



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**(301) 952-3700**  
**County Council**

## **Prince George's County Council Food Security Task Force Minutes October 8, 2021**

### Attendees:

Council Member Todd M. Turner, Chair  
Dr. Deborah Archer, University of MD Extension  
Cristina Berthelot, SMADC  
Dr. William Campbell, Senior Pastor, Union Bethel AME Church  
Nicole Hall, Economic Development  
Leslie Jefferson, Giant Food  
Dennis Lewis, Department of Social Services  
Stacey Little, UM Capital Region Health  
Kimberly Rush Lynch, Soil Conservation District  
Maria Martin, Parks & Recreation  
Roberto Melara, Capital Area Food Bank  
Aimee Olivo, County Council Representative  
Dr. Darlene Saunders, Department of Health  
Joan Shorter, Prince George's County Schools  
Lindsay Smith, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Bridget Warren, County Executive's Office

### Consultants

Julia Groenfeldt, Prince George's County Food Equity Council  
Evelyn Kelly, Institute for Public Health Innovation

### Council Staff

Sandra Eubanks, Education & Work Force Development Committee Director  
Leroy Maddox, Legislative Officer  
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide  
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide  
Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide  
Sharon Williams, Administrative Aide

## Welcome & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:05pm.

## Review & Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2021

The September 10, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

## Updates:

- Food Assistance Provider Call (Julia Groenfeldt)
  - The Food Assistance call was held on October 7<sup>th</sup> – the call included regional conversations on food assistance opportunities and challenges.
  - For the notes, please reach out to [julia@pgcfec.org](mailto:julia@pgcfec.org)
  - The upcoming meeting will be held on 11/4 – register here: <https://forms.gle/k5uZPpcPGWZqn4Xd7>
- Overview of recent MWCOG meetings (Lindsay Smith)
  - The meeting was held today.
  - Regional food access calls will be reconvening this month – topics are school meals and upcoming regional legislation.
- Urban Farm Fowl Bill (CM Turner)
  - FEC and partners advocated for a bill to allow urban farm fowl in the County (this is part of a wider effort to help urban farms).
  - The bill will be reintroduced next year – the group needs more time to work out some of the questions and refine the bill.
  - Thanks to Council Member Glaros and partners for all their efforts on this.
- **Final Report Updates:**

Evelyn Kelly reviewed the Taskforce Process and Reflections over the past year of work, including the following Timeline:

  - **First FSTF Meeting - October 2020:** Members met to review group priorities and purpose of the FSTF.
  - **Landscape of Food Insecurity - November 2020:** Presenters included, Capital Area Food Bank, No Kid Hungry, and PGC Health Department.
  - **Food Security Efforts in PGC - December 2020:** Presentations included, County Executive's/Stand Up & Deliver, Department of Family Services, and Prince George's County Public Schools.
  - **State of the Food System in PGC - January 2021:** Presentations included a review of key food systems definitions, an overview of past Planning Department reports, and legislation.

