

Meeting Summary

Workgroup on Accelerating Partnerships between Food Banks and Managed Care Organizations

February 25, 2022

Zoom Meeting: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CST

Welcome

Shao-Chee Sim, Vice President for Research, Innovation, Episcopal Health Foundation

Mr. Sim provided a welcome (1:03). Recognizing the work that has been done so far including presentations from food banks and MCO's on partnership already underway. He shared the plan for the meeting today to hear from the University of Texas, Texas Health Improvement Network on the upcoming report and ongoing interviews with MCO's on food insecurity related projects. Reminder the goal of this workgroup is to develop pilot projects between food banks and MCO's and his hope that these conversations will be fruitful.

Overview of Texas Health Improvement Network Report on Food Bank / Healthcare Partnerships Natalie Poulos and Eileen Nehme

Ms. Poulos provided a summary (3:44) of the work THIN has undertaken to interview food banks about their partnerships with health care entities to address food insecurity. The focus was on key strengths and recommendations. Strengths include (6:23): tighten the safety net, catalyst movement to more nutritious and health foods, and enhanced disease management. Recommendations (11:39) include leverage core food bank practices and available resources, build evaluations around partnership-mission aligned outcomes, and allow food bank/pantry clients access to nutritious/healthful food. Questions and answer on the presentation followed.

Overview of Managed Care Interviews on Food Insecurity / Food Intervention Initiatives Stephanie Muth, Consultant Feeding Texas

Ms. Muth (30:24) discussed the landscape assessment currently underway with the managed care organizations. This assessment is a compliment to the work of THIN and the subsequent report will build on that work rather than duplicate efforts. At this time ten interviews have occurred with a one or two more scheduled. Key takeaways at this point: Universal support for exploring partnerships with food banks, several partnerships currently exist, the workgroup and other discussions that have occurred so far have spurred additional conversations and health plans are currently referring members with food insecurity issues. Discussed current partnerships and opportunities for further discussion (37:18).

Learning Collaborative Reflections

Rachel Koay, Feeding Texas

Ms. Koay led a group discussion using jam board (43:13). The discussion covered positives, concerns, and elements to build upon. Once everyone had an opportunity to add comments Ms. Koay called upon workgroup members to discuss/highlight specific comments.

Next Steps

Next meeting March 26, 2022, 1:00 -2:30

Introduction to Positive Deviance Work – Angela Hochhalter

Breakout conversations on food bank / managed care partnership opportunities – Stephanie Muth