

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy  
Thursday, June 8, 9AM-11AM  
In Person meeting  
Southside Library Community room  
6599 Jaguar Dr. 87508

Introductions:

**Chica Ortiz, Deputy Director for Senior Services** introduced herself and her role with the County in the Senior Services Department. She gave an overview of the senior centers in Santa Fe County with a little information about the program and the challenges they face. They have a position that was just filled for Nutrition Coordinator. Currently, they have a shortage of drivers for senior transportation. Chica gave an overview of the work that she does and how every day is different and everyone has to pitch in an help when there is a need. They have a new director - Matilda Beyers. Chica is looking forward to participating in the NM Grown for Seniors program when everyone is settled in to their new position. Pam urged Chica to follow up with Ophelia Steppe at Aging and Long Term Services to see if there is still some money available for NM Grown for this year.

Estimate of daily congregate meals served

Northern area: 60-100, Home delivery: 250

Eldorado: 30 Home delivery

Rufina: 120 Home delivery, congregate 20

Edgewood: Home delivery 40-50, congregate 30

During Covid, home delivery went up and congregate meals went down. That is beginning to even out now.

**Nate Crail - Community Planner at Santa Fe County.** Nate works on community plans, administers AgriGate, and is working on a USDA food waste project, among other things. He talked about the role of the county in needing to purchase a new food mobile for Food Depot and a vehicle for Reunity because of the anti-donation clause.

**Sue Perry works with the NM Diabetes Advisory Council,** which just receive a grant to do programs, including a pilot program called PEARLS, which does training/mentoring for counseling support for the communities that they work in. This helps to bridge the relationships between diabetes, depression, nutrition and food access and other needs.

**Helen Henry works with Farm to Table** doing administration and communication, and helps to coordinate the Milagro Community Garden in Santa Fe.

**Pam Roy is the Executive Director for Farm to Table (FTT),** which coordinates the Santa Fe Food Policy Council and the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council. FTT just received a USDA grant for the new federal urban program, which will allow FTT to do an assessment of capacity for farmers to sell to urban markets and do support and technical assistance to farmers.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Sue Perry called the meeting to order at about 9:15am.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Sue Perry, Chica Ortiz, Nate Crail, Maria Sanchez Tucker, Pam Roy, Helen Henry  
**Excused:** Sherry Hooper, David Sundberg, Carried Thielan, Emigdio Ballon, Eric Rentz-Whitmore,  
**Absent:** Tejinder Ciano  
There is not a quorum

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –June 8, 2023**

Prioritization and Agenda Order 5 minutes

NA

**D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES –March 9, April 13, 2023,  
May 11, 2023**

NA 5minutes

**E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

5 minutes

None

**F. Initiatives and actions**

55 minutes

1.Santa Fe Food Policy Council Members Update and Discussion

a. New City of Santa Fe Senior Services Director (if hired)

Maria said that someone has been hired, but this appointment has not yet been announced. They currently have three senior centers that are open. They may be opening a new senior center and they are in the planning phase. There is a new teen center that is open, which has a beautiful kitchen. They are looking at possibly doing some intergenerational programs.

b. City of Santa Fe-SFFPC appointments progress

2. Meeting May 12: 9-10 AM 2023 City and County Legislative priorities

3. SFFPC Council priorities: Determine Policy and project priorities for this year

Maria is working on this and asked for help in advertising the position. Pam will send her some information.

These discussions were partially postponed because there was not enough people present.

**G. PRESENTATIONS: Pam Roy**

20 minutes

1.. Federal Farm Bill Priorities

Federal Farm Bill priorities - Pam talked about our role as advocates in bringing forward information about the Farm Bill that can inform this legislative process. Every five years, the Farm Bill is reauthorized (reviewed and revised). The pandemic helped us understand a lot more about food systems vulnerability, food access, needs of farmers, equity in all policies, and other needs around infrastructure and distribution. This is an opportunity for us to bring forward the needs that we have to be able to reinvent food systems and have input into how the federal government programs can work

better to support farmers, families, farm workers, consumers and others.

Pam went over some of the programs that are in the Farm Bill, for instance, SNAP is 75% of the Farm Bill. Other programs include GUSNIP (which includes Double Up Food Bucks - up to \$2M last year was spent at NM farmers' markets). The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program is also in the Farm Bill. In NM a number of our elected officials are involved with the Farm Bill. Sen Heinrich is the chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Committee. The Agriculture Resilience Act is co-sponsored by Sen Heinrich. Rep Vasquez is on the House Agriculture Committee. They are co-sponsors of various market bills that are being supported by state and national organizations.

One of the things that we are asking for is a more equitable approach to matching funds and applying for funding from the federal government.

Pam also went over the National Farm to School Network (NFSN) and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) priorities (see handouts). Local processing, the Local Farm and Food Act and the Agriculture Resilience Act, as well as other things are in these priorities.

Sue asked if the bill would be voted on by the September deadline? Pam said probably not.

Chica said that using debit cards for the elderly is a barrier because they don't want to use the technology. Maria said that libraries could help seniors understand the technology.

There was a discussion about senior centers using NM Grown produce, Chef Lois Ellen Frank's cooking demonstrations and connecting farmers and institutions to work together to plan and grow food for local use.

#### H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Helen: Update on website progress and needs from Council. 5 minutes

The website needs to be updated, from a technological standpoint, and also in terms of content. Helen is working the design form Loka Creative to bring this up to speed.

#### I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL: 10 minutes

1. Member check-in

Moved to the next meeting

#### J. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 5 minutes

1. Request Member for any needed paperwork
2. Next Meeting: July 13, 2023

#### K. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR 5 minutes

None

#### L. ADJOURNMENT