Elderly Nutrition Meeting Minutes  
September 30, 2014  
10:30 Am to 12:00 Pm

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

Meeting participants:  
Jessica Mahon, Lucy Nolan – EndHungerCT1; Maureen McIntyre, Robyn Gulley – NCAAA (North Central Area Agency on Aging); Lori Anne Russo – CHC SCT (Community Health Center Association of CT); Joel Sekorski – CANASP (CT Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Providers); Kathleen McManamy – CCCI (CT Community Care Inc.); Deb Migneault - Legislative Commission on Aging; Richard Burt, Sheila Nolte – Dept. of Social Services; Margaret Gerundo-Murkette, Stephanie Marino, Jannett Haughton – State Dept. on Aging

Acting Commissioner Margaret Gerundo-Murkette gave welcoming remarks and explained the purpose of the group relative to Connecticut’s current State Plan on Aging and Public Act 14-73, An Act concerning Livable Communities and Elderly Nutrition.

The SDA is addressing its strategy is to convene regular meeting in partnership with the Department of Social Services and other nutrition stakeholders to move towards greater coordination of nutrition programs serving older adults. Section 2 of Public Act 14-73 also speaks to the Department on Aging and the Department of Social Services holding quarterly meeting with nutrition services stakeholders.

Connecticut’s State Plan on Aging and the full text of Public Act 14-73 may be accessed by using the links provided here.


Stephanie Marino welcomed the group and asked each attendee to introduce themselves, their role with the agency/group that they are representing and their contribution to Elderly Nutrition Services. Once the group introductions were completed, Stephanie Marino asked each attendee to take a few minutes to think about and write down a success and challenge faced with respect to Elderly Nutrition Services. Once these successes and challenges were written down, the group was asked for a volunteer to start and discuss their challenge and their success. These challenges and successes as written by the attendees are recorded below.

**SUCCESSES**

1. Maintenance of independent living in community by increasing of healthy nutrition
2. Establish Communication between ENPs through monthly meetings
3. Raising awareness on value (beyond actual food) of home delivered meals
4. Serving people most in need in a variety of settings despite barriers to many other services, also opens door to other programs (gateway service)
5. SNAP call center = ease of access for seniors/AARP Foundation letters to members
6. Serving 2 million meals each year to older adults
7. SNAP Overcoming isolation by broadening SNAP interest through language materials for Spanish/polish population
8. Senior specific marketing materials
9. Number and percentage of successfully delivered meals to our clients – MOW (Meals on Wheels)
10. Connecting with all the Elderly Nutrition Providers and becoming knowledgeable with each of their programs.

**CHALLENGES**
1. Delivery to rural areas – Access & Frequency
2. Staying creative: use best products, keep sanitary
3. SNAP – low minimum award ($15), - other people need it more than me
4. Coordination between all food security programs...different dept funds/requirements
5. Complexity of the reporting& data entry, Reporting and data necessary for funding justification
6. Trying to figure out reasons why the 60+ below poverty & minority populations have low participation in nutrition programs overall
7. Hard to figure out how programs work to get to public – need access and education
8. Overcoming negative/misperceptions: needing to establish trusting relationships with seniors
9. Seen a shift in congregate to HDM program, Why?
10. Clients not on MOW have obstacles such as grocery shopping, meal prep, transportation to shop for food.

**Stephanie Marino summarized what was most emphasized within success/challenge discussion:** the complexity of the programs and how they work, becoming and staying creative within program limitations and finding and engaging various funding streams to support programs.

**Next steps:** The next quarterly Elderly Nutrition Meeting will be scheduled for November 2014. Date to be determined. Notification will be emailed to the meeting participants.

Initial objective is to gain understanding about the programs through presentations on the various elderly nutrition programs in order to outline the complexities and the possible misconceptions about the programs.

*Meeting organizational coordinator, Dicie Mueller, UCONN, Office of Skill Development*  
*Minutes prepared by Stephanie Marino, Program Manager, SDA*