

In attendance: Neal Andrews, Harold Cartlidge, Jim Duran, Pat Esseff, Lynn Geller, Rose Ann Hill, Matthew Jensen, John Sanders Jones, Paul Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Donna Mason-Lutrull, Randy Merin, Rob Orth, David Pyle, Debora Schreiber, Dave Schulze, Fred G. Stauffacher, Sid Ward.

Notes from John Sanders:

1. Listing for Food pantry information provided by FOOD Share was reviewed and commented on. Minor edits needed
 - a. hours for Temple Beth Torah – from 9:30 AM (instead of 8:00 AM) till 10:30 AM.
 - b. River Community is linked with Food Share(We will need to contact Food Share as most of this information was pulled from their web page).
2. Discussion on Food Share included impact of some USDA requirements/rules - for example – no “filtering” allowed – no blocking of “double dipping” allowed

also while USDA does require a good deal of bookkeeping it is not clear what they do with the information gathered.

Rob mentioned possibility of reducing number of Food Pantry Providers that require following USDA regulations.

It was pointed out that having someone from Food Share coming to the Faith Committee meeting would be rather valuable – with two key topics to cover

- 1) lack of case management
- 2) too many rules and regulations -

The need for increased collaboration amongst Food Pantry Providers was clear - some of the providers serve more of an emergency need while others may focus on sustainable needs. These Food Pantry Providers are only one component and there could be better connections with the “whole system” – including improved quality and healthier eating. The opportunity exists for some of the Food Pantry Providers to serve as a “entry point” – allowing more connections with what is available in the community.

Notes from Rob Orth:

Given the very colorful discussion at the committee meeting last week, I put together some thoughts based on the input from those in attendance.

Big Question:

What is the mission(s) for our various Ventura food pantries? We need to know this in order to design the proper programing and locations. i.e. Sustainability pantry vs Emergency pantry

Pantry Program Concerns:

- Do we have too many sites? i.e. duplication of overall services
- Are sites strategically located for best service?
- Concerns about enough inventory, type/quality/nutritional value of inventory

- Volunteer staffing levels
- Admin – Excessive paper work needed (specific to USDA)
- Determining clear numbers & demographics of clients served
- Grant funding to increase support of pantry programs
- Pantry Service Entry Points – centralized intake system(s)?
- Increased dignity for client
- Program development for family recovery/stability beyond just pantry services
- Accountability
- Pantry Collaboration
- Sustainability – both for Pantry programs and clients

One side note involved being able to keep track of families receiving Thanksgiving/Christmas turkey baskets ...how to centralize the process to insure all who need one can get one.

Thought these points would be useful as we move forward with discussions on pantry issues.

* Our next meeting is September 26, at 3 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston