

Increasing Access to Healthcare and Healthy Foods Working Group
Family Health Centers, 5160 Federal Blvd., Training Room 2
June 21, 2018
Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves, and the format for the meeting was made clear. The meeting was structured around three Urban Agriculture (UA) presentations and a discussion of grants.

San Diego Food System Alliance (SDFSA) Presentation – Elly Brown

- SDFSA contains five working groups
 - Healthy Food Access
 - Reducing Barriers to Farming
 - Food Recovery
 - Urban Agriculture
 - Sustainable Local Seafood System
- Urban Agriculture Working Group
 - Focused on Policy support and assisted in supporting the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones.
 - Group discusses funding opportunities/new UA issues as well as new policy issues.
 - Work with state initiatives
- Opportunity was identified for SDFSA and Promise Zone (PZ) to collaborate around U.A. grants and U.A. projects moving forward.

Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones (UAIZ) – Tracy Reed (City of San Diego Economic Development Department)

- Purpose of zones is to support small scale agriculture.
- Zones use property tax reductions as incentives for land owners to use property for UA projects for a 5-year period.
- Organizations must enter into a contract with the land owner.
- The City has identified vacant parcels and mapped them online.
 - Parcels are between .1 acre and 3 acres.
- Main barrier to UA implementation is property lacking a water meter.
- Subsequent barrier is City cannot give out information on who owns empty parcels.
- GIS data is updated quarterly with potential to update a specific location outside of the normal quarterly updates.
- Identified UA projects have not become wide spread due to a lack of funding.
- Question arose: How can we create a pool of funds for UA?
- Identified Schools and Churches have open lots for potential UA projects.
- Solution to a barrier was for organizations to work with City Council to notify land owners directly about UAIZ. Create a marketing toolkit.

University of California San Diego Agriculture and Natural Resources – Derrick Robinson

- Farm advisors are doing a needs assessment
- There is availability for programmatic support within the PZ
 - GIS
 - Econometrics
 - Able to measure impacts of actions; i.e., outcomes of having one more doctor in a community clinic.
- Potential collaboration on utilizing UC resources:
 - Marketing
 - Identification of land owners
- Food and Nutrition programs
 - Cooking and nutrition demonstrations
- UC San Diego can offer up resources once programs are created and show needs
- Can help to develop trainings
- There are campus based community development projects being conducted
 - Working on how co-ops can help create more vertical integration with producers
- Many resources available to utilize through organization once PZ shows specific needs.
- Next Steps with UC San Diego
 - Food and Nutrition program is looking to expand reach.
 - Currently working with five schools in SDPZ.
 - Can help connect with local schools
 - Target audience needs to be 185 percent of poverty level in order to count for the program.
 - Once UA projects started:
 - If we have small plots can connect with master gardeners
 - If we have large plots can utilize farm advisor

Group Discussion

- In order to garner interest and support in UA projects proof of concept needs to be showed within local communities.
- Creative ways of bypassing water heater barriers:
 - Hire a water truck
 - Utilize reclaimed water
- If land owner has a large plot of land then the city can work with them to do a lot line adjustment with the unused property.
- Can work with board of supervisors on neighborhood reinvestment with tie in to UA.
- Question asked if private organizations give money to this type of project, and it was stated that, with correct angle on the project, they could.
 - Farming for veterans, elderly farming, therapeutic farming, etc/.
- Identified we can pitch plans to SD Grantmakers
- Family Health Centers is working on a childhood obesity program, which would be great to combine with UA efforts.
- Urban Life is working with Home Start to conduct a Resident Leadership Academy.
- San Diego City College offers A.A. degree in UA.
 - It has a garden and greenhouse.
 - Educational kitchen
 - Program is expanding.

- Project New Village is opening a new farmer's market in July, and it is looking for another farmer's market to open.

Grants Discussion

- Department of Agriculture – Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)
 - Amount: \$225,000
 - Due: 7/9/2018
 - # of Awards: no commitment
 - Matching: 100%
 - Project Period: up to 2 years
- The primary goals of the FASLP are:
 - Increase capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities and school cafeterias and in the classroom
 - Complement and build on the efforts of the farm to school programs

Follow Up and Next Steps

- The group will continue to focus on the UA topic in the July meeting.
 - Will identify local work being done and connect existing working group organizations to UA efforts.

Next Meeting Date:

Third Thursday of Each Month

July 19, 3-5 p.m.

Family Health Centers

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