

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

October 28, 2025

VIRTUAL MEETING

Attendance: Michael Egly- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Audra O'Connell- Lake Area Free Clinic; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Rob Shelledy- St. Vincent de Paul; Nancy Munoz- Catholic Charities; Shanna Krause- La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start; Jill Herz- UW-Madison Extension; Lisa Topp- Waukesha County WIC; Paula Mason- Waukesha Public Library; Jackie Valdez- Eras Senior Network; Jan Endries- St. Agnes Food Pantry; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic; Chloe Bingenheimer- Community Smiles Dental; Jessica Kapsos- Sentry House (Hebron Housing Services); Carmen Baldwin- Hunger Task Force; Jennifer Waltz- Sussex Outreach Services.

Coalition Updates- Michael Egly:

To start the meeting, we wanted an opportunity to discuss funding/government shutdown challenges as a group and provide any other agency updates.

Agency Updates+ Discussion of government funding/shutdown impacts:

Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell: Waukesha Free Clinic is seeing a heavy increase in the English-speaking population. For the last few years, they were constantly seeing increases in the Spanish-speaking population. Not aware of any funding cuts that will impact them.

Food Pantry of Waukesha County- Michael Egly: Food Pantry of Waukesha County does not get a lot of government monetary support, so there will not be a big effect on services. There were some programs that were affected such as TEFAP, which were commodity foods that they were expecting but will not be receiving. Have had to adjust a bit, but no major effects yet. Expecting an increase in services with SNAP delays.

Waukesha County WIC- Lisa Topp: As of now, we are open for business. We are continuing to operate as normal during the government shutdown. As of right now, nothing has changed with WIC benefits. There were some changes to the Wisconsin WIC food packages with this month's benefits for clients. These changes are related to food choices and include more options for special diets. Additional money for fruits and vegetables is taking the place of juice. More variety for whole grains. Flexibility for dairy products (milk, cheese, and yogurt). For baby-led weaning- starting at 6 months, they can choose to get jarred foods or \$22 towards regular fruits and veggies for their babies for baby food. This has been popular. Over age 1, will also get fish (canned or pouches).

Waukesha Head Start- Eva Platte: For our Head Start population, an automatic qualifier for our program is receiving SNAP. So the majority of our school is getting ready to lose those benefits. We have made lists of food pantries in Waukesha County, hot free meals and we are giving that out as a resource. We are serving 225 families. Exploring how to help families without transportation in other communities (e.g. Muskego); what does getting food resources look like for them? (Group discussion- there is a Muskego Food Pantry. Not sure if they provide transportation or do delivery services. Will be reaching out to them). Hosting a financial literacy night at the end of January, teaching the basics such as opening bank accounts, debit card, etc. For more info: evap@excellencecenters.com

[Additional info shared re: La Casa' Center for Financial Stability. Located on Broadway near the Hope Center.

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Eras Senior Network- Jackie Valdez: Eras Senior Network provides transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. Call Eras if you have someone in mind that could use these services. Needs to be on SSDI or be a senior over 65 years old. We are also able to pick up foods from the food pantry for people.

Lake Area Free Clinic- Audra O'Connell: The Lake Area Free Clinic spends \$40,000 per year to transport people to and from the clinic. Have worked with the Food Pantry of Waukesha County to be able to provide people with food on-site, if they are eligible. The WIC team already visits as well. If they are already going to this expense for people to travel there, they want to make sure clients are leaving with more than their medical or dental appointment. As the clinic sees increased demand to serve those who are uninsured, the issue they are facing is having to turn people away. Looking at how to triage and determine how to handle the need.

Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingeheimer: No big changes right now. Primarily serving kids- not anticipating seeing too much change in that. Community Smiles is on track to see the highest number of unique patients this year.

[Question was asked by Head Start: how can they still maintain nutrition education presence for their kids with the loss of SNAP-Ed? (Hunger Task Force and FoodWise both received SNAP-Ed and included this info in their responses below)]

Hunger Task Force- Carmen Baldwin: On the education side, Hunger Task force is committed to nutrition education in spite of the elimination of SNAP-Ed. Monitoring the current situation very closely. Food is on hand in warehouse so that in the event that more pantries need food, they have those reserves on hand. Trying to lower people's anxiety as best as we can. Working on digitizing the nutrition education curriculum for kids. Currently don't have the capacity to be in every school and every place, but the goal is to have videos or other resources online that are interactive. There is a waitlist of classrooms that want their services. At the very least, please reach out and we can connect you with resources. For more information about Hunger Task Force online resources:

<https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/community-nutrition-education/>

<https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/advocacy/voices-against-hunger/>

<https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/community-nutrition-education/child/>

<https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/community-nutrition-education/child/gtp-curriculum-guide/>

There was some discussion among the group of Voices Against Hunger with the Hunger Task Force, as a resource for advocacy. <https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/advocacy/voices-against-hunger/>

Extension Waukesha County, FoodWise program- Jill Herz: The elimination of SNAP-Ed eliminated the majority of FoodWise's nutrition education funding. We are still adjusting statewide to the huge loss of staff and programming. FoodWise still receives EFNEP (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) federal funds in Waukesha, Dane, Rock, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties. With this grant, FoodWise can teach parents and youth with specific programs. We still offer programs for youth in 1st, 2nd, and 5th grade in schools, 3rd-5th grade afterschool programs, middle school and high school programs, and programs for parents, grandparents caring for children, and young adults. Jill's role as administrator is now with multiple counties—Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. It has been hard to adjust to not being able to offer programming where we have had a robust presence before, such as seniors and Head Start youth. We are still able to provide series of nutrition/food prep lessons to parents of young children (and we have had kids present for some of these series). If that is of interest for parents of preschoolers, we are still able to do that. The curriculum we used in preschool classrooms is a research-based curriculum from NC State Extension called "Color Me Healthy." It is available online:

<https://www.colormehealthy.com/>

La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start- Shanna Krause: We are currently open and running as usual. Working on providing resources to families given government shutdown and potential loss of SNAP for families.

