



CK Food Policy Council

Minutes

May 29th, 2025- 9:30-11:30am

Attendance: Allison Heavens, Erica Bennett, Jacques Tetrault, Karen Green, Renee Geniole, Sharmini Balakrishnan, Tasha Rugless, Sherri Gray, Rosemarie Montgomery, Taylor Merritt, Jennelle Arnew, Carmen McGregor, Derwyn Armstrong, Morena McDonald, Evan Rogers

Regrets: Polly Smith, Alexandra Colby, Mike Buis, Kim Sonneveld, Nathan Dube, Olena Manoilo, Susan Fulmer, Jennifer Crowell

Guests: Erin McEachran (Community Safety & Well-Being Coordinator, Fire & Emergency Services), Kristy Jacobs (United Way), Emmerson McIntosh (Nurse with CK Public Health)

1. **Land Acknowledgement:** We will have the standard CKPH land acknowledgement available for members to rotate reading at each meeting. This will be done alphabetically. Members are encouraged to add a statement to the land acknowledgement to make it personal. Members to review Road to Understanding and how 94 Calls to Action connects to our work
2. **Introduction:** New Members: Morena McDonald, General Community and Evan Rogers, Board of Health Member
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved by Karen and Tasha
4. **Community Safety and Well-Being Plan:** presented by Erin McEachran
 - The province requires every community to have a plan and renew it every 4 years, first year was 2021. Meant to ensure everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, meet education, health, housing and income needs and social and cultural expression. Includes:
 - Incident Response: critical and non-critical incident response
 - Risk Intervention: mitigation situation of elevated risk
 - Prevention: proactively reducing identified risk
 - Social Development: promote and maintain community safety and well-being.
 - Going to council in June and submit to province in July, then comes implementation. Looking to bring community members and organizations together to see how they can align their work to maximize time and resources. Create Action Tables which will develop a plan and present to advisory committee made of community leaders
 - *Key Outcomes:*

- Increase coordination and collaboration between services
 - Improve access to services
 - Greater alignment on key safety and well-being issues
 - Reduce demand on emergency services
 - Enhanced systems planning
 - Sharmini to share report that went to council and Erin's presentation with all members
5. **Grant Opportunity:** Sharmini. The Seed Grant through Ontario Trillium Foundation -Public Health can support, but need non-profits to apply. Open from July 23rd to August 20th. 6-12 months, \$10,000 minimum and \$100,000 max per year. <https://otf.ca/our-grants/community-investments-grants/seed-grant>
6. **Roundtable Updates:** Sharmini. Promotion Cards available for community gardens, gleaning, CKFPC workgroups- members to share
- Discussion re: community gardens: Morena MacDonald looking to expand the program and is bringing a motion to council
 - Each person/family gets a plot and plant what you want; library still has Seed program, where you get free seeds (started as partnership with CKPH)
 - Need a garden leader (volunteer to oversee the garden) to start a garden as Derwyn cannot oversee all the gardens in CK
 - Gardens have closed in the past because no one to lead it
 - Wallaceburg CHC has started theirs for their clients, Derwyn helped set it up
 - Several city parks unused, could be potential for community gardens, but need the volunteers to support
 - Carmen suggested sharing the community garden survey on municipal website for more reach
 - Sherri- community gardens can look into funding for this for raise beds for senior communities; looking at gardens at housing locations municipality; had donation from greenhouse (2 years in row) and our team (housing services) is maintaining the gardens at the housing locations; Derwyn has built raised beds for those that need it in partnership with Shriners- he can connect if need ideas for partnerships; Accessibility committee also exists with Municipality; Come Together CK can help; Enbridge Helping Hands grants; Libro grants have food security as priority as well
 - Libro Community Grants, applications now available through the year <https://www.libro.ca/community/grants-partnerships/>
 - Sherri shared this funding opportunity: [Enabling Accessibility Fund - Canada.ca](https://www.accessibilityfund.ca/)
 - Buy Local, Buy Fresh maps now available digitally <https://buylocalbuyfreshchathamkent.com/>
 - School Garden Program: 6 schools received funding from Public Health. Expand the "Your the Chef" food literacy program, 2 schools currently and 5 interested for the fall.



- Student nutrition program got federal funding in April

7. CKFPC Strategic Plan Workgroups:

- Sharmini presented Monitoring and Reporting document for Strategic Plan, and will send to all via email; we will monitor these indicators and the lead will report on them annually- this is useful for public health and municipal council to show our progress and successes
- Social media: CKFPC has an instagram and a facebook account. Access will be provided to one CKFPC member to post on behalf of the CKFPC, but posts will need to be reviewed by Sharmini since the CKFPC is a committee under the BOH; can explore tik tok if workgroup needs it
- Workgroup members are listed on lets talk food ck website
- Workgroup updates:
 - Accessibility and Availability: Continuing work with Immigrant advisory group and waiting to hear main contact is and will bring info for our July meeting; Harvest Markets costly and labor intensive but Dresden continuing in partnership with Foodland and Rotary Club; Gleaning- Sherri talked with Lyndsay Davidson re: successes- partnerships with ag is a big need - success based on relationships vs. social media promo- being a face to that group is important; food vouchers and coupons programs in past with ESS was available but challenges so trying to figure out how to implement it again with appropriate vendors- exploring funding for ESS
 - Advocacy: Farmers markets connections Rosemarie and Allison exploring; resolution to council basic income guarantee back in December; supported/signed Community Food Centres Canada Open Letter to government re: food being a right and need for basic income; Bill 21 Protect our food act interactions with Bill 5 Protect ontario by unleashing our economy act- we will do advocacy on these and may bring to municipal council; food insecurity emergency toolkit - declaring food insecurity as an emergency with municipality will explore this as well; reaching out to KFA for a representative to join CKFPC
 - Education & Awareness: consulting community orgs that support children and youth; reached out to st clair college to collab re: wellness fairs and emergency food programs- will touchbase in fall; meeting with Linck today re: org needs and how we can support them; reaching out to Dezarae at ridgetown campus because they provide programs to children re: ag; discussion re: types of programs we can support- CHC offers cooking sessions with FRESH, CKPH provides Youre the Chef- so can use these programs
 - Local Food Promotion: Have not met yet- new members of this group are Morena and Evan

- #### 8. United Way Consultation:
- presented by Kristy Jacobs, presentation shared via email.



Top areas of investment identified:

- mental health and wellness
- education and literacy
- food security (access to healthy food)
- social connection
- homelessness prevention
- addiction services
- support for youth
- training opportunities

9. Reconciliation

- Deferred to next meeting

10. Wrap Up

Next Meeting Date: September 25th, 9:30 to 11:30, Civic Center room 212