Partnerships for Food Policy Councils

Missty Lechner
Advocacy Project Director
American Heart Association
Food Policy Councils

- A food and farm advisory council for local elected officials
  - Brings together the people who grow, sell, and eat food
  - Helps to identify opportunities to enhance access to healthy food, and locally grown food
  - Community-driven food system changes

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
What do FPC’s do?

- Food system assessments
- Food hub development
- Grocery store, or otherwise reducing food deserts
- Nutritious food for low-income residents
- Opportunities for youth/young adults
Types of Councils

- Governmental or Publically appointed
- Non-government or Non-profit
- Hybrid
Food Councils in KS

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
How to form a Council

• Find your Champion
• Find your team
• Know the support of your elected officials

CONTACT ME!

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Next…

- Schedule an information meeting
- Determine geographic boundaries and membership structure
- Draft a mission and purpose which could be like…

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Sample missions

- The mission of the council is to enhance quality of life for all residents by increasing access to economic opportunity, nutritious local food and physical activity.

- The Council actively seeks to improve access to regionally grown healthy food options while promoting educational resources for the benefit of the local population.

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Sample Purposes/Roles

• Increase access to and distribution of affordable, nutritious and safe food for all residents;
• Enhance economic development, promote agritourism and strengthen local food systems in the county and regionally;
• Bring stakeholders together and provide mechanisms for seeking stakeholder advice and expertise;
• Effect improvement in the health and well-being of all county residents;
• Coordinate and collaborate with existing initiatives within the county and other regional and state food and farm organizations;
• Increase education and awareness of how to use healthy locally produced foods at home or at businesses and institutions.
Then...

- Determine roles and responsibilities for each member
- Contact other stakeholders to invite them OR inform them
- Draft a resolution and bylaws
Finally...

- Engage the media
- Talk to your elected officials

Do this multiple times throughout the planning process.

- Get on the agenda of the City Council or Commissioners

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Know your resources

- Public Health Law Center resources
  publichealthlawcenter.org/resources/food-policy-council-resources
- Kansas Health Foundation grants
- CDRR, HCI, or other health coalition
- Kansas Alliance for Wellness TA
  Kansas Food Policy Council google group and listserv
- Barbara LaClair, LaClair Consulting

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Panel Presentation

Debbie Bearden
Lea Ann Seiler
Helen Schnoes

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.
Interactive Discussion

1. What do you all believe are your **biggest assets** to doing similar work in your community?

2. What do you believe are your **barriers** to making progress on this work in your community?

3. What can you do to **leverage your strengths to reduce your barriers**, and make progress?

4. What **else do you think is needed** to make progress in your community?
Questions?

Missty Lechner
Advocacy Project Director
American Heart Association
Missty.Lechner@heart.org
785-228-3419

A statewide network of communities, organizations and individuals committed to improving the health of Kansans by creating healthy food and beverage environments.