Catholic Charities- Nancy Munoz: In the past we have had some gift cards on hand that were donated to give to families; this year we have not had those. We will try to have more of those resources for families. They try to have bus tickets on hand but they have run out. They have had phone calls about specific nutrition issues and foods that families need, that they are not getting at the food pantry. So they are looking for other types of resources to have on hand so people can get what they need from the store, such as gift cards to Aldi or Woodman's. Did receive some funds related to the floods, had 4 clients with some minor flood issues.

St. Vincent de Paul- Rob Shelledy: Provided info in the chat about Corpus Christi Food Pantry: **Description:** *The Corpus Christi Food Pantry (in the City of Waukesha) officially opened its doors on July 1, 2025, bringing together our four parish communities. We help families facing food insecurity. What we do: Families facing food insecurity have two options for assistance: Home Delivery: Volunteers deliver frozen meat, non-perishable food, personal care items, and a gift card to purchase fresh produce and dairy products directly to the family's doorstep. They can also utilize our Walk-In Pantry, which is open on the third Saturday of each month. This option provides families with frozen meat, shelf-stable goods, personal care items, fresh produce, and eggs. They do deliver! They are not a St Vincent de Paul Pantry, but they are located in the St. Joe's Parish, on East Avenue. They are open on the third Saturday of the month from 9-12 (in the gym off Martin St. which is behind St. Joe's on the lower level). Phone number: 262-832-1445.*

Waukesha Public Library- Paula Mason: In the month of January, we are going to be doing an event for MLK (but probably not on the day itself, due to holiday). Hoping to host a panel discussion on food and nutrition insecurity. For the past few years, we have focused on an issue that is relevant and timely. This year, it is a very prevalent topic of food and nutrition insecurity. The idea is to have a small panel of people from area organizations that serve the public in some capacity regarding these topics. If you are interested in participating, we would love to hear from you. Will be hosted in the library program room. Could be southeastern WI orgs- does not have to be Waukesha. Reach out to: Paula Mason 262-522-7282, PMason@waukesha-wi.gov.

Emailed Update from Kayla Kasprzak with 211:

Here are the top requests for food resources January to September of this year:

		Pct of Contacts
Service Request	Number	(215)
Food Stamps/SNAP Applications	105	48.8%
Food Pantries	86	40.0%
Soup Kitchens	18	8.4%
Home Delivered Meals	10	4.7%
Summer Food Service Programs	6	2.8%
Others	12	5.6%
Total Requests	237	

Further broken down by zip code:

ZIP	Number	(215)
53186	30	14.0%
53188	30	14.0%
53051	22	10.2%
53151	20	9.3%
53066	18	8.4%
53045	17	7.9%
53089	16	7.4%
53005	14	6.5%
53189	11	5.1%
53029	8	3.7%
53072	5	2.3%
53007	4	1.9%
53118	4	1.9%
53150	4	1.9%
53046	3	1.4%
53122	2	0.9%
53149	2	0.9%
53153	2	0.9%
53018	1	0.5%
53119	1	0.5%
53146	1	0.5%

This most likely will not come as a surprise but overall we are finding that in SE Wisconsin the top three needs are:

1. Housing
2. Mental Health/Addictions
3. Food/meals

My team manages all the resources for SE Wisconsin so rest assured folks can use [IMPACT 211](#) as a resource to connect to community organizations near them. We have information on food pantries, hot meal sites, congregate meals (for older adults), stockbox programs, mobile pantries, and more - all of which are updated consistently throughout the year by database curators that work with the agency to maintain their listing in 211. You may have seen emails or phone calls from one of our database curators, Nydia Cuevas - she manages all the food related resources in IMPACT's 211 resource directory! I hope I've covered all my bases but if anyone has any questions or would like more information, please feel free to email me (kkasprzak@impactinc.org) - I know there are a LOT of community members who may need to access food-related resource (or other resources)!

Coalition Updates- Michael Egly:

We would like some feedback on Coalition format. Would people like us to incorporate more virtual meeting opportunities? (The consensus was yes, sometimes. People also like the opportunity to tour different member locations).

We hope to have a discussion about what we can do as a coalition in the coming 2026 year. Taking into account all these different challenges, what do people want to focus on at this time? Ideas below:

- Network sharing and information is helpful. Times are changing and things are different every day. We are missing other food pantries in the Waukesha County area. Do they need support? It may be a good goal for us to bring more people into this collaborative effort. Are there other places that serve hot meals that could be invited into the meetings? (Catholic Memorial is having a dinner on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; will send flyer to the email list)
- We could try to bring more people to participate in this group by inviting at least one person to the next meeting. Everyone could "bring a friend."

Next Meeting: February 2026

Topic and Location: Sussex Outreach Services Presentation and Tour
N64 W23760 Main St, Sussex, WI 53089