

**Governor's Food Desert Working Group
In-person meeting
October 3 & 4, 2022**

MINUTES

Attendees:

**Working Group
Members:**

Debbie Landers, Joe Thompson, Christie Jordan, Jennifer Wessel, Rachel Spencer, Kathy Webb, Cynthia Edwards, Kara Wilkins, Jean Noble, Joshua Markham, Lance Whitney, Sandy DeCoursey

**Working Group
Representatives:
Facilitators:**

Aaron Keith Kennard, Payton Christenberry, Molly Thomason, Kimberly Bolin, Meghann Ray, Lizz Wagner, Carder Hawkins, Janet Harris

Regrets:

Guests:

Stephanie Blevins, Doris Wright

Location:

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute

I. Welcome and introductions

Aaron Keith Kennard opened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Monday, October 3 by discussing the objectives for the meeting. Working members, representatives, guests, and facilitators introduced themselves and their organizations.

II. Why Must We Succeed and What Will Kill Our Effort

At 11:35 p.m. the group established a general list of what their report must include in order to be considered successful. They also considered what would "kill their effort" and reduce the effectiveness of the report.

III. Presentations from Field Trip

At 12:20 p.m. the members of the working group that attended a tour of alternative grocery store models in Cleveland and Drew, Mississippi presented their observations to the group. These models were financed by Hope Credit Union who attended and presented at the last working group meeting. They identified the themes that made these models successful: innovative technology, layered financing (public and private), and community buy-in.

IV. Presentation from Focus Group Subcommittee

At 12:45 p.m. Aaron Keith Kennard presented the data collected from the 10 focus groups that we conducted in several regions across Arkansas and identified the top needs for the report to address from both recipients and providers of charitable foods.

V. Presentation from Policy and Funding Subcommittee

At 1:10 p.m. Rachel Spencer presented research from the policy and funding subcommittee. The group discussed what potential policy changes could be part of the final report, and the concept of capital stacking.

VI. Presentation from Data Subcommittee

At 1:50 p.m. Rachel Spencer presented research from the data subcommittee, discussing the research on bringing fresh food into urban and suburban food deserts

VII. Presentation from Eric Mueck

At 2:40 p.m. Eric Mueck, of the Salvation Army in Baltimore presented on the lessons learned from their non-profit grocery store.

VIII. Report Recommendations Generations

At 3:50 p.m. the Working Group broke up into small groups and participated in a facilitated exercise to generate recommendations for the report. Additionally the group determined ideas for what they believed to be important considerations for the design and structure of the report.

IX. Recess for the Evening

Work paused for dinner and rest at 5:00 p.m.

X. Overview from yesterday

At 8:30 a.m. the Working Group resumed business, and began with a discussion of what definition of a food desert they wanted to use in the final report. They settled on explaining in the report

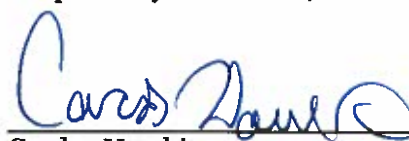
XI. Review Report Recommendations

At 8:45 a.m. the Working Group consolidated all of the ideas for potential recommendations from the day before, and began creating a list of top-level recommendations and putting actionable recommendations with them.

XII. Adjournment

At 11:30 a.m. Kathy Webb closed the meeting and adjourned the Working Group members.

Respectfully submitted,

 10/17/2022

Carder Hawkins
Chief Strategy Officer, Winthrop Rockefeller
Institute

Approved as to form and content:

Kathy Webb
Chair, Governor's Food Desert Working
Group