



Strengthening Food and Nutrition in Coos County!

**Meeting Minutes
July 26th, 2022**

NAME	REPRESENTING	ROLE	EMAIL ADDRESSES
Jamar Ruff	Coos Head Food Co-op/THE BEET	Organizer, chair	info@thebeetfsc.org
Stephanie Polizzi	OSU Extension Family & Community Health	Registered Dietitian, co-chair	Stephanie.Polizzi@oregonstate.edu
Anne Mills	Communications Coordinator	Beet Historian	info@thebeetfsc.org
Renee Menkens	Health Coast & Retired Registered Nurse	Friends of Public Health	renee.menkens@gmail.com
Sam Baugh	Advanced Health	Community Engagement Director	sam.baugh@advancedhealth.com
Kathleen Dickson	Farm to Child Nutrition	Procurement Director	kdickson.1961@gmail.com
Doris Kiragu	Advanced Health	Policy Analyst	doris.kiragu@advancedhealth.com
Cathy Boden	South Coast Farm to Child and School Garden Network	Regional HUB Leader	cathy@currywatersheds.org
Starla Paris	ODHS (Oregon Department of Human Services)	Community Partnership Coordinator	STARLA.K.PARIS@dhs.oregonstate.gov
Micha Silvius	Myrtle Glen Farm	Head Farmer	myrtleglenfarm.oregon@gmail.com
Melina Barker	Farm to School and School Garden Network	Director	melina@oregonfarmtoschool.org
Erin Maidlow	Southern Oregon Food Alliance	Regional Director	erin@uvf2s.org
Char Luther	Community	Community Organizer	charluther@gmail.com

Meeting Call to Order: 12:04pm

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion of edits for goals infographic
 - a. See our website: www.thebeetfsc.org
 - b. We decided to remove 2022 on the goals leaving just the heading “The BEET Goals” since these are likely to be our goals for more than one year
 - c. We will continue to select initiatives and program that speak to our goals overall as a consortium
2. DUFEB (Double Up Food Bucks) PROPOSAL UPDATE <https://doubleuporegon.org/>
 - a. **Current Barrier:** Coos Bay Farmers’ Market is currently the only Double Up Food Buck location between both Coos and Curry counties

- b. The Co-op is currently our first beta site. We will continue to identify grocers to expand program throughout our county
- c. Consortium Voting Members approved for us to move forward with utilizing grant funds in the amount of \$1400 which will be reimbursed to start DUFB script process
- d. We are still looking at September for the soft launch

FARM TO SCHOOL (transition name change to Farm to Child)

Presented by Cathy Boden, Kathleen Dickson, and Melina Barker

South Coast Farm to School program and School Garden Education

1. Funding for the Procurement program overseen by Kathleen Dickson is on a biennial basis and currently in the second year of the '21-23 funding
2. Every school district is given a minimum of \$500 from a non-competitive grant and then can apply for an additional competitive grant funding based on them meeting criterias
3. Dollars can only be spent on Oregon-grown produce and processed foods
4. The Harvest for Schools Directory "The Portal" offers a quick way of finding Oregon producers <https://portal.oregonharvestforschools.com/>
 - a. **Current Barrier:** Creating and maintaining Coos counties list of local producers
 - i. Jamar and Anne will work to upload local producers to this list and will report the status at the next consortium meeting
5. Educating kids and parents about how food goes from ground to plate
 - a. Oregon Department of Education has grants available to support educating kids on this initiative through providing funding for school based gardens and programs
 - b. School gardens help kids get excited about growing and hand-picking their own veggies
 - c. In previous years Cathy Boden has facilitated Scavenger Hunts in grocery stores for kids to familiarize them with local and international fruits and vegetables
 - d. Hosting taste testing events where kids taste fruits and veggies and offer feedback by utilizing a scoring scale
 - e. Coordinating with local farms to conduct field trips while making it accessible for parents to join
 - f. Creating spaces in classroom to teach kids how to grow using Hydroponic growing methods
 - g. Engage in conversations with state agencies to communicate the needs of funding for programs
6. We discussed how even though we are able to see the impact on a local level from Farm to Child and School Gardens advocacy on a state level is also important to ensure the sustainability of these programs. We will be looking at ways The Beet can work alongside organizations to increase visibility of the needs and disseminate call to actions.

LISTENING SESSIONS

1. Anne, Renee and Jamar will meet and develop a format for the listening sessions. These listening sessions go hand in hand with the consortium gathering information from those most impacted by food insecurity. We will make sure that we are mindful of reducing utilizing terminology that is heavily stigmatized.

IN THE WORKS: Leads have been identified

- a. Coos Bay Library Fridge: **Doris Kiragu and Paul Addis**
- b. Community Space in Grocery Stores (Coos Head beta site): **Jamar Ruff and Jamie Doyle**

- c. Contacting established sites with food fridges to see if we can incorporate nutrition education kiosks/boards: **Anne Mills**
- d. Creating opportunities for health coaches to utilize nutrition materials at food sites (job description, work plan): **Kathleen Dickson and Stephanie Polizzi**
- e. Double Up Food Bucks: Jamar Ruff and Tim Bulster

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS: Set up meeting times for those leading 4 main initiatives

1. DUFEB, Listening session, Fridge access site, Health coaches on site
2. Working with Starla Paris to identify all of the places in the Coos County that accepts SNAP benefits
3. Starla invited **THE BEET** to share at Oregon Department of Human Services monthly meeting. We will share invite once meeting has been established

HOMEWORK:

1. Go to new THE BEET website www.thebeetfsc.org

Meeting Call to Close: 1:28pm

NEXT MEETING: **August 23 at noon for 1 1/2 hours**

Respectfully Submitted: Anne Mills