LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD IN THE FOOD SECURITY COALITION:   
December 2017 Steering Committee Response Summary

The following are the compiled responses from individual steering committee members, transcribed exactly as they were written, and grouped into common themes (a number of people had the same response- in these cases I included both, to show the level of agreement on these topics). I had one less worksheet than there were people at the meeting- if you do not see your responses reflected, please contact me ([Liz](mailto:liz@gorgegrown.com)).

**Question 1: What went well this year, that we should build on in 2018?**

**Theme 1: Relationship Building/ Collaboration**

* + - * Relationship-building
      * Collaboration
* Relationship-building
* Willingness to collaborate/ help folks in need

*Moving forward….*

* Making sure, however that might work, to keep coalition members feeling **connected** and **engaged**
* Finding ways to ‘plug in,’ get the most of willing and talented partners. **Make the Ask**.

**Theme 2: Informing our thinking and work**

* I believe the networking has helped me as Board President of Fish Food Bank and expanding FISH Board’s goals and new programs
* Lots of excellent ideas
* Regional Food Bank

*Moving forward…*

* Use assessments summary and **recommendations to build a project list**.
* Explicitly **connect the Coalition’s work plan and measures** with the regional CHIP and Blue Zones (to the degree possible). Have this plan endorsed by the Columbia Gorge Health Council, formally.

**Theme 3: Extent of participation**

* Lots of contributing partners
* Well-attended meetings
* Well-attended meetings
* Great momentum

*Moving forward…*

* Let’s continue **moving the meetings around** to encourage participation.

**Theme 4: Inventorying, mapping**

* Inventory of food resources
* Online resource map
* Mapping/ inventory then exploring that at a meeting.

**Theme 5: Ripple Effect Mapping event**

* Ripple Effect Mapping
* Ripple Effect Mapping and Training
* Ripple Effect Mapping

**Question 2: What can be improved upon?**

* **Hard for me to keep the meetings straight**. I need to prioritize which committees I can be most helpful with.
* We spend a lot of time talking about inclusion, diversity, etc. We need to **identify measures of action**.
* I always appreciate bringing the discussions **back to the big picture** rather than get stuck digging in to the issues related to one specific community.
* Quarterly meeting

RE Training

**Question 3: Milestones and projects for 2018**

**Theme 1: Funding:**

* Ongoing funding for project management
* Work towards sustainable funding
* A meeting with funders to tell the story, ask for support.
* Secure funding for Coalition-specific work. Sites to collect data in a consistent manner.
* Sounds like identifying funding sources should be a priority.
* Better articulation of ‘what and why do we have a Coalition.’ (Could also fall under **Engagement** topic)

**Theme 2: Expand representation to serve our whole region:**

* Getting more representation from Cascade Locks
* More WA programming/ direct services
* Be more inclusive of food system, bring in more players from all corners

**Theme 3: Engagement/ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion:**

* Engage food insecure people in our work or in a specific project
* More input from people in poverty.
* I’m excited about the DEI work.
* Advanced DEI- creating an equity lens, equity statement. More participation from communities experiencing disparities.

**Theme 4: Regional impacts, efforts and events:**

* Better SNAP utilization at farmer’s markets
* Finding a way to open the Wahtonka pantry
* Childhood hunger summit.
* Mobilize nutrition education volunteers to:
  + Distribute food resource information
  + Facilitate cooking demos

**Theme 5: Shared Resources:**

* Creating a resource “flow-chart” to be easily shared with agencies and food insecure people
* Move toward having a shared database (CLARA?) to store and extract info from all agencies’ food security screening questions

**Question 4: What meeting topics, activities, or events would you like to see us put on next year?**

* Rural poverty and hunger training
* Poverty training (what it looks like in the Gorge, and how it relates to food- invite affluent organizations and individuals) there are popular education-based curriculums available
* Advocacy/ policy work- how-to training
* Perhaps have a presence (info booth) at farmers markets or other local events to promote, inform, build connections.
* More opportunities for community engagement
* I think equity training and emergency preparedness work is excellent
* Learn more about another community we can learn from. Who is ahead of us, and how did they get there?
* Emergency preparedness (will happen)
* Farmer’s forum, hear from producers and maybe buyers to connect them? See what each other’s needs are?
* Resource sheet making
* Funding strategy meeting
* Not sure. Move towards more action, less planning.
* Food bank/ pantry- DEI, best practices. Supported by the Coalition, but separate from the whole-Coalition meetings.
* More hang-out, volunteer opportunities like weeding community garden, happy hours

**Questions 5-7: Do you think the steering committee should work on these projects next year? For each project, please indicate ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ or ‘later,’ as well as any comments or ideas you have for more specifically when it should take place, whether it should take place as part of a meeting or as a sub-committee, and whether you’re interested personally in taking part in it. Thank you for your input and ideas!!**

**Draft operating principles (see handout for description, process)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 3 |
| No |  |
| Later (more than one year from now) | 6 |

*Comments:*

* In conjunction with orientation packet
* Do mission first
* Too formal for now, plus we have our structure doc, DoC’s, committee priorities written out. More action, less paper/ structural noodling.

**Create mission, vision, and/or values statements**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 10 |
| No |  |
| Later (more than one year from now) |  |

*Comments:*

* Would help explain what and why of the Coalition
* I want to see us further solidify our purpose, membership, visibility, etc. What do the most impactful and vibrant Coalitions look like?
* Will be very useful for recruiting and diversifying coalition makeup
* The one reservation is that this can potentially take a lot of time.
* This seems pretty easy.
* We do have a mission statement that’s evolved over time.
* Gorge Grown has a broad vision statement- can the Food Security Coalition use or adapt that?
* I think an equity statement is more important.

*How?*

* Would suggest a small group to draft, steering committee to edit/ recommend and full coalition to vote without extensive re-editing
* Steering committee creates, approved by all.
* Maybe we can get an experienced vision-building facilitator to come in.
* In conjunction with orientation packet

**Coordinate funding efforts to fill identified gaps**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 11 |
| No |  |
| Later (more than one year from now) |  |

*Comments:*

* It’s clear we need to get more focused on strategic, coordinated funding.
* We know we need to fund GGFN, but we still don’t know the specifics of projects/ gaps we want to fund.
* Seems like this is a huge need
* Has to happen.
* Tricky.

*How?*

* Whole meeting/ committee
* A fundraising working group or sub-committee of the steering committee would be nice to keep solid momentum in this area
* Would be willing to help on sub-committee- Marianne Durkan
* Should member orgs pay “dues” to Coalition? Fundraising event?
* Break out committee…?
* Ask Coalition to report what grants they’re applying to/ for what, to Liz to send out in newsletter to be on the same page?
* Bring in consultants for trainings.