**Butler Collaborative for Families**

**Date January 14, 2021**

1. The meeting was called to order by Josh and all members were asked to introduce themselves, after which our mission statement was recited.
2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes by unanimous approval
3. Membership Update
   1. Mission of BCF reviewed. Josh explained the diverse memberships that we have with the BCF and what we hope to do for the community by working together to improve the quality life for all.
   2. We recently celebrated our 25th anniversary.
   3. Perks of memberships and how to join were reviewed briefly. Pointed to go to website to join.
      1. Rebates, discounted trainings, mini grant opportunities, collaboration with other organizations, making connections and learning how we could lessen the gap.
   4. Please make sure you send your membership in after the meeting. Direct any questions over to Glenda.
4. Presentation-Chris West, Greater Pittsburgh Food bank
   1. Spans over 11 counties
   2. They are trying to reach out to more than just food stability. Trying to find more partnerships to help people more holistically.
      1. Other things include: Transportation, Financial, Health, Employment, Housing, and Childcare
   3. Partnership guide introduced on how people can partner with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Will be sent to Glenda to distribute.
      1. Work with over 100 organizations that now help provide direct food distribution.
      2. There is a now a new food pantry.
      3. There is now door step deliver for people 60 and over, if homebound. 1 box a week every 2 weeks, that they need to renew every 3 months.
      4. Drive-up replaced Produce to People.
      5. In Allegheny County, there is also Green Grocer, a mobile farmers market.
      6. Senior boxes are available.
      7. Snap referrals.
   4. Resource guide was introduced for those seeking help. Will be sent to Glenda to distribute.
      1. Shares the website and has ways that Food Bank can help.
      2. 412.460.3663 ext. 655 to call and be signed up.
      3. States income guidelines.
   5. Any questions?
      1. Other contacts for different programs, John and Patricia.
      2. Howie asked how we can get help with an already established Backpack Program.
         1. Look at ways to collaborate and not compete.
         2. Chris suggested they can give a recipe to fill a bag and can connect to the right person.
         3. They can find ways to fill gaps in bags. The programs can order from their inventory.
         4. Chris said most Backpack programs they run are currently in Allegheny County.
         5. Chris also said they can make sure kids get food even if school districts span multiple counties.
      3. Josh asked if they need more partners to bring in food.
         1. Food bank relies on individual food drives. Money brought in to buy from government and state commodities.
         2. Food bank works with restaurants and grocers to provide prepared meals. They commit to a certain amount and make partnerships locally.
         3. Examples of partnerships.
            1. Many farms.
            2. Summer food sites, identifying gaps, new sites.
            3. SNAP-Can provide 2 question screening for food insecurity at screenings with partners. Organizations can be trained to do SNAP applications.
            4. When setting up housing, Food bank can partner to get food boxes to them for food stability for the first 3 months.
         4. Alan asked for sample of the box contents and Chris said he will get that email back.
         5. Josh asked about food desert areas in Butler County.
            1. Sandra Curry from the county explained that there is an individual food bank in Butler County as well. People can contact Butler County for help.
            2. Butler County Food Bank and the Greater Allegheny Food Bank co-organizes the monthly distribution every 4th Tuesday from 11am-1pm at Lernerville.
            3. Butler City is a food desert, but there are places in northwest Butler County that are more than 40 minutes away from the grocery store. These are the communities with the greatest needs. Prices are often higher or they only have highly processed food.
            4. Community gardens are suggested, summer food collaborations.
            5. Boxes are already on site at Butler County and if anyone needs a box they can contact to get them monthly. ANR Transport will deliver to the homes.
            6. Howie explained that there are two small food places now that are starting to offer some produce in Chicora and Karn City Area.
            7. Sandra explained they are trying to start a farmers market in Karns City and trying to provide transportation shuttles to the Farmer’s Market based on income eligibility.
            8. Food bank distributions can load 3 families in one vehicle at a time in Lernerville as long as they are registered.
            9. If home delivery is needed contact [scurry@yourcapinfo.org](mailto:scurry@yourcapinfo.org)
            10. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Some onsite is allowed, but they want to make sure that they have enough. State and federal also needs registration.
            11. Farmers to Family-co-distribute at Lernerville first and then at pop-ups at the Butler Farmer’s market. Any left overs go there. Sign up is simple and no income restrictions.
         6. Josh asked who to contact to set up the partnerships. Depending on what program would determine this. Sandy and Chris will go through this.
         7. Josh asked about map of sites. There is not an up to date one right now, but they are working on hiring someone for specifically this. Sandy also mentioned there is a flyer available that lists 30 pantries, 3/4th served by both Butler and Pittsburgh. This will be sent to Glenda.
         8. Potential Partnerships
            1. Prison After Care will benefit from this.
            2. YMCA has done summer programs in the past and will be a good partner.
            3. Training for SNAP takes average 25 minutes to do with clients. Can get log ins to those interested in providing this.
            4. Churches can help.
            5. Karen Jack at BC3 informed us that students are SNAP Eligible to get money through the campus food distribution, but this would be beneficial. It can be a daunting process to sign-up.
5. Subcommittee/Ad-HOC Committee Reports
   1. Updates were provided on the agenda and were reviewed at the meeting with the exception of the below.
   2. Early Care and Education Council- The next meeting is February 11th at 2:30pm so that more providers can get involved. They need to rethink community engagement and their program for the spring. They also are looking at how kindergarten registration is going to work this year, as things are very different. This will be looked into with the districts and we will know more later. Milton Hershey School is also looking into doing early childhood satellite schools around the state.
   3. Local Housing Options Team-refer to agenda
   4. Marketing-Updated new logo and hoping that members can put the logo on their websites. Also, suggested using BCF in signatures of emails. Also, Cindy suggested getting stickers made for windows of members.
   5. Safe Kids-Currently brainstorming ideas of what they can do. Handing out brochures, potential car seat checks, and Jeep Fest outreach. New minigrant opportunities are available with PA Safe Kids.
   6. Finance-As of end of December-Restricted funds $14,152.15, Unrestricted-$23,078.59 for a total of $37,230.74.
   7. Resource and Development –Interested in getting more individuals to join. What trainings can we get to the BCF and is there a way to share other trainings of the calendar. We should be trying to utilize our skills to train in anything we might be able to bring.
6. Collaboration Time
   1. Howie-Realtors are getting furniture donations. Is there storage anywhere so that items do not go to waste.
   2. Julie-There are still needs for beds and pillows as CYS was out of funding at the end of the year. Connect with Helping Butler County. Word of Mouth helps with getting donations. Howie-There is a location in Mars called Sleep in Heavenly Peace. It’s a nationwide endeavor and they have lots of funding with mattresses in stock. Also, the Beds for Every Heads initiative that makes sure children ages 3-17 have beds.
   3. Kaeleen-VOICe-website has changed to voicebutlercounty.org.
   4. Janet-Caring Place offering free grief support for children.
   5. Elan-The Path Program is ramping up again, telehealth with the geriatric. We are able to offer in home treatment again with psychosocial support. Chromebooks are being provided to the nursing home.
   6. Caitlin-Need suggestions on where to donate clothes, as would like them to go to people who need them without charge. It was suggested that there is a Kids Closet in Butler County.
7. Next Meeting: February 11 at 10:00am.
8. Adjournment