picked up at Heart House. CPR and AED awareness week: first of June; have found a lot of organizations cannot afford AEDs—working to address community response plans in hopes of getting partners to support funding for this initiative. 11 cold storage applications have been received—all have received green light to go forward.

CAC—Mobile Meals kitchen expansion is complete; kitchen manager is retiring in June—training an existing employee to take position; Mobile Meals kitchen can do small programs and catering. In need of summer volunteers (Goal is to have 50 monthly volunteers). Commodity distribution first Monday and Tuesday of May (\$30-\$35 of free groceries for families who qualify for free/reduced meals). Beardsley has 7 distributions this week; school garden program going well. Farm Camp and Farm Apprenticeship is coming up; seed and plant distribution is next week—extras available the first week of May. First Friday of June—art gala at the farm.

Boys & Girls Club—working with outlying counties to get ready for summer and planning for summer meals; working on food distribution for families they serve.

Dream Center—Food truck program—10 different locations, with 4 locations at night MTWR—50,000 meals through food truck last quarter. Dream Eats—parent engagement events at Title I schools; online surplus store—food rescue provides food and products for Knox County Social Workers to order for families they are serving.

Montgomery Village Baptist Center—going through rebranding to rename and shift focus on being a center for hope; trying to figure out new revenue streams since they are predominantly donation funding; seeing an uptick in need. Donations of furniture and appliances are needed, as they are seeing a huge need for these as well. Clothing is distributed every Friday (10 pieces of clothing per person in family each month), so clothing is needed as well—men’s clothing is greatest need.

KCDC—community fairs are currently ongoing—travel property to property with fair of all service providers at one time; recruiting for a garden intern currently; needs assessment of all residents in fall 2021—will do another of all section 8 participants—goal to send in June.

Second Harvest—Interfaith Health Clinic partnership; UT Transplant Center, Cystic Fibrosis Center, and Heart Failure Clinic—individual food boxes to fit patient needs; expanding on school partnerships; looking to partner with Healthy Families program at McNabb Center—order ahead platform to help reach mothers and young children (kitchen utensils, small appliances, and food).

KCHD—piloting food literacy program with early childcare centers (infant to age 5)—providing fresh veggies for taste test and outdoor garden supplies; funding for healthy pantry initiatives (hoping to partner with AHA on some projects)—can provide nutrition education, dry storage, cold storage; first free refrigerator going in soon at Sam Duff Park.

University of TN—Smokey’s Pantry has been successful this semester (repurposing leftovers from all dining halls).

TN State University—team conference with 14 organizations—community learned about urban agriculture; conference occurs every April; extension specialists can assist with writing grants, teach classes, etc. Publications are also available—gardening, pest management, family/consumer sciences, etc.

United Way—community garden survey is out (link will be provided in meeting notes); funding opportunity with UT Knoxville Learning through Giving grant (collaboration between two non-profits; students choose grantees); 700 surveys conducted for community food security survey (very diverse population surveyed)—hopeful to produce data analysis in May; partnering with Women with Vision for a household pulse survey; partnering with Rooted East for interviews of elderly population in East Knoxville, resulting in archival research for living memory for community; Knox Pride is using United Way funding for a podcast project to touch on food insecurity; supported an event for deaf community to bring together to share about food insecurity needs in that community; working with formerly incarcerated individual to create a project about life after incarceration and getting involved in food system; expanding on work with surveys for homeless through KARM; working with Centro Hispano (economic leadership with Latino women) in conjunction with Real Good Kitchen; still working on KCDC Asset Mapping—looking to continue surveys with wheelchair bound population around transportation needs; Community Schools will be under UWGK on July 1—hoping to have more robust food discussions in near future.

City of Knoxville—State of the City—next Wednesday at 12:00 PM--Western Heights, 1800 Vermont (RSVP to 311 or 215-4311 by this Friday); unveiling city budget for upcoming year

	<p><u>Real Good Kitchen</u>—3rd year, served 80 food entrepreneurs during that time; official catering program available now; supper club program—twice a month featuring one of the businesses in kitchen (raise visibility for those businesses); working on redevelopment of building and site in current location (2500 sq. ft. commercial kitchen; additional 4500 sq. ft. looking to redevelop—stakeholder input phase); operations coordinator position available at Real Good Kitchen (PT at \$18/hr). <u>Real Good Kitchen Foundation</u> is now 501c3—will receive grant funding soon to serve East Knoxville and underserved entrepreneurs; restarting family meal program—looking for funding and partners; looking at second location in Western Heights by 2026; looking for AmeriCorps vista in August for Real Good Kitchen Foundation.</p>
4.	Meeting Adjourned.