**Food Security Coalition Steering Committee meeting**Wednesday, December 6th, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AMProvidence Hospice of the Gorge

**Participants:**

* Ben Zimmerman, Small i Farm
* Buck Jones, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
* Debi Budnick, Skyline Hospital
* Hannah Brause- WSU Extension
* Jody O’Connor, Raices, The Next Door
* Kiara Kashuba- RARE AmeriCorps, OSU Extension
* Marianne Durkan, Providence
* Mark Thomas- Providence
* Neil Friedrich, Department of Human Services
* Sarah Sullivan, Gorge Grown Food Network
* Sharon Thornberry- Columbia Gorge Food Bank

*Facilitator:* Liz Oberhausen, Gorge Grown Food Network
*Note-taker:* Louisa Pavlik, Gorge Grown Food Network

**ACTION ITEMS**

* **Next meeting will be January 10th, 10:00- 11:30, WGAP**
* All FSC members: Calls and/or letters of support for GGFN for upcoming Grant applications.
* Sarah Sullivan will send an introductory email to Tracy Gagnon from Oregon Food Bank, who may be able to help Jody O’Connor conduct mappings
* Sarah S. can send an appeal for Gorge Grown donations to Marianne Durkan at durkan@providence.org and she can pass it along to FISH food bank donors
* Sharon Thornberry will connect Sarah/Liz to Kim Thomas, who might be able to help Gorge Grown find funding sources on the WA side

**MEETING OBJECTIVES**

* Get/ provide updates on progress on previous topics
* Provide feedback and ideas for January Coalition meeting
* Work planning/ scoping the steering committee for the coming year

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Liz started introductions by having each participant answer two questions, as outlined below, with responses.

*What are you proud of in the Coalition’s work this year?*

* Summary of assessments, surveys and recommendations created by Kiara Kashuba, RARE AmeriCorps
* Relationship-building; So many people from different sectors are in touch
* Inventory and mapping
* We’ve been effective, especially considering timeline and size; we’re a strong team!
* We’ve helped define work that WSU is taking on; food security is one of the main priorities
* Ripple effects mapping
* Not just focused on direct service; we’re thinking about the whole food system
* Meetings have helped a member’s board think beyond usual work- funding for summer meals is now a priority
* Securing Veggie Rx vouchers for Cascade Locks
* Recognition for collaboration with partners
* Sharing of ideas and how-to’s, acting under overarching goals

*What is one purpose you think the steering committee should serve this year?*

* All FSC groups should start using an equity lens- this group could draft an equity statement/lens
* Many sectors should gather together
* Continue steering working groups, engage county and local leaders, stay focused on what’s been working
* Champion food work on WA side; create more ideas and outcomes
* More data and voices from tribes, in lieu sites
* Make FSC resources public
* Improve summer feeding program
* Focus on policy & connecting with elected officials
	+ Connect with USDA
* Find collaboration points with Blue Zones
* Work together on funding
	+ Particularly funding for incentives to draw in food insecure population

Review logic model and DOC commitments. Revisit DOC.

**Alignment with Blue Zones**

Sarah Sullivan gave an update on her meeting with Leti Valle & Brett Ratchford from Blue Zones as they craft their Food Policy ‘Blue Print.’ Participants of this meeting reviewed the Blue Print policy draft together and noted that FSC and Gorge Grown perform a good deal of the work listed. Some projects that Blue Zones included, like Healthy Cornerstore Project, don’t have secure funding. Blue Zones wants more middle & high-income housing; FSC participant wants to emphasize that people cannot be food secure if they are not housed. Blue Zones might be best equipped to work with school lunches and TD farmers market. However, Blue Zones can aid FSC through:

* + Blue Zone’s volunteer mobilization and public relations capabilities
	+ Helping incorporate the ‘missing pieces’ of food system work, grocery stores and restaurants
	+ Possibility of ‘ratifying’ a regional health improvement plan; is there value in combining forces?

Participants commented that FSC is not responsible for all tasks in the Blue Print and Blue Zones is *only* for The Dalles.

**Ripple Effect Mapping training**

Two organizations have already conducted their own mapping events based on the training received!

Jody O’Connor conducted one with Raices and shared her thoughts on the process: it was challenging and she felt folks might need more help understanding why the map is so important. The follow-up meeting in January will emphasize the importance of mapping to farmers. Perhaps Christine Morton from The Next Door would be helpful.

**Food Security Coalition funding**

Participants discussed grant funding received or denied to fund the Coalition’s work. Sarah Sullivan of Gorge Grown shared recent difficulties due to grant applications denied. Participants discussed collaboration ideas.

Gorge Grown did *not* receive:

* A portion of the Meyer Memorial Trust grant that would have funded Sarah Sullivan’s time, and another year of Liz’s time.
* The Knight grant for the Healthy Cornerstore Project.
* Providence grant for the Gleaning Project (Sarah’s time + Program Manager + Liz’s time to engage the Food Security Coalition in Gleaning)
* Ford Family Foundation grant for a Veggie Rx Pilot for pregnancy, low-income women
* Two United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant
* USDA Specialty Crop Block Program Grant (SCBGP)

Gorge Grown *did* receive:

* Meyer Memorial Trust grant for one year to fund Liz’s position, plus funding for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work for the Coalition
* Emergency funds from Meyer Memorial Trust for Veggie Rx in Cascade Locks, funds for an emergency preparedness event (specific to food) in Cascade Locks and 4 other locations. (One member suggested after the meeting that we could use these events as models to hold them on the WA side)

Ideas for obtaining future funding, and communicating the importance of our work to funders:

* Perhaps include a list of FSC members to demonstrate how many sectors GG works with
* Find more WA side sources, where Gorge Grown’s work will be fresh to funders
* [Antony Chiang from Empire Health Foundation](http://empirehealthfoundation.org/antony-chiang) ?
* Jody could seek help from April Abernathy, director of development at The Next Door
* Could the Food Security Coalition steering committee call funders, advocate for GGFN applications?
* Can people share time of development directors?
* Write up a paragraph or elevator speech about the FSC; individuals may be supportive.

**Planning and feedback for January Quarterly meeting**

Liz walked through the draft agenda and sought feedback from participants (agenda attached to the email in which this email was sent). Suggested additions to and items to remove from the agenda are listed.

Additions:

* Let’s make a point of finding out which attendees are new and then pair them with an experienced FSC member for the duration of the meeting. We should create a list of members willing to be paired up with new members.
* Let’s re-vamp our declaration of cooperation
	+ Incorporate DOC into introductions, or assign folks to brainstorm before meeting.
	+ Liz will divvy out people to call among participants of this meeting
* Sharon Thornberry wants to explain what a regional foodbank is
	+ Maybe she can bring a half-sheet handout

Omissions

* Let’s not talk about emergency preparedness because we have five events in the Gorge coming up. We need a full meeting to discuss this topic. Make sure to include FISH, Fire Dept., seed banks, etc.
* Bayoan Ware, RARE Americorps member, said doesn’t need time to speak at this meeting- probably April
* Anna Osborne likely doesn’t need the full 20 minutes to speak

Ideas:

* Participants suggested that FSC might start a committee which could keep track of new ideas, dive into what role each member can strategically serve, and reach out delegate tasks/ “make the ask.”

**Next Steps/ announcements:**

FISH Hood River is hoping to have a Jesuit Volunteer Corps NW volunteer double as a community health worker serving with them this coming fall of 2018.

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