- **Examples: Neighboring Jurisdictions - February 2021:** Presentations included guests from Montgomery County and Baltimore City to share examples to address food insecurity.
- **Developing the Report - March 2021:** IPHI presented the report outline and process to identify recommendations via small groups.
- **Small Group Meetings April 2021:** Small groups reviewed a comprehensive list of recommendations and identified most urgent and feasible recommendations.
- **Review of Top Recommendations- May 2021:** Members met to review and discuss top recommendations developed by topical subgroups.
- **Developing Guiding Principles: June 2021:** Members identified guiding principles to inform each recommendation. Comm. engagement strategy was developed.
- **Presentation of Report Outline: July 2021:** IPHI presented and solicited feedback on the top draft recommendations and report outline.
- **Key Informant Interviews- August 2021:** IPHI conducted key informant interviews to review and solicit feedback on draft recommendations.
- **Review Revised Recommendations - September 2021:** IPHI presented top findings from key informant interviews and revised recommendations.
- **Finalize Report - October 2021:** Presentation of draft report. Final report submitted for copy editing and review by County staff.
- **Developing the Report:**
  - During the first FSTF meeting, members provided feedback and input on the most pressing challenges related to food security in the County.
  - Survey #1 - How should County agencies and the County Council prioritize actions in the next year to advance food security of County residents; resilience within the local food system; and preparedness to respond to food-security challenges during disruptions?
  - Survey #2 - What are the top two barriers among and between government agencies within the food system in Prince George's County for three core functions: Communication, coordination, and collaboration; and data sharing?
- **Small Group Discussions**
  - Individual and Resident Safety Net
  - Food Assistance Provider Capacity and Coordination
  - Government Agency Systems Response
  - Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning
- **Key Informant Interviews:**
  - Prince George's County Public Schools Judy Center
  - Latin American Youth Center
  - Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc.
  - Department of Social Services Youth Homelessness Demonstration

- **Final Review & Feedback**

- Task Force Members Reviewed Draft Recommendations: Sent draft recommendations to all Task Force members for additional review.
- Solicited External Feedback: Met with experts to review and revise individual recommendations and action plans.
- Reconvened Strategic and Long-Term Food Systems Planning Group (Small Group #4): Conducted additional review meetings. These Task Force Members that went above and beyond to develop and finalize the recommendations, including Lindsay Smith, Sandra Eubanks, Nicole Hall, Roberto Melara, Deborah Archer, Maria Martin, Council Member Turner, Kim Rush Lynch, and Alison Mendoza Walters

- **Report & Recommendations - Draft 1 Outline:**

- Letter from Chair Turner
- List of Task Force Members
- Acknowledgments
- Table of Contents
- Authorization & Charge
- Task Force Overview
- Key Terms
- Introduction
  - The Impact of COVID-19 on County Food Insecurity
  - Causes of Food Insecurity
  - Launching the Food Security Task Force
  - Research & Reports to Inform Recommendations
- Guiding Principles
- 11 Recommendations

- 4 Foundational Recommendations:

- **Foundational Recommendation A:** Create and fund a County Food Security Office.
- **Foundational Recommendation B:** To inform and drive county food security decisions, gather, analyze, and use data sources and systems.
- **Foundational Recommendation C:** Increase participation in Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs.
- **Foundational Recommendation D:** Develop a master communication strategy for food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness.

- 7 Recommended Food Security Policies & Programs:
  - **Recommendation 1:** Plan for future food security disruptions by developing an emergency food security plan that integrates food system experts into existing emergency management operations.
  - **Recommendation 2:** Increase access to bulk food purchasing, infrastructure, and resources for food assistance providers.
  - **Recommendation 3:** Co-locate food security and social safety net services and create closed-loop referral systems.
  - **Recommendation 4:** Improve transportation options for residents to access healthy food retailers and providers.
  - **Recommendation 5:** Leverage state and regional partners for cross-jurisdictional food systems planning, coordinated communication, and infrastructure development.
  - **Recommendation 6:** Provide land access, infrastructure, and resources to help agriculture flourish.
  - **Recommendation 7:** Continue to provide and expand market incentives and support to healthy food retailers of multiple sizes in target communities.
- Conclusion
- Appendix
- Task Force Discussion:
- Feedback:
  - Data sets and collection are complete
  - Local food emphasis has been added
  - Add “Integrated: network of policy and programs = important
  - Action plans look great - easy to read and highlights the goals
  - Guiding principles are great
- Items to add:
  - Expand attention to schools, colleges, and universities, and hospitals in the report.
  - “Integrated Food Security Office” instead of Food Security Office.
- Next Steps:
  - FSTF members review first draft & to submit comments by end of next week with edits.
  - Final copy edits
  - Submit final draft to County Council for internal review and design
  - Publish final report
  - Briefing to County Council

**Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00pm.