



Time: 10:00-11:00 am

Date: May 21st, 2025

Place: [Virtual](#) (Zoom video conference)

Council Members in Attendance: Natalie Loot (representative: *Hannah Goggin*), Frank Vega, Kimberly Loveland (representative: *Dani Perez*), Natalie McHale, Rachel Bowman, Lea Palmer (representative: *Kristin Hoch*), Gina Cornia, Kamaile Tripp-Harris, Sierra Govett

Council Members Absent: Cassidy Dragunat, Justen Smith, Paula Scott, Nisay Lao, Spencer Gibbons, James Toledo

Total number of attendees: 41

Agenda Items	Discussion Items	Actions/Suggestions
Welcome Palak Gupta		
Roll Palak Gupta		
Approve Previous Meeting Notes		Vote to approve: Frank Vega Second the motion: Rachel Bowman
Sub-committee updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Frank Vega • Mapping Lea Palmer • Policy Gina Cornia • Local Food Promotion Natalie McHale • Food Recovery Sean Damitz, Carrie Durward • Evaluation Palak Gupta • Nourish Communities Lea Palmer 	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major updates. Continued promotion of the podcast and highlights encouraged. <p>Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates; the group did not meet last month. <p>Food Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed grant opportunities and the idea of a Utah-specific food recovery directory. <p>Local Food Promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on HB 510 Agricultural Amendments Food Study with a \$75,000 budget to assess food availability and research gaps. <p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Qualtrics survey was created to collect data on food distribution and impact. Deadline for data submission is end of July. <p>NourishCommunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates reported.
Policy workgroup structure (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Cornia 	Gina Cornia led a robust discussion on restructuring the policy subcommittee to better address current challenges and advocacy limitations for state and university employees. Suggestions included:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming a policy group with representatives from each subcommittee. Creating digestible fact sheets and impact reports. Exploring the feasibility of informational letters from the Council.
Intermountain Health Nutrition Services (15-20 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Wilke, Suzanne Lewis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred discussion to June
<p>Open RFA- Regional Food System Partnerships Grant Utah Food Security Grant Program Food Loss and Waste Implementation Subgrants</p>	<p>Sierra Govett</p> <p>Natalie McHale</p> <p>Palak Gupta</p>	<p>Regional Food System Partnership Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed potential for Council to apply. Supports planning and developing resilient, equitable local food systems through collaborative partnerships. <p>Utah Food Security Grant Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-funded grant with simple application process. Grants up to \$200,000 available. Contact: Allison Ross. <p>Food Loss and Waste Implementation Subgrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palak Gupta is seeking school partners for a continuation grant focused on reducing food waste.
Hunger Solutions Symposium (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palak Gupta 	<p>The event featured proposals from student teams, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walapini Impact: A greenhouse-style underground growing system. They grow and donate produce to food banks. This team won and will receive support to build another Walapini at USU. Beyond Ramen: Focused on helping college students eat healthier through recipes and cooking demos. The Pantry Project: Another student-led initiative (details not fully discussed). <p>The event was part of a broader symposium that included poster presentations, partner booths, and keynotes, and was well received by attendees.</p>
Partner updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared work (Google document) Monthly Evaluation (Qualtrics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristin Hoch shared SNAP-Ed advocacy resources from ASNNA, including email templates and a voter voice tool for contacting legislators. Gina Cornia posted a link to a Utahns Against Hunger campaign encouraging letters to representatives opposing SNAP cuts. Morgan Hadden announced Get Healthy Utah's annual event focused on improving access to healthy food, with opportunities for booths and taste testing.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 18th, 2025 	

Approved by Frank Vega, Seconded by Gina Cornia, 6/18/2025

Roll call for members (or designee)

1. The Executive director of Department of Health and Human Services or designee- **Natalie Loots**
2. The executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or designee: **Frank Vega**
3. The state superintendent or designee: **Kimberly Loveland**, USBE
4. The commissioner or designee: **Cassidy Dragunat**, Utah System of Higher Education
5. The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food or designee: **Natalie McHale**
6. Member representing USU Extension: Justen Smith, *Representative*: **Ashley Butler**
7. Member who represents Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program: Paula Scott, *Representative*: **Heidi LeBlanc**
8. Member who represents the Utah Women, Infants, and Children Program: **Rachel H. Bowman**
9. Member who represents the Utah SNAP-Ed program: **Lea Palmer**
10. Member who represents a food assistance organization: **Nisay Lao**, Granger Community Christian Church
11. Member who represents an advocacy group that addresses federal nutrition program: **Gina Cornia**, Utah's Against Hunger
12. Member who represents an organization that promotes healthy eating and active lifestyles in the state: **Kamaile Tripp-Harris**, University of Utah School of Medicine, Community Health Workers Program
13. Member who represents an organization that provides refugee resettlement services in the state: **Sierra Govett**, International Rescue Committee
14. One member who represents the Utah Farm Bureau Federation: Spencer Gibbons, *Representative*: **Clayton Beckstead/ Aubree Thomas**, Utah Farm Bureau
15. One member who represents a tribal government in the state: **James Toledo**, Utah Division of Indian Affairs