

Rural Food Access WG (RFAWG) Meeting Minutes

June 2015

1. *Welcome and introductions*

2. *Presentation: **Rebecca Seguin** of Cornell University will present on cost-offset CSA research, funded through USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).*

- Powerpoint was sent out prior to meeting; contact Esther (esthert@email.unc.edu) if you need this re-sent.
- Discussion: Jane K (co-investigator) mentioned they will probably have to simulate some of the economic impact measures using statistical modeling, due to relatively low number of farms participating.
- Marilyn (co-investigator) recently interviewed a cost-offset CSA farmer with a background in anthropology, who had done extensive search of literature on best practices, so she was very excited about this study. This farmer would like a learning network of farmers to share success and business strategies.
- To accommodate lower-income consumers, they have to agree to pay half up front (i.e. the cost-offset portion), then a payment plan for the rest (i.e. weekly or less frequent, with SNAP)
- Liz Adamson – clinical care for population with chronic diseases and risk for food insecurity. Clinic will pay for cost of CSA. Not a sustainable model for long term, but they're trying it as an intervention.

3. *Local Economies Subgroup Update (Marilyn) [standing agenda item]*

Marilyn recommended putting this subgroup on hiatus. They initially met to develop a logic model and a research proposal. That proposal got funded (the cost-offset CSA study above), and now they have progressed to a new phase of conducting the research. So no need to meet or report. **Action: Local Economies Subgroup will no longer be a standing agenda item.**

4. *Positive Deviance Project Update (Esther) [standing agenda item]*

Esther reported that the proposal to fund a Positive Deviance study in Appalachia has been submitted on June 8 to Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky (funding through RWJF and Appalachian Regional Commission). Funding announcement will be made in July.

5. *Other announcements and updates (All) [standing agenda item]*

Demia Wright is leaving her position at CDC, and is moving to Chapel Hill, NC to work at the NIH office in Research Triangle Park. She and Sonia and Heidi are working on finding a replacement for her as liaison to RFAWG. She will be missed, but we wish her all the best in her new job!

July's meeting is cancelled. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, at 2:30pm EST/11:30am PST.** Lauri Andress of West Virginia University will present on her work on rural WIC clients' interactions with retail food stores.