

COLORADO FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE WORK PLAN: STATE POLICY

Vision: Collaborative, sustainable implementation of farm to school statewide.

Food Hubs are facilitating local food to schools and local Farm to School efforts are happening around the state.

How: Strategy and Tactics	Who	When	What: Deliverable	Why: Preconditions
Assess and develop responses to barriers within state policy				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop concept (purpose, primary audiences, types of barriers, assessment process, solution generation process, funding needs) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two main audiences: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proactive State agency engagement on FTS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on practice changes (e.g., data, funding) and potentially legislation or regulation ii. Regulatory guidance on how to implement FTS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on Colorado regulations (e.g., food safety, competitive bidding, federal guidelines that affect FTS) 2. Create work plan with detailed timeline for implanting concept. 	Task Force	May Mtg 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for state policy & practices to support FTS and overcome regulatory barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State & national policy contributes to the sustainability of FTS.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Implement work plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proactive State engagement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop shared talking points for decision-makers ii. Identify opportunities within existing regulations, statutes, & state agency practices <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with HEAL school food working group iii. Approach agencies with simple, concrete strategies than can support FTS iv. Explore legislation & policy change b. Regulatory guidance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Secure support/funding or in-kind for research & product development ii. Engage in outreach and legal analysis; produce drafts & vet with key stakeholders iii. Develop final products and disseminate. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Working group leads:</u></p> Susan Motika (chair) Jane Brand Kristin Tucker	Ongoing, begin Summer 2011 through December 2013		
	Taber Ward (Legal Intern)			
	Cindy Torres (CO-FSAC)			
	Spark staff			

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<p>4. Secure resources & partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify & recruit key resources (Regional USDA, local health leaders) b. Identify & recruit key partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proactive state engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. nutrition and health associations 2. agricultural organizations 3. TCHF 4. LiveWell Colorado ii. Regulatory guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colorado state agencies 2. Colorado legislative bodies 3. Local agencies & organizations 4. USDA regional office 5. Info from other FTS state examples c. Legal intern to help with content work d. Identify & secure funding for staff time associated with work 	<p>Core Team Working group Spark</p>	<p>Summer 2011</p>		

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NOTES FROM MAY 2011 TASK FORCE MEETING

ASSESS AND DEVELOP RESPONSES TO BARRIERS WITHIN STATE POLICY

On the road to: State and national policy contributes to the sustainability of Farm to School.

	Proactive State Engagement on FTS	Guidance on How to Implement FTS in the regulatory environment
Purpose: (what does it look like if it is successful?)	<p>Engage CDE, CDA, CDPHE, and State Board of Education in proactive support through things like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in data collection, • Use of data, • Existing funding mechanisms 	<p>Provide guidance on regulations that are impediments to FTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations on producers & regulations that apply when schools are the purchaser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food safety (fed, state & local) ○ Food processing • Competitive bidding regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local geographic preference • Federal meal requirements when doing FTS
Types of Policy Issues	<p>Primarily focused on practice changes (data, funding), but could lead to legislation or regulation.</p>	<p>Very specifically guidance for Colorado only. Tied to regulations specifically. May also explore regulations associated with pilots and waivers.</p>
Process & Timeline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ongoing, starting in summer:</i> Visibility of Farm to School for Decision-Makers through shared talking points to outreach widely. 2. <i>Summer:</i> Identifying opportunities within existing regulations, statutes, and state agency practices to promote FTS (low hanging fruit). 3. <i>Fall:</i> Make the ask – starting at the top or with champions in state agencies or champions with access to state agencies. Asking for simple, realistic, concrete, common sense strategies that state agencies can do to promote FTS. 4. <i>Summer/Fall:</i> Exploring legislation/policy changes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Summer:</i> Secure support/funding for staff or find in-kind support for the research and product development 2. <i>Summer:</i> Outreach and legal analysis (e.g. on the local preference policy) 3. <i>Fall:</i> Draft examples of change or guidance on implementation 4. <i>Fall:</i> Vet the drafts, framed as clarifications/ best practices, with the community. 5. <i>Winter:</i> Vet the drafts – USDA 6. <i>Winter:</i> Develop final products 7. <i>Spring:</i> Dissemination
Results Desired:	<p>State practices that support FTS, in small and big ways.</p>	<p>Clear guidance to overcome some of the regulations that can otherwise be barriers.</p>

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	Proactive State Engagement on FTS	Guidance on How to Implement FTS in the regulatory environment
Partners Needed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado School Nutrition Association, Farm Bureau, American Heart Association, • The Colorado Health Foundation • LiveWell Colorado • Farm Bureau (potential opportunity to present in July). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado State Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attorney General's Office ○ Department of Agriculture ○ CDE ○ CDPHE, • Legislative bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farm to School Task Force, ○ Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council • Local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City & county health departments ○ Schools/districts • Other farm to school state examples • USDA regional office
Resources Needed:	<p>ID key people to bring to the table, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Isgar, Executive Director, USDA Rural Economic Development • Dr. Reginald Washington, Chief Medical Officer, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children (also BOD on Action for Healthy Kids) <p>Legal intern – help this work align with other efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal intern – help this work align with other efforts. • Funding for all of the staff time associated with this work.
Task Force Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Brand • Leo Lesh • Kristin Tucker • Susan Motika • Tabor Ward (CDPHE legal intern) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Brand • Leo Lesh • Kristin Tucker • Susan Motika • Tabor Ward (CDPHE legal intern)

ON-GOING NOTES

12/7/2011 TF MEETING DISCUSSION

Administrative changes

- There has been a 50 state scan that covers a number of FTS Legislative Trends. The summary has been posted on www.coprevent.org, which has become the primary location at CDPHE for up to the minute research. Susan Motika has been putting FTS related research up there, and it can be a key source of information hub resources as well.

