



Meeting Minutes: Farm to School Taskforce Friday, January 24, 2014, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 3900 Cannon Road Carlsbad, CA 92010	Next Taskforce Meeting: Friday, March 21, 2014 Cajon Valley Union School District
Attendees: Casey Anderson (San Diego County Farm Bureau), JuliAnna Arnett (Community Health Initiative Partners), Heather Berkoben, Sandra Bishop (Sweetwater Union High School District), Jared Bray (Stehly Farms Organics), Danny Calvillo (Sunrise Produce), Ashley Cassat (San Diego Unified School District), Tracy Conkey (Dairy Council of California), LaVonna Connelly, Laura Day (Cardiff School District), Dwight Detter (Whole Foods Market), Lea Garnero, Jon Hansen (National School District), Johnna Jenkins (Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District), Russell Levan (Resource Conservation District), Kate McDevitt (UCSD Network for a Healthy California), Mark Mendoza (Cajon Valley Union School District), Siri Perlman (San Dieguito Union High School District), Debby Perrault (Bonsall Union School District), Judi Reynolds (Escondido Union School District), Naomi Shadwell (Oceanside Unified School District), Kathryn Spencer (San Diego Unified School District), Dawn Stone (Escondido Union School District), Evelyn Zarzosa (Escondido Union High School District)	
Recorder: Yasha Magarik (CHIP)	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Introduction of New Co-Chairs by JuliAnna Arnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JuliAnna introduced the new co-chairs: Johnna Jenkins & Judi Reynolds 	
Welcome & Introductions by Johnna Jenkins & Judi Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new co-chairs asked attendees around the room to introduce themselves 	
San Diego Farm to Institution Cohort by Anchi Mei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anchi presented on the F2S Cohort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRC has received a Community Transformation Grant to select 6 institutions in nutrition & health care to make the most impactful local procurement planning. The IRC will provide a consulting team for 1-on-1 technical assistance to those 6 institutions. Deadline to apply: Friday, January 31, 2014 Ideally, the consulting team will work in a way that allows them to solve problems, open bottlenecks, identify ways to advance institutions at different levels of the spectrum Consultant team: Vanessa Zafjen (worked at SDUSD), Julian Pine (Wholesome Wave), and a 	<p style="color: red;">Apply to be a part of the IRC Farm to Institution Cohort by Friday, January 31, 2014</p> <p style="color: red;">For further questions, contact Anchi Mei at Anchi.Mei@theIRC.org</p>



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	<p>consultant from the Bay Area to help with the social side of procurement changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IRC conceives of the group as a “cohort” who can teach & learn & model from each other • Anchi then responded to questions about the grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific outcomes: creating 6 local procurement plans • Goal: actionable, feasible solutions for each institution • Availability of grant money for the institutions: not currently in budget but discussions around the possibility of allotting grant money for that • Anchi explained that it’s fine to include a school that’s unsure whether it’s willing to implement; implementation is ideal in the long term but getting a replicable model is also important • Anchi is seeking a whole spectrum of interest • This grant involves a 3-year project, but there’s no clear idea yet what years 2 & 3 will look like because of congressional funding cuts/uncertainty • The IRC was also supposed to be funded to work with 5 agricultural institutions, but that work will probably need to be postponed • Original plan: work with 6 first year & then work with another 6 afterward: but this is up in the air 	
<p>2014-2015 Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JuliAnna introduced the discussion around the 2014-2015 strategies by explaining the method by which votes were tallied & ranked • Taskforce attendees took a few minutes to read through votes on strategies • The Taskforce reconvened & explored the strategies with the most votes & those with fewer votes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JuliAnna asked for clarification of “improving local product ordering & delivery” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring cooperative purchasing agreements for amalgamating so it’s easier • One grower commented that it’s actually easier to work with smaller districts • From a growers’ standpoint, no one standard for product ordering & delivery will work, because there is too much diversity in climates, etc. • Perhaps that suggests that we need a matrix that describes the minimums/maximums for each grower • San Diego Grown Exchange: most school districts are signed up as users; maybe add in a)willingness to work with F2S program, b)minimums/maximums for each grower • SD Grown Exchange is only effective if we get everyone using it • Actual bid process: need better communication between small farm & school district included in the preference system • From distributor standpoint: also the issue of cost 	<p>Explore opportunities with San Diego Grown Exchange to list willingness to work with F2S programs, minimum & maximum orders for each grower</p> <p>Encourage school districts to actively use San Diego Grown Exchange to connect to local growers</p> <p>Explore cooperative purchasing models like Harvest of the Month</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Growing items commonly used in SD school districts”: HOTM calendar & top 5 produce items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps contract growing for the top 5 produce items • Vista is perhaps the only district in SDC that contracts with growers for specific crops • SDUSD—not written contract, but verbal agreed intent to buy crops • Interviews with school food service directors to figure out product specifications • Common shared calendar—one way to leverage shared purchasing power • Revised Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to articulate concrete activities for these 2 strategies (increase nutrition education & increase local food procurement) • A-Z salad bar: include vitamins, nutritional info, how it affects children’s development; sent out to parents; teachers get involved & eat there; teachers come in for Wellness Wednesdays with students to explain what’s there; teaching in the classrooms themselves; 5th graders will get containers for educational waste project; play first & then eat—a much larger percentage of participation • So many educational resources already out there—getting support from principals is essential • Dairy Council of CA: programs in K-12 about the nutritional importance of foods, etc.; pre-tests & post-tests—show increases in nutritionally dense foods & decreases in nutritionally poor foods—colors of the food groups, label-reading • Difference between food procurement & nutrition programming: district-wide vs. school-wide • San Dieguito: built nutrition education from ground up, superintendent then came down with guidelines, etc.—need a balance that doesn’t create resentment between the top-down & bottom-up • Perhaps pilot programs at different school sites—Dawn Stone volunteered to host one • Produce Showcase: What were the results & should we run another? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vista: contract with Solutions • People to get on subcommittee: Kate McDevitt, Danny Calvillo, Mark Mendoza, etc. 	<p>COI will research primers and/or examples/samples of contract growing & make them available on the website and via email</p> <p>Tailor nutrition education to individual schools, as opposed to intra- and inter-district procurement changes; for a pilot program, Dawn Stone volunteered</p>
<p>Harvest of the Month Calendar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate introduced the calendar & the surrounding programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will receive the fruits/veggies for taste-testing • Getting local produce to bring into the classroom • Trying to get SDC growers represented on the calendar—SoCal calendar • Eventually scaling up, but if smaller district, this is the place to start 	<p>Review the HOTM calendar & send feedback to JuliAnna Arnett within 2 weeks</p>