

Waukesha county Nutrition Coalition Minutes  
June 24, 2014

**Attendees:** Wendy Banicki, Jessica Howard (Intern)-Hebron House; Ashleigh Woda-Jeremy House; Erin Martin-Blessings in a Backpack; Chris Beck-Healing Hearts of Waukesha; Julie Frahmman-Muskego Food Pantry; Jessica Linstrom- The Salvation Army; Ellyn McKenzie-Waukesha Community Health Center; Mike Glasgow-ADRC; Nancy Muñoz-Catholic Charities; Kurt Schmidt-United Way; Jen Sundberg- Women's Center; Pam Cesarec, Karen Tredwell-Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Carolina Brumfield, Jan Skell, Melinda Stuart-UWEX

**Welcome, Introductions and Advisory Committee Update:** Karen Tredwell

- The Advisory Committee met followed last month's WCNC meeting and recommended updates to the website. Changes include quick links with icons to 4 boxes: an *About Us*; *Membership* – including forms and links to current members, *Calendar* – listing meeting dates and speakers, and other great *Resources*. The minutes and agenda have been added along with another link titled *Recent Articles* features the Member Spotlights. Melinda was able to project the website and give a brief tour. Please see what it's all about at [www.wcncwaukesha.org](http://www.wcncwaukesha.org)
- *WCNC Membership Forms* were distributed and we encourage you to return them with the \$10 membership fee. Checks only please.
- We are planning a 20 year celebration of the Coalition in October. Watch for more information to follow and consider volunteering your help.

**Presentation: Legislative Updates – Staci O'Brien, Educator - Hunger Task Force (HTF)**

Founded in 1974, Hunger Task Force advocates for those in need and distributes food free of charge through their food bank and network of pantries, meal programs and shelters. Other programs include: Stockbox - for seniors in 6 counties; fresh produce distribution grown on their 200 acre farm in Franklin which also serves as a job training site; SNAP-Ed programs for youth taught by a dietician at 5 Milwaukee schools; and certified lobbyists working on legislative issues.

WI offers the lowest benefits in the country. There are a number of very concerning legislative issues that HTF has been working on that will affect the low-income population along with the agencies that serve them. These include:

- **Badger Care** – as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, changes were implemented to Badger Care resulting in many people losing their eligibility. These clients will now have to access insurance through the Affordable Care Act. For Waukesha this will affect 2,432 people of the 22,103 who are enrolled. In Wisconsin this change eliminated coverage for 62,776 people.
- Poverty has continued to rise in all communities of Wisconsin. Our state ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation in child poverty. Free and reduced cost lunch participation has risen each year over the last 10 years. In 2002, 15% of children in the Waukesha School District participated in free/reduced cost lunch, compared with 30% in 2013. To address issues of hunger affecting children, HTF has been working with WI Dept of Public Instruction on offering a program through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act called **Community Eligibility Provision** for schools. This program will allow schools that serve predominantly low-income children to offer free school meals to all students without the need for individual applications. Schools having a 62.5% rate of free or reduced cost lunch participation will be eligible for total federal reimbursement; schools with a 40% participation rate will be eligible, but for a lesser reimbursement rate. The deadline to apply for this provision is August 31, 2014, however the sooner a school applies the better their chances of having this benefit in place and working smoothly by the start of school. HTF has been contacting schools with information. See their website article for more: <http://www.hungertaskforce.org/advocacy/hot-topics/community-eligibility/>
- **Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (over 18, able to work, not pregnant)** – Wisconsin did not apply for a waiver for this group of individuals which will result in over 62,600 people being dropped from FoodShare by January 1, 2015. Individuals who do not meet the work requirement will receive no more than 3 months of

benefits over a 36 month period. Phase 1) Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties will begin this change on July 1, 2014.

Phase 2) Change will go statewide on Jan 1, 2015. Challenges include: lack of transportation, disabilities not identified, those in their 50's-60's, women having experienced domestic violence with outdated skills, and limited spaces in FSET.

- **Heat & Eat** – Dropped in Farm Bill. In past, all FoodShare recipients in WI received \$1 of energy assistance opening access to additional federal energy assistance funding. This change will affect seniors and disabled residents. Those who have utilities included in their monthly rent are unable to show they've paid this expense.
- **What Can We Do?** – Advocate for these programs and spread the word. Every \$1 of FoodShare brought into the state brings back \$1.79 to the local economy.

#### **Agency Updates:**

**Waukesha Food Pantry**, Karen Tredwell & Pam Cesarec– Distributing Stockbox to seniors age 60+. Bean Head Farm has planted produce to donate to the pantry in 1 mile of raised beds. Volunteer gardeners are needed. Continuing to sign clients up for school backpacks. Recently hired new bilingual staff. Thrive Waukesha, Transportation Coalition and Homeless Coalition continue to meet to work on solutions. The team working on the Healthier WI Partnership Grant for diabetes prevention has developed healthy food donation flyers that will be available for other pantries to use with their donors.

**UW-Extension**, Melinda Stuart – The Huber Garden project received funding this year and is up and running. County Board Supervisor Gilbert Yerke donated the plants. Produce collected will be given to the food pantry.

**Blessings in a Backpack**, Erin Martin – Recent Community Service award given to Wendy Dallimore.

**Catholic Charities**, Nancy Muñoz – New updated brochure lists all programs. Recently hired a new bilingual therapist. Now have 2 bilingual staff. Serve clients without insurance and have a sliding scale fee.

**Lead Abatement Program**, Carolina Brumfield – Low income families with children under 6 qualify for the program.

**Muskego Food Pantry**, Julie Frahmann – Received a check for \$10,000 from the Hormel Company. Will help stretch resources over the summer. Schools have planted a garden for the pantry.

**Waukesha Community Health Clinic**, Elyn McKenzie – Carrie Ackerman is the new office manager. She may attend WCNC meetings. Distributing new promotional refrigerator magnets to clients.

**United Way**, Kurt Schmidt – Working on the upcoming United Way campaign.

**The Salvation Army**, Jessica Linstrom – *Feed the Kids* program has started for the summer and provided 160 lunches at Sentinel Park. Lunches are distributed between 11:45 – 12:15. New Majors Nelson and Debbie start today.

**Healing Hearts of Waukesha Co**, Chris Beck – Free 12 week sessions are offered to families and children on grief due to loss, such as death, incarceration, military, divorce, or abandonment. First session begins Sept 22. English or Spanish available. Distribute community resources.

**Hebron House & Jeremy House**, Ashleigh Woda, Wendy Banicki, Jessica Howard – Hiring fill-in staff to pick up shifts. No longer have rental assistance funds. Funds will be available through Community Action Coalition (CAC). CAC is in the process of training new caseworkers. Shelter referrals go to Wendy. There will be no over-flow shelter this year.

**ADRC**, Mike Glasgow – ADRC Newsletter is available each month with menus and each highlight a dining center. Still have some Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers left to distribute.

**Next Meeting – July 22, 2014**  
**Topic: National Kidney Foundation**