

– Healthy Food Systems Priority Initiative Call –

Call Highlights:

- Discussed two regional actions selected by Leadership Council in October meeting:
 1. Collaborate with environmental health to reduce barriers to farm-to-table and fresh food procurement:
 - Members are asked to help invite EH folks to participate in this working group for a series of structured conversations and presentations re: best practices in collaboration between EH and chronic disease prevention.
 - Members brainstormed ideas for future call topics for this series.
 2. Map regional food flows to help create a baseline understanding of regional food production and consumption
 - Initial effort will gather “low hanging fruit” data sources recommended by UC Davis food systems analyst
 - Engaging Juliet Sims from Prevention Institute for this effort
- Conducting online vote to confirm candidate/volunteer for 2014 working group chair: Gayle Hoxter, Program Chief for County of Riverside Department of Public Health, Nutrition & Health Promotion Branch!

Call Attendees:

Alexa Delwiche	<i>Good Food L.A.</i>	Michelle Wood	<i>Los Angeles</i>
Amy Bellomy	<i>Santa Barbara</i>	Juliet Sims	<i>Prevention Institute</i>
Anuj Bhatia	<i>Pasadena</i>	Ronit Ridberg	<i>CA Dept of Public Health</i>
Betsy Cline	<i>San Bernardino</i>	Ruben Brambila	<i>San Bernardino</i>
Daniel Perez	<i>San Bernardino</i>		
Gayle Hoxter	<i>Riverside</i>	Carla Blackmar	<i>PHA Staff</i>
Juliet Sims	<i>Prevention Institute</i>	Mina Brown	<i>PHA Staff</i>
Michael Dimock	<i>Roots of Change</i>	Tracy Delaney	<i>PHA Director</i>

1. Updates

- **Chair Election**—Thank you very much to Danny Perez from San Bernardino for bravely serving as the inaugural chair of this working group! Gayle Hoxter has volunteered to serve this year, and members’ online votes are needed to confirm her as chair.
- **Calendar Appointments**—With apologies for the technological glitches, members should now have a series of appointments in their email calendars for the calls this year.

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Roots of Change invites LHDs to join the California Food Policy Council (CAFPC) meeting on the afternoon of Feb. 26, on the pre-meeting day of the Network conference in Sacramento. The goal is to help CAFPC regions and their LHDs to align work meant to strengthen local food systems and healthy food access efforts. Contact: doris@rootsofchange.org
 - The Los Angeles Food Policy Council & Sustainable Seafood LA present “Sustainable Seafood Solutions: A Panel Discussion,” Loyola Marymount University, Feb. 27 <http://goodfoodla.org/events/sustainable-seafood-solutions-a-panel-discussion/>
 - Webinar: “Health Care and Sustainable Food in California,” Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, Feb. 27 <http://www.psr.org/news-events/events/webinar-health-care-and-sustainable-food.html>
 - Grow Riverside – Citrus and Beyond! Conference, March 19 & 20 <http://www.growriverside.com/>
- **Healthy Food Systems Roadmap Update**—Thanks to Gayle Hoxter for being our first subject for the “road test.” Gayle explained to Alliance staff how she is using the Roadmap as an organizing document for many different activities that the County and its partners are engaged in—including Building Healthy Communities, HEAL Zone, CNAP, and corner store conversions. She also provided the Roadmap to City of Riverside planning staff as a resource to help their efforts to develop a toolkit related to healthy food access. And she suggested that the Roadmap should address emergency food access, which will be a focus of the new food policy council under the Riverside CNAP.
 - **After the next “road test” with Anuj Bhatia, Alliance staff will begin to follow up with the rest of the working group to learn which activities from the roadmap they are engaged in—including most promising activities and barriers.**

2. Rolling out collaboration with DEH—structuring calls and topics

- **Environmental health collaboration**—As directed by Leadership Council in October, Alliance is pursuing a collaborative effort with Departments of Environmental Health / Environmental Health Directors to reduce barriers to farm-to-table and local, healthy food procurement. Sought input from group members on how to approach this.
 - **Working group calls** - Aiming for February call to kick off series of structured conversations and presentations re: best practices in collaboration between EH and chronic disease prevention to promote healthy food access. With help from members, want to reach out to EH and cast a broader net for participants.
 - **EH in organizational structure** - Alliance members have EH in different places within their organizations, which we need to understand for outreach efforts. Carla asked members to clarify on the call whether they report to the same supervisors as EH.

- **Future call topics** – Carla presented a list of general topics derived from her phone survey of members last summer/fall on their collaborations with EH and potential barriers and opportunities. Using this as a starting point, members provided ideas for best practices to highlight in future calls, offering several examples for the following topics:
 - Healthy retail (e.g. licensing, retail environmental quality index)
 - School food (e.g. salad bars, food prep from scratch)
 - Healthy mobile vending (e.g. business permits, incentives)
 - Menu labeling
 - Regulation of farmers markets and CSAs (e.g. EBT acceptance)

3. Food Flows Mapping Update

- **Regional food flows mapping** – As directed by Leadership Council in October, Alliance is mapping regional food flows to promote a better understanding of local and regional food production and consumption. Looking to identify capacity for local food sourcing and opportunities to promote health, sustainability, equity, and economic vitality.
 - Initial effort will gather data from “low hanging fruit” sources recommended by UC Davis food systems analyst Gail Feenstra: Census of Agriculture (NASS) and Crop Reports. Engaging Juliet Sims from Prevention Institute to gather and present data for the counties, region, and state.
 - Mina presented the draft set of indicators for the effort, in three categories:
 - Farm and farmer characteristics
 - Food production and market value
 - Local food consumption, food security, and nutrition-related health outcomes
 - Hoping to share findings with EH, find opportunities for collaboration, and identify data needs that they may be able to help with.
- **Related resource: Good Food L.A. recently published the L.A. Regional Food Systems Snapshot which aggregates several indicators for all 10 counties in the SoCal region.**
<http://goodfoodla.org/good-food/2013-food-system-snapshot/>

4. Chair Election

- **We are asking group members to vote online to confirm Gayle Hoxter as chair.**

5. Next Meeting

- **Currently scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 2 pm.**