

## Food Security Council

October 20, 2023

1:00 p.m.

### Meeting Notes and Next Steps

Welcome + Progress Update

Dr. Edward Simmer

Change SC Pilot Project

Miko Pickett, Pick 42 Foundation

-Chris Whitmire, Dept. of Ag: Change SC Pilot program, co-sponsored w/DHEC and Dept. of Ag with goal to nurture and grow farms around the state. Pilot program focused in the Pee Dee, raising awareness of food deserts and educating residents on access, as well as conducting pre/post research. Goal is for 24 counties.

-Miko Pickett, Pick42 Foundation: Pick42 moved to SC in 2016, HQ in Mullins with focus on food, fitness and fun. Foundation is currently reaching 18,442 community members. Information can be found on website <https://nhn4kids.org/> and YouTube page.

-Recommendation to council to support state funding of Pick42/Change SC.

Council Matters:

Dr. Edward Simmer

- Debrief from September Council Meeting

- Voting + Report Governance

  - Discuss options for voting, simple majority of council voting members. It is noted that there will be thorough discussion prior to votes.

- Information + Data Needs

  - Initial recommendation is to have aligning agency write recommendation. DHEC will write preamble, summary of state of SC regarding food insecurity and compile all recommendations. Draft will be sent out for review.

Recommendations Discussion

All

- What level of specificity does the council want on recommendations?

- Focus on actionable items, separate general and specific recommendations.

- Suggestions for inclusion: flush out inventory, annual budget and funding sources. Add counties and populations served. Add data and research. Possible champions for specific recommendations.

- Is public input being considered? Discuss plans to reach out to stakeholders and open for public comment.

-**Summer EBT:** There are operational concerns, it is a new program that has not been funded, timeline could be off pending federal guidance. Who will benefit? K-12 students eligible for free or reduced lunch. Beneficial to the local economy/farmers through spending.

-**Universal School Meals:** Another committee is looking into this as well. Dr. Simmer will reach out to discuss how to proceed.

-**Increase SNAP gross income limit:** SNAP is federally funded, but administrative workload will increase and may need state budget request. No policy concern, increase will bring in more families. Question: what percentage of families are actively participating? More data is needed before moving forward.

-**Repeal drug felon ban on SNAP and TANF:** SC is the only state with this in place currently, this would need to go through legislature. Groups are also advocating for this at the federal level.

Next Steps

All

-Next meeting will be the week of November 6<sup>th</sup>-10 (currently looking at 4-5 hours, most likely on the Nov. 8, will be finalized with calendar invite soon.)

-Vote on final recommendations and divide work.