



New Haven Food Policy Council

2007 Annual Report to the Board of Aldermen

OVERVIEW

The New Haven Food Policy Council was created by City Ordinance Number 1384, 6-6-05, in June of 2005. Following a community-driven nomination and appointment process, the Council officially convened its first meeting on January 22, 2007. By ordinance the Council may have up to 13 members in the first two years (2007 - 2009). Its membership during this time includes one Aldermanic representative, one member from the administrating department or organization, six members with personal involvement in the local food system, and three members of the public at large. Two temporary members in the first two years may be appointed to “participate in the establishment of council goals and objectives,” and include an individual with personal involvement in the local food system and an individual from the public at large. All Council members must reside in the City of New Haven and be registered voters. Members of the community participating in the New Haven Food Policy Council in 2007 are listed below:

Current NHFPC Members

Phaedra Ebon	Child Nutrition Coordinator, CT Food Bank	Term expires 7/1/09
Tagan Engel	Chef & Community Member	Term expires 7/1/08
Jennifer McTiernan H., Chair	Executive Director, CitySeed	Term expires 7/1/09
Frank Mitchell	Board Chair, Common Ground High School	Term expires 7/1/09
Elisabeth Moore	Project Director, Connecticut Farmland Trust	Term expires 7/1/10
Julie Newman	Director, Yale Office of Sustainability	Term expires 7/1/08
Diana Richter	Exec. Director, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen	Term expires 7/1/10
Peter Stein	Acting Director, Regional Growth Partnership	Term expires 7/1/08
Erin Sturgis-Pascale	Board of Aldermen Representative, Ward 14	
Linda Townsend-Maier	Executive Director, Greater Dwight Development Corp.	Term expires 7/1/10

Former NHFPC Members

Nancy Carrington	Executive Director, CT Food Bank
John Dixon	Political Chair, New Haven Sierra Club
Ruth Henderson	Dixwell Community Management Team
Catherine Jones	Executive Chef, Yale Sustainable Food Project

Please note: three of four former Council members listed above moved out of the City of New Haven and were therefore no longer eligible to serve.

Staffing: CitySeed has been designated by the City to provide administrative support to the Council. This includes setting up meetings, taking and posting meeting minutes, maintaining the Council’s website, conducting community outreach, providing the Council with informational resources, and generally assisting the work of the Council.

Funding: The City of New Haven and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven provided in-kind services and grant funding, covering expenses for resource-building activities, administrative staff salary, meeting space and photocopying.



Meeting Times: The New Haven Food Policy Council meets on a monthly basis. In 2007, the Council met on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. In 2008, the Council will generally meet the fourth Thursday of each month, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, in Meeting Room 3 of City Hall.

2007 ACTIVITIES AND FOCUS

Much of 2007 was spent orienting the Council to the food-related resources and needs in the community. Importantly, too, the Council was also able to form a cohesive working group of members, familiar with each other's role and position in the community. As one of the main objectives in its first year, the Council undertook several resource-building activities, which consisted of having a series of experts and speakers discuss organizational formation and consensus-building within the Council, objectives and accomplishments of other food policy councils, data collecting and analysis, and a more in-depth look at the issue of school nutrition. A list and description of each activity follows.

- **March 2007 Overview of 2003 Community Food Security Report and the CT Food Policy Council** - Guest Speaker Linda Drake, Chair of the CT Food Policy Council
 - **May 2007 Briefing on school nutrition programs in New Haven Public Schools** - Guest Speakers Robin Golden, Chief Operating Officer of the New Haven Board of Education, and Christopher Avtges, General Manager of ARAMARK's New Haven Public Schools Food Service
 - **June 2007 Food Policy Council Capacity Building** - Guest speaker Jiff Martin from American Farmland Trust and Working Lands Alliance, former staff member for the Hartford Food Commission and the CT Food Policy Council
 - **July 2007 Presentation on Trends in Obesity and Eating Behaviors** - Guest Speakers Marlene Schwartz, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity
 - **September 2007 Presentation on School Nutrition Research** - Guest speakers Erica Mintzer, Michael Long, graduate students at Yale University; Rosemary Baez and David Spears, high school students at Common Ground High School; and Oliver Barton, Principal at Common Ground High School
- The Connecticut Landscape: Food Resources and Service (2007)** - Compilation of food and nutrition resources that are available on the Federal, State and local levels created for and presented to the Council by Sally Mancini, former Assistant Director of End Hunger Connecticut! and current CT Food Policy Council member
- **October 2007 Tour of the New Haven Public Schools Central Kitchen** - Facility presented by Pat Gianelli, Production Manager for ARAMARK and following discussion with Laura Leone, current General Manager of Food Service for ARAMARK



- November 2007 **Collecting, analyzing, and making food system and community food security information useful to the community** - Guest speaker Jim Farnam, of Holt, Wexler and Farnam, presentation of DataHaven
- December 2007 **Discussion of Food Policy Council Policy Paper** that will research and analyze federal, state and local school food programs and policies

Current Focus of the Council: Soon after it began officially meeting, the Council identified school food and proper childhood nutrition as its current focus. Many of the experts and community resources that the Council engaged in its first year are centered on this issue. The Council is currently working directly with a number of community organizations including the Law Clinic Organization at Yale Law School, Common Ground High School, the Yale Sustainable Food Project, CitySeed, the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity and others to explore strategies for supporting healthier school food and better childhood nutrition. A conference is being organized for May 2008 by Leadership Greater New Haven (a project of the Chamber of Commerce) and the Rudd Center, at which the New Haven Food Policy Council will present a Policy Paper on these issues.

Council Structure: Through a series of discussions regarding elected leadership positions and subcommittees, the Council deferred creating formal structural or operational rules for the time being in order to focus on building its resources and coalescing as a Council.

2008 GOALS

1. **Develop Policy Paper on School Food** that would present an analysis and recommendations for Federal, State, and local policies that would improve the quality of nutrition for children and the families of children in New Haven. The Council plans to present this Policy Paper at a May Conference being organized by Leadership Greater New Haven and the Rudd Center.
2. **Engage a coalition of community groups, institutions and public agencies** to improve the nutritional quality of school food while connecting nutrition education efforts. This includes having Council members attend the Board of Education Wellness Committee meetings, as well as the Wellness Committee's School Food Sub-Committee meetings.
3. **Build data and information resources** on community food security and the local food system by organizing a training session for community organizations with DataHaven, collecting data and creating reports to be shared online.
4. **Continue building the capacity of the Council** by consulting with additional experts familiar with food system resources, expanding the diversity and representation of the Council membership, and engaging the community in identifying ways to improve the food system.
5. **Identify and foster new leadership on the Council** to ensure strong organizational capacity and develop an effective network of community perspectives.