



**Time:** 10:00-11:00 am

**Date:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

**Council Members in Attendance:** Natalie Loots, Frank Vega, Cassidy Dragnaut, Allison Ross (representing Natalie McHale), Ashley Butler (representing Justen Smith), Heidi LeBlanc (representing Paula Scott), Gina Cornia, Aubree Thomas (representing Spencer Gibbons), Kimberly Loveland

**Council Members Absent:** Sierra Govett, Nisay Lao, Kamalie Tripp-Harris, James Toledo

**Total number of attendees:** 44

Agenda Items	Discussion Items	Actions/Suggestions
Welcome Palak Gupta		
Roll Palak Gupta		
Approve Previous Meeting Notes	•	Vote to approve: Frank Vega Second the motion: Gina Cornia
Sub-committee updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Frank Vega</li> <li>• Mapping Lea Palmer</li> <li>• Policy Gina Cornia</li> <li>• Local Food Promotion Natalie McHale</li> <li>• Food Recovery Sean Damitz, Carrie Durward</li> <li>• Evaluation Palak Gupta</li> <li>• Nourish Communities Lea Palmer</li> </ul>	No sub-committee updates were shared during this meeting.  <a href="#">Common Measurement Survey</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palak will send the Qualtrics survey to gather collective data from a statewide level looking at different indicators (total amount of funding, total pounds of food, number of people received food)</li> </ul>
Intermountain Health Nutrition Services (15-20 minutes)	• Jennifer Wilke, Suzanne Lewis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermountain Health shared about their food security efforts, which include implementing food pantries in hospitals</li> <li>• Meals to Go—Partnership between the Utah Food Bank and Intermountain Health—Emergency Department at the LDS Hospital and Primary Children’s Medical Center and expanding to the</li> </ul>

		Riverton Hospital Emergency Department
VA presentation (10-15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Prater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The VA Food Security program has significantly grown over the last few years, serving over 700 veterans each month</li> <li>First VA center nationally to establish dedicated food security position</li> <li>Program has become a model for the 13 other VA food hubs nationwide</li> <li>Stressed the need for community partnerships for program success—if interested in partnering, contact <a href="mailto:steven.prater2@va.gov">steven.prater2@va.gov</a></li> </ul>
Policy working document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palak Gupta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gina and Palak will lead this effort.</li> </ul>
Partner updates (Open to everyone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Food Hub – one meeting and looking to create a working group/coalition to work towards this idea. If you are interested in joining, reach out to Salem. Next step will be to define what a community hub looks like based on the need. (Individuals interested in joining— Ben Chenot and Shannon Olivia Jones)</li> <li>Utah Food Bank – Summer Feeding Program is going strong and expanded multi-day meal kids in rural areas – serving over 20,000 meals per week</li> <li>Community Food Security Program at DHHS – launched first DUFB program in grocery store in Roosevelt, UT</li> <li>USBE worked with DWS to launch Summer EBT (Sun Bucks) – Over 180,000 children were issued benefits at \$120 a month</li> </ul>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 16, 2025</li> <li>July 2025- Utah Farm to Fork</li> <li>August 2025- U of U</li> </ul>	

Approved by Gina Cornia, Seconded by Frank Vega, 7/16/2025

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 (here)**
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