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- Some states are doing some interesting data collection, including on how many farmers are working with schools. That would be a very valuable fact to know in Colorado.
- Suggestion to propose a data collection system as part of our charge in 2012 or 2013. We could look at best practices for data collection, figure out what are the gaps, and phase in some better data collection.
- Some states are providing a 10-15% reimbursement per meal for locally grown produce. Colorado's budget is very grim so this might be difficult, but perhaps a study to show how the reimbursement per meal affects children, to drive a bill in a later year.
 - Do we need to do our own Colorado study, or can we rely on data from other states?
- New members: the Task Force needs a teacher representative, a CDE curriculum person, and more directors.

Discussion: Legislative Sponsor process with Betty Boyd

- Senator Betty Boyd is willing to meet with the Task Force on December 14th at 11am.
- The research will be presented. We will do an overview with the FTS-TF Briefing Book and articulate areas of special interest.
- State people cannot advocate for anything, but can provide information. Non-state people could discuss delaying the sunset and adding new members, since those require no funds and are relatively benign.
- The lobbyist for CDPHE says to think very hard about entering the legislative arena this year, as this may be one of the most brutal sessions in years because partisanship has reached a fever pitch with the districting battle. Everything is going to be positioned in a partisan way. State agencies running any form of regulation will be hit hard with a lot of questions. We need to be aware of what we'll be up against in 2012; it may be better to do research this year and be ready for 2013.
- We believe Senator Boyd has a generic bill title and is figuring out what she wants to put in it. The Senate President is being strict about letting anyone have more than their 5 bills.
- This meeting is mainly an opportunity to educate Senator Boyd.
- **Decisions:**
 - We will go ahead with Senator Boyd meeting on Wednesday.
 - If we need to make a decision about legislation outside of the task force, our decision making process will be to bring together those who can participate in the decision in a conference call after the Boyd meeting.
 - Jeremy, maybe Julie, Andy, Susan, and Lyn will attend the meeting.
 - Spark will send the Senator Boyd meeting details and schedule a follow up call time.

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09/15/2011 TF MEETING DISCUSSION

UPDATE

Progress

- One document was drafted this summer: *Q&A on School Food Procurement and Geographic Preferences*. Received feedback and will edit. Already drafted a guide for local producers that will come out shortly.
- Inspections and food safety is being handled differently by the counties which makes it hard for producers to know how to work in multiple counties.

Discussion

- Need to discuss how to distribute the policy document beyond our Information Hub.
- Need to understand the areas of push and pull on county regulations without going into every county. Need to be respectful of county and state laws. Is there overlap or confusion that we can help clarify? CDPHE will put out a one page draft for feedback. Cindy Torres notes that some health departments have rules that encourage direct markets. These can be used as examples from peers.
- The Colorado School of Public Health is working on food safety, and faculty and students could be helpful. Look at it from all sides. Julie will make the connection to the PH. Melissa Bunning's students.
- Colorado Farm to Market has regulations that are a good starting point. It is not a county by county approach.
- Federal and state regulations differ.
- What are the school districts purchasing in order to understand the supply and demand? Leo gets reports on what was bought in detail, but smaller districts do not often have the capability to do it with accuracy. Mark notes that his district has a health person for the region, not by county. A food hub will solve the problems of small farmers and health regulations. School policy indicators workgroup with CDPHE, CDE, etc., are releasing a survey soon (SPI) – can we use this to collect the information needed to move forward? Working group today can help identify the information needed. Get the question list done, share it with the FSDs so they can start identifying and saving the data – best to do in collaboration with FSDs. Jeremy and Julia Erlbaum have a list.

Working Group Report Out

Cutting Edge Policy Criteria – what should it look like 15 years out?

- Background research!
- Who else to involve, who else to consult with?

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- What's within our charge / roadmap that can be done?
- State/federal/district level policies
- Legislative, regulatory, general policy
- Programmatic partnerships
- Timeline: short term, long term

Cutting Edge Policy Issues

- District small purchase threshold
- County enforcement/monitoring of food safety (considering variations of interpretation)
- Clear understanding of state and county regulations and interactions
- Monitor the HHFKA development to make sure it doesn't curtail implementation. Example: school meal nutrition standards. Look defensively, yes, but also proactively.
- Proactively address school nutrition standards at the state level (see Massachusetts).
 - Competitive foods; pricing strategies, subsidies for healthy foods: meats, grains, fruits, vegetables; vending standards; dinner standards
- State health / nutrition education standards
- General law with state BOE regulatory enforcement
- Examination of the enforcement scheme (incentives)
- Creating new programs to help students understand where their food comes from. Example: school gardens.
- Catalog quick hit guides for policies – 2012 strategic plan.
- TA guidance on best practices for land use, joint use.
- USDA Foods (commodities) – federal level add priority to use local foods.
- Zoning issues that relate to school gardens (land use, water, school CSAs, youth farmer's markets).
- Integration of S.A. functions to achieve a deeper result.
- Look at overall school food regulatory arena to streamline for efficiency and effectiveness: overlap, duplication, contradiction.
- Economic development policy results
- **Question:** Can the Task Force legally advocate on policy?