

F2S Policy Committee Meeting
Friday, April 13, 2007
10-11:30
CUH, Seattle

Attendance: Erin MacDougall, Tim Crosby, Tricia Sexton, Steven Evans, Heidi Broekemeier

- 1) Heidi shared her Degree Project work; working on a F2S Policy Analysis; has 10 policy options; working on narrowing/eliminating; looking for feedback;
- 2) Brief discussion on how nutrition curriculum and education is so important in schools with not only PE teachers, but also nutritionists on staff;
- 3) Discussion about a 'Stop Gap' option; an example in CA; a smaller school district could work with farmers' market; school nutrition has to make the contract; for example having 20 farmers bring enough product to the farmers' market; key is to hook up with that network; start one at a time with the smaller districts; farmers' market is the distribution network; For example, would this work in Carnation or Duvall? The question is what days do they accept deliveries or what are the delivery schedules? When market is on Wednesday, does that fit the delivery schedule? There are details to work out; Can't see this happening so much in larger districts because they are selling everything at retail; don't have to locate the market in the same school district; wherever the aggregation point is; align the dates and potential for capacity;
Questions: What policy would help us meet a particular goal? Would still need funding for infrastructure and technical training;
- 4) Discussion about Oregon Legislation that was just passed: Reimburses school districts 15 cents for every meal a district serves that utilizes food produced or processed in Oregon; they had originally asked for 20 cents.
- 5) Other issues/options to think about: Is seasonality a real problem?
Could request food that has to arrive at school within two days? Frozen food is another that hasn't been tapped; off-season processing for the agriculture side; in-season for schools; local processors? Large processors will also look at price issue;
Get the price up; get more money for the food; then you can't compete;
- 6) Coordinating distribution centers: Could whole foods market use their distribution center; Great pr thing; not necessarily make money; Food Life Line could serve as distributor, too; DoD works this way; Farm Fresh program uses DoD trucks and storage;
- 7) Encourage local purchasing, Option:
Labeling; Puget Sound Fresh; unified label? Funding sources are so different for one thing and objectives are different; Heart of WA talks about entire state; Puget Sound Fresh is local produce, etc; do our prisons get better food than our schools? Could have all institutions committed some of their buying to secondary certification; these foods

came from this 12-county region; institutions; now, how can you guarantee it's WA grown food now? Puget Sound Fresh would be the one that says this is definitely a WA grown product; Puget Sound Fresh could add department, staff; Some kind of environmentally standard; not necessarily organic; Food money on conservation; more for your buck kind of angle; public purchasing; not necessarily food products; Start by getting a little more money locally; Campaigns; heritage issue;

8) It would be important/interesting to have a list of what is already available from east and west side farmers; this would be important to show to legislators who are worried that requiring local purchasing would not be possible because there isn't enough produce available around the state

9) Have to keep coming back to social justice issues; an whole segment of the population who is not getting this section; tie it to health care costs; part of a preventative approach; Insurance companies; we can not afford the things that are coming; Physician plus program; Madison, WI; gives a rebate to those who use the CSA program; This interconnected aspect; by reducing food miles; Insurance provider; who provides insurance for OSPI?

10) Where is the connection to food in the educational environment; cross-curriculum? There's also a need for training for food nutrition staff;

11) Idea for a topic for a F2S Connections Team meeting next year; have the team visit a school lunchroom and have lunch there.

12) Next steps:

Realistically, looking at having some draft legislation for next session: by June or July; interested in working on legislation that makes food an exception form supplies; Heidi will work on developing this as an option in her Policy Report; Policy Committee is interested in a 3-4 page draft of policy language; Get our draft option together; due to the young nature of the work; go small; one success point; instead of us struggling, do right to our partners; Tim will email out an electronic copy of the RCW regulations;

Priorities:

1-Exemption Option: write draft language; Introducing legislation in next year's session;
2-Which other options are our stakeholders interested in? (Steve and others)
Assuming this passes, what will we need to pay attention to? Other stakeholders?
3-Plan of implementation; how do you implement on that code level; what is the next step (Funding)
4-Dropping geographical preference issue for now

Next meeting: Heidi will send out dates for a May Policy Committee meeting
Tricia: will report at F2S Team meeting on Monday