



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



Governor's Council for Agricultural Development

FARM-TO-INSTITUTION WORKING GROUPS A and B

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 24, 2013

Hartford Regional Market

101 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT 06114

I. CALL TO ORDER

Shelly Oechsler, working group chair, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. Other working group members present were Steve Cop, Linda Hubeny, Michelle McCabe, Monica Pacheco, Nick Pawlowski, Dennis Pierce, Anne Simeone, and John Stoddard. Also present were Commissioner Reviczky and Linda Piotrowicz from the Department of Agriculture as well as several guests.

Absent group members included Timothy Cipriano, Marydale DeBor, Terry Jones, Thomas Peterlik, Kathy Smith, and John Turenne.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The group reviewed draft minutes from June 20, 2013. Steve Cop made a motion to approve them. Michelle Mc Cabe seconded, and the group unanimously accepted the motion.

IV. REMARKS FROM CHAIR

Commissioner Reviczky, chairman of the Governor's Council, provided an overview of the council including its history, strategic planning project, and working group structure.

Shelly Oechsler, chair of the council's Farm-to-Institution working groups, described the groups' overall approach to and process used in tackling their assignments.

V. REVIEW OF COMMON PERCEIVED BARRIERS

Chairman Oechsler reviewed feedback submitted by group members following the June 20, 2013, meeting and the six common themes that emerged from that feedback: GAP/food safety requirements for vendors, volume/year-round product availability requirements, approved/preferred vendor lists, price, lack of contract preferences for local products, and distribution logistics.

VI. SPLIT INTO SMALL GROUPS—COMPLETE WORKSHEETS

Members divided up into smaller groups to focus on the following specific institutional sectors: K-12 schools, colleges/universities, healthcare facilities, and state institutions. The smaller groups reviewed perceived barriers specific to those institutions, brainstormed suggested steps to overcome the barriers, determined resources required to implement those suggested steps, and established timelines for those suggested steps.

VII. RECONVENE AS LARGE GROUP—SMALL GROUPS REPORT

Members reconvened as a large group and representatives from each of the smaller groups reported on their findings.

VIII. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

Chairman Oechsler recapped discussion highlights and next steps, which include compiling the reports from the small groups for her presentation to the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development at its August 20, 2013.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Chairman Oechsler adjourned meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz
July 25, 2013