

HEALTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK
FARM-TO-SCHOOL/CATCH MEETING
APRIL 1, 2010

In attendance: Lorrie Gray, Hunger Task Force; Tammy Alakszay, Americorps and LCOE; Michelle Malm, Kelseyville Unified School District Director of Food Services; Colleen Rentsch, Dorn Family Farm/Loasa Vineyards; Susan Jen and Jackie Armstrong, Health Leadership Network.

LOCAL FOODS FORUM. The following comments were made regarding the 'Local Foods Forum' in response to Susan's request for feedback:

- Colleen said that she made 5 new contacts for produce sales including Twin Pines Casino and the county correctional facility.
- Michelle made connections with melon grower Ralph Rittenhouse and lettuce grower Doug Mooney. In response to Nellie Dorn's question about quantities of table grapes that Kelseyville Unified might use, Michelle estimated 120 lbs. per menu (breakfast, lunch or dinner).
- Lorrie Gray said that she noticed many buyers and growers making connections at the 3/15/10 event, adding that Michelle and Colleen's descriptions of the Kelseyville Unified Farm-to-School program impressed a lot of people. She said that the discussion about developing a central processing/cold storage facility was exciting and that it was important to sustain the momentum to develop those kinds of things.

Comments made during a discussion of potential food processing/cold storage sites and local distribution:

- Susan said that food distribution has been a focus for the Food Policy Council, and that HLN had just released an RFP for an online food ordering system that includes distribution issues.
- Lorrie believes that existing pear sheds would require too much rehabilitation. She believed it was more practical to seek a stimulus grant related to solar energy and build a new facility.
- Private Harvest does not have storage.
- Gard Street School has a full service kitchen. Mt. Vista and Pomo Schools have cold storage facilities.
- The County has plans for the old Kelseyville Lumber store.
- There was some question about the ownership/rental status of Mt. Konocti Growers.
- Colleen plans to make a weekly trip with her 1-ton truck to deliver produce to Lakeport, Kelseyville and south county. Teale Love and Jim Leonardis are also delivering food regularly.

Regarding school food preparation programs:

- At a countywide meeting with out-of-county presenters sharing information about their menus/food prep, Michelle learned that Nevada County is purchasing pre-plated meals.
- In response to a question about meal costs, Michelle said that the state reimburses the district \$2.25 per meal. Monies collected for cash pay and reduced rate meals are used to supplement the district's food budget.

- Many school districts dedicate their entitlement dollars to a Vallejo processor and then buy those processed products. It was suggested that parents could most effectively influence the various school boards to implement policies requiring use of more fresh foods.
- Michelle reported that she will be feeding migrant kindergarteners in Lakeport for a 2-week program this summer in addition to Kelseyville Unified's 4-week program for 150 children.

Regarding CATCH, Susan said that she wanted to try and schedule a countywide booster training to look at the various program elements and figure out what's not working. In response to her question about the availability of school administrators, teachers and other personnel in June, Michelle said that she would not be available immediately following the last day of school, June 18, because that's the only time she can take vacation before the summer programs begin. Lakeport Unified also begins summer vacation on June 18 while the last day for other districts is thought to be June 11. Michelle suggested afternoons during the week of June 14 or immediately before the next school year begins in August. Susan said she would take that information into consideration and also investigate CATCH online training opportunities.

Susan said she believed active Wellness Councils could take on a single project, such as tracking BMI measurements, activity programs or stress management, to improve the health of students, teachers and other staff.

Tammy reported that she is offering to demonstrate CATCH in individual classrooms and thought it would be a good idea to simultaneously hand teachers flyers about the training.

Michelle said that Jump Rope for Heart programs are in place in all schools. Helen Finch is the contact for Kelseyville Unified.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.