

Meeting of Food Security Council August 31, 2023

9:00am SC DHEC Boardroom 2600 Bull St.

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| I. | Welcome | Dr. Edward Simmer |
| II. | Introductions | All |
| III. | Vision | Senator Thomas Alexander |

Remarks: Thanked participants for attendance. Goals of the council include an understanding of where food products and monetary benefits for food are being provided in the state, would like to eliminate any duplications across agencies, and use this group to engage stakeholders to compare what is being done across the state. The report should also highlight what is going well. The hope is for actionable items to come from report.

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| IV. | Purpose and proviso review | All, facilitated by Dr. Simmer |
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- Reviewed goals of the proviso.

34.70. (DHEC: Food Security Council)

(A) For Fiscal Year 2023-24, there is created the Food Security Council to be housed in the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The purpose of the Council shall be to:

- (1) examine all state agency programs that address food insecurity in the State by providing monetary benefits or meal services that cover infants through senior citizens;
- (2) identify gaps in service, particularly for the most vulnerable populations; and
- (3) make recommendations on improvements to services and additional programs that can address the gaps in services.

(D) The Council shall provide a report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on its findings and recommendations on the issues contained in this provision by January 31, 2024. Upon submission of the report, the Council shall be dissolved.

- Initial research has started to explore what other states are doing, and drafting an inventory of what state agencies are currently doing.

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| V. | Slide presentation, discussion, next steps | All |
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Slides were presented and group discussion included the following items:

- What activities are agency's currently doing related to food security, results, numbers served, meals delivered etc. This information will be used to determine where the gaps are.
- Identify regulations that might be prohibitive to getting food to people? Funding?
- Scope? Should nutritional education be a part of this? Focus on food and funding?
- What level of detail should report include? Hope is for broad covering of data on food insecurity.

- What role should fiscal impact/reporting play in recommendations?
- Look at barriers that contribute to food insecurity.
- All ideas are on the table, bring anything.

Follow-up items:

- End of month (September 25th-29th) is the target for next meeting
- Draft inventory and meeting minutes to go out by Tuesday (9/5)
- Include Department of Transportation for future discussion since transportation is often identified as a barrier for food security.
- Create common working definition for food insecurity
- Send in research, presentations, and current agency activities by September 20th for consideration at next meeting.

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