

Health for All through Food Security Working Group 2015 Quarterly Reports

January to March

Activities:

- Reviewed the draft Healthy Eating position statement.
- Reviewed the draft Healthy Eating Environments policy.
- Four working group members attended the Manitoba Food Security Network Gathering (Future of Food event) on February 20th, 2015.
- Financial support (\$1500) from Population & Public Health Nutrition Promotion budget provided to Food Matters Manitoba (FMM) in support of the Future of Food events.
- Continued engagement with multiple WRHA sites that purchase/store food regarding Winnipeg FoodShare Co-op proposal for joint produce purchasing pilot.
- Reviewed Community Food Assessments completed in the WHR by FMM taking note of recommendations and key areas for action.
- Email communication to the Director of Policy Analysis and Development with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development regarding regulated milk price policy when it was discovered that many grocers in vulnerable communities charge above regulated price.
- Presentation by Stefan Epp-Koop from FMM about Canadian municipal food security initiatives. Investigating Edmonton's food strategy.
- Contact made with Chief City Planner to offer support related to food security initiatives.
- Submitted letter of support to the Winnipeg Foundation for a Food for Health Action Initiative proposal submitted by FMM.
- Financial support (\$2500) provided to FMM to support initial costs of key stakeholders coming together to plan a city-wide food strategy.
- Informed a food desert GIS mapping project directed by Chris Green (Senior Epidemiologist) in partnership with FMM and a Red River College student.

April to June

Activities:

- Working group continued to connect via email with Alberta Health Services to further investigate Edmonton's food strategy and determine the role of the health region within the Edmonton FRESH strategy.
- Working group connected via email with the Manager of Patient Food Services from St. Boniface to determine support for the Winnipeg Food Share Co-op (WFC) bulk-purchasing proposal. Working group also connected with Logistics about pooling WRHA sites (i.e. HSC, Grace, PCHs, etc.) to collectively order produce in order to get a better price and allow for WFC to participate. Working

- group also connected with Regional Manager of Operations (Nutrition & Food Services) to discuss how the MB on the Menu project may help encourage the purchasing of local produce with in the WRHA.
- Nutrition student who has placement with one of the working group members started a project to theme the 4 FMM Community Food assessment recommendations.
 - Group connected with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development regarding concern that the *Downtown* and *Inkster* food assessments noted that many grocers are charging 1 L milk prices about the regulated amount.
 - Reviewed the *North End Healthy Eating Preliminary Evaluation Report* by FMM and provided input on the Healthy Corner Store Project to be piloted by FMM. Working group member invited to sit on the North End Healthy Corner Store Steering Committee.
 - Reviewed *Physical Features of Healthy Built Environment* with discussion on the Healthy Food Systems section.
 - Presentation by Margo Malabar (contracted) and Johanna Chabluk (Centre Venture) on the Downtown Mobile Grocery Store Feasibility Study. Group provided feedback and recommendations based upon the results of the study. Group forwarded study to interested partners.
 - The City of Winnipeg Planning Property and Development department released a report *Accommodating the Interests of Winnipeg's Agricultural Community* and one working group member spoke at the Standing Policy Committee to show WRHA support for all 3 recommendations in the report. Working group also sent a letter to the Standing Policy Committee to demonstrate support for the document, especially the recommendation of the Winnipeg Food Policy Council. Working group connected with the Chief City Planner to review next steps.
 - Continued working group engagement on the draft of the Healthy Eating Environments Policy.

July to September

Activities:

- Continued working group engagement regarding the Winnipeg Food Policy Council. Working group discussed the potential role of the food policy council. Working group will help inform the creation of the food policy council through their connection to FMM, who has a policy coordinator working directly with the City Planning Department. Working group continues to connect with the Chief City Planner to offer support.
- Erin Mitchell of FMM presented the working group with the results of the community food assessments, which has resulted in in 200 recommendations. Working group discussed areas for priority.
- Working group wrote a letter of support for a Neighbourhoods Alive! grant that would support the development of a partnership between WFC and WSD.

- A common theme out of the community assessments was there needs to be better communication of the programs and services that are available to support food security. Working group member connected with the public health dietitians to suggest that each dietitian meet with their Community Facilitator to discuss available food security programming in their community area.
- Working group discussed ideas for an abstract to present at the 2016 Ethics Forum. Working group member also connected with the Public Health Dietitian Practice Council for ideas.
- Working group members are presenting to the Quality & Safety committee of the Board on health equity and working group discussed possible topics that could be presented that relate to healthy equity and food security.
- One working group member attended the FMM AGM.
- Working group reviewed the *Future of Food* report and discussed the state of food skills and interventions.
- Three working group members met with a Board Member from Transition Winnipeg to discuss how the WRHA can be involved in mitigating climate change and zero carbon initiatives. Working group further discussed possibilities related to this such as using WRHA land for community gardens, taking a position statement on climate change, utilizing strategies to reduce WRHA food waste.
- Working group approached by a Master of Public Health Student from the University of Manitoba seeking to conduct a practicum in food security.

October to December

Activities:

- Working group connected via telephone with Dr. Sikora in Edmonton about the role of public health in Edmonton's municipal food council.
- Working group submitted an abstract for the 2016 Ethics Forum on food security and health equity.
- Continued working group engagement regarding the Winnipeg Food Policy Council. Working group remains connected to the Chief City Planner and continues to offer support for the Food Policy Council. Working group to connect with the City of Winnipeg PPD department and invite them to meet with the working group.
- Working group members discussed the state of food skills at the Public Health Nutrition Practice Council.
- Two working group members delivered a breakout session on food security and health equity at the Healthy Together Now conference at the end of November.
- Working group members participated in a poverty simulation event.
- Working group continues to inform a food desert GIS mapping project directed by Chris Green (Senior Epidemiologist) in partnership with FMMM and Red River College summer student.

- Working group connected with the Master of Public Health Student from the University of Manitoba, Amy Dytnerki, to discuss potential practicum projects in food security. Working group members in the WRHA PPH department agreed to take on Amy in a joint placement with FMM and she will start a 10-week placement in January and complete a food skills literature review.
- Some working group members participated in a webinar by Lynn McIntyre, which explored the relationship between housing and food insecurity. The group discussed the content of webinar and key learning points.
- Continued engagement and support for the potential formation of a provincial nutrition council.