

Elderly Nutrition Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2015
1:00 pm

State Department on Aging
55 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Meeting convened at 1:06pm.

Meeting participants:

Phone: Chris Fishbein-WCAAA, Lisa LaBonte-CANASP, Kathleen McManamy-CCCI

In-Person: Jannett Haughton-SDA, Stephanie Marino-SDA, Pam Toohey-SDA, Commissioner Ritter-SDA, Charlene Ogren-DSS HCBS, Eileen Faust, Manchester Senior Center.

Stephanie Marino welcomed all conference callers and conference room participants to the 2nd 2015 quarterly nutrition meeting and briefly summarized the March 19, 2015 meeting. Stephanie announced that Richard Burt is no longer with this Nutrition group as he has retired from DSS. A replacement DSS-SNAP member will hopefully be participating in our next meeting.

Discussion:

Public Act 15-40

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR NUTRITIONAL SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. <http://cga.ct.gov/2015/ACT/PA/2015PA-00040-R00SB-00287-PA.htm>

(b) The departments and stakeholders shall study alternative sources of funding for nutrition services programs. The departments and the nutrition service stakeholders shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, submit a summary report on their findings and recommendations concerning any such alternative sources of funding, along with a report on any other recommendations they may have regarding nutrition services programs, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging not later than July 1, 2016.

Need to think broadly about how people in CT access food through programs other than farmer's markets, senior centers, congregate sites, etc.

Will need to reach out to DSS to discuss the future steps regarding the study and working together to write and submit the reports. Stephanie will reach out to Ron Roberts, DSS. Commissioner Ritter will be speaking with DSS Commissioner Bremby at their next scheduled meeting on 7/14/15.

Stephanie asked meeting participants to think about who would be interested in working on studying alternate funding sources, and who else we should bring to the table to look at this.

Mention of some current sources providing funding for meals in other states: Medicare advantage plans, hospitals, insurance companies. Charlene (DSS) will be checking to see if data can be gotten from CHCPE participants who have not been readmitted to hospitals because of being provided with meals.

Additional Discussion Items

Possibly look at what other State Agencies are doing for meals:

- DOC provides exceptional meals at the Danbury facility

- DDS provides congregate meals

- DPH provides meals for women, children

Some hospitals also provide congregate meals. Perhaps we could try and coordinate/share ideas regarding purchasing opportunities, resources.

Many restaurants can help by allowing patrons or family members to contribute to senior meals by donating credits to "Senior Dine" cards for participants who participate in the "Senior Dine" program, by participating in the "Buy-a-Wheel" program or by donating a % of checks (sales) to senior centers or the meal program.

ENPs should be making accommodations for cultural/ethnic meals; not all sites are doing this. ENPs need flexibility based on community and their needs.

In past years, the nutrition RFP solicited proposals for entire sub-regions. It may have limited the ability of individuals, municipalities and senior centers from participating as providers.

The date for the next meeting will be Thursday, September 24, 2015 @ 1:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm.