



## BC Communities Reducing Poverty (BC CoP) – Notes

*Meeting date: July 30, 2019*

### Attendance

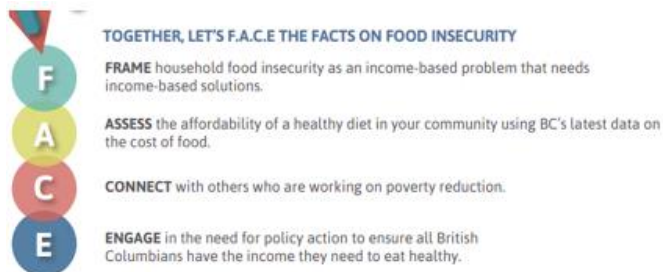
1. Anne Burrill, Williams Lake
2. Averill Hanson, MCFD Surrey
3. Dave Furze, UK
4. Jen Lowrey, Surrey
5. Jill Dewtie, Golden
6. Kady Hunter, Interior Health, Nelson
7. Katrina Lehenbauer, Interior Health, Kelowna
8. Kerri Wall, Cranbrook
9. Kristi Estergaard, Interior Health
10. Sukhdeep Jassar, New Westminster
11. Jill Zacharias, City of Revelstoke Social Development Committee
12. Hannah MacDonald, Vibrant Communities
13. Elle Richards, Vibrant Communities
14. Alison Homer, Vibrant Communities
15. 3 unknown attendees

Agenda Item	Description
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Who is on the line?</li> </ul>
<b>Presentations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household Food Insecurity: Look to Root Causes to Inform Solutions (Kristi Estergaard, IH Public Health Dietitian)</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What are the intersections of food security with income security?</li> <li>▪ How can communities can build understanding of food security from a systems perspective?</li> <li>▪ What are some ways that communities can tackle this issue locally? By influencing policy?</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Announcements &amp; Next Call</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upcoming Learning Opportunities</li> <li>▪ Next call: <b>September 17 at 10am PT / 11am MT / 12pm CT</b></li> </ul>

## Meeting Notes

### Presentation: Household Food Insecurity: Look to Root Causes to Inform Solutions (Kristi Estergaard, IH Public Health Dietitian)

- Food Security (PHSA) – Goals are to increase physical, social and economic access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable food with a focus on increasing availability of healthy food produced in a sustainable manner
- Breaking it down into:
  - Household food insecurity (at household level – presentation focused here)
  - Food systems
  - Capacity (leadership, funding, skills, knowledge, programming)
- Food insecurity – household worries about or lacks means to buy healthy, safe, personally acceptable food (e.g. Canadian Health Survey - marginally, moderately or severely food insecure) – freedom to determine what to buy and where to buy it when I need it
- 2 background reports:
  - Priority health equity indicators for BC – household food security indicator report
  - Food costing in BC 2017
- Nearly ½ million (12%) of BC residents face food security with highest rates in the north
  - Majority are employed and single (although ¾ of those on IA are food insecure)
- New Canada Food Guide highlights poverty as the biggest obstacle to healthy eating
  - Lots of media attention and public comments
  - It is not about food skills and knowledge, it is about income – while these skills are important for other health goals (e.g. vegetable consumption and social support) they are unlikely to decrease food security rates in Canada
- Income vs. disposable income, cost of housing, food, % of income needed for food and money left for other costs. E.g. family of 4 in Kelowna needs to spend 44% of income on food vs. 14% for a family of 4 at \$25/hour. Also assumes people are and are able to work 40hours/week.
- Household food insecurity is an income-based problem and needs income based solutions e.g. seniors pensions
- Solutions – FACE



- Higher income status is associated with better health
- Need to shift the mentality from food-based to income-based solutions
- Need to address issues of distribution and redistribution of influence and power of business and corporate sector to reduce household food insecurity rates

## Discussion

- Kerri – food insecurity is lack of income BUT we feel more powerless in addressing income-related issues
- Jill - How to use advocacy to balance power – food production networks (e.g. manipulation of prices) that take the power to feed ourselves out of the hands of individuals and communities. Is this where the movement to local food/gardening comes in – to bring stronger resilience in communities against these networks that are so far out of local control. E.g. a town is forced to sell local wheat at a certain price to a certain distributor
- Anne – links to broader issues like climate change – need to keep that complex in mind – e.g. natural disasters and food access which can get cut off by market food systems. E.g. wildfires (or highway closure in Revelstoke)
- How can we influence policy?
  - Revelstoke put a resolution to UBCM for policies to address local income security
  - Kady – Nelson committee on homelessness released report card on homelessness – first sentence links food security to poverty – refer back to that document – has been presented to city council
  - Living Wage work – calculating living wage – businesses challenging other businesses.
  - CVITP – supporting people to access benefits they are eligible for
  - GAI/Basic Income – policy option that could very much support – we will be able to vote for it this fall – one party is supportive
  - Canada food policy – highlights the criticism that the national food policy does not tie into household food security specifically and does not provide specific food policy recommendations – perhaps too piecemeal – would be helpful to better address different but linked systems that need specific attention
- Overall great to see links between levels of government and strong connections/awareness of the link between income and food security.

## Resources

- Notes and [powerpoint](#) from the July BC CoP call
- Related resources
  - PHSA
    - [Conceptual Framework for Food Security Indicators](#)
    - [Food Costing in BC 2017](#) and [infographic](#)
  - Proof
    - [Implications of a basic income guarantee for household food insecurity](#)
    - [Factsheets](#): Food procurement, skills, insecurity and more
  - [BC Government funding to support local food security initiatives](#)
  - [Why a national food policy in Canada matters](#)
  - [Canada's food policy could be groundbreaking](#)
  - [Food Security – Reacting to Symptoms or Addressing the Underlying Causes?](#)
  - [Small B.C. towns go beyond food banks, tackling hunger through cooking and gardening](#)

**Grant Opportunity:** [Funding Increased for Child Care Space Creation](#) - The Ministry of Children and Family Development has announced an increase in funding available to create child care spaces in BC. The ChildCare BC New Spaces Fund is open to local governments, school districts, tribal councils, and First Nations governments to create child care spaces in their communities.

## Upcoming Learning Opportunities

- **WEBINAR | Putting Community into Food Security** | August 27, 12-1 pm ET | [Learn more and register here](#)
- **RESOURCE | Dimensions of Poverty Hub**
- **EVENT | Cities Reducing Poverty Member Gathering 2019** | October 8-10 at the Crowne Plaza in Kitchener-Waterloo | Registration information will be sent to primary convenors

## Closing Announcements and next BC CoP call

- Next BC CoP call: **September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am PT / 11am MT / 12pm CT**
- Invite others to join the BC CoP: [http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/bc\\_reducingpoverty\\_cop](http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/bc_reducingpoverty_cop)

*Have an idea for a future topic/speaker or a challenge to ask your peers via a peer-input-process troubleshooting session? Let Alison know at [alison@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:alison@tamarackcommunity.ca).*