

## Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

June 23, 2026

VIRTUAL

**Attendance:** Michael Egly- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Chloe Bingenheimer- Community Smiles Dental; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Rob Shelledy, Tom Jozwik- St. Vincent de Paul; Celine Kleist- Eras Senior Network; Jill Herz- UW-Madison Extension FoodWise; Hannah Hazelberg- Mukwonago Food Pantry; Alyssa Pisarski- Waukesha Public Library; Shana Krause- La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start; Mark Lisowski, Carmen Baldwin- Hunger Task Force.

### Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Updates:

Our next meeting will be VIRTUAL on August 25, 2026.

#### SLIDES included in the WCNC email following the meeting.

**Presentation, Mark Lisowski:** Mark Lisowski is Hunger Relief Federation Organizer. Hunger Relief Federation is a statewide network of anti-hunger organizations. Hunger Task Force has always been an advocacy organization since their beginning in 1981. They focus on engagement and strategy around key issues. They do a lot of outreach to new pantries and anti-hunger organizations, as well as engaging current food pantries. There have been lots of changes to federal nutrition programs in the last year, plus inflation—so there have been many conversations on how we can improve things for people. They have established goals such food purchasing grants, food distribution grants, and the Tribal Elder box. Voices Against Hunger is a great way to be involved in advocacy. <https://www.hungertaskforce.org/what-we-do/advocacy/voices-against-hunger/> Important areas include strengthening the SNAP program, fully funding the CSFP, invest in TEFAP, and protect child nutrition programming.

**Presentation, Carmen Baldwin:** Carmen Baldwin is Community Nutrition Manager, focusing on food security and nutrition education. Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's only free and local food bank. Pillars are: free food distribution, systemic hunger solutions, robust partnerships, advocacy and education. They teach two curricula—Your Plate (general nutrition) and Garden to Plate for kids. They teach individuals and families of all ages. They are also working on a nutrition app, to help with digitization and better access to nutrition education information. Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that travels throughout Milwaukee County, focusing on food deserts. Anyone can use the Mobile Market: <https://www.hungertaskforce.org/get-help/help-for-seniors/> Hunger Task Force also has a farm (208 acres in Franklin), growing 500,000 lbs of produce distributed statewide (more information on Farm Tours will be emailed). The best ways to help are connecting to Voices Against Hunger, and to volunteer with us.

**Tour:** The group toured the teaching kitchen, the food distribution/sorting areas and storage areas. They have 100,000 square feet of space in their warehouse – 80% of inventory is USDA purchased commodities. Their network includes 64 sites across Milwaukee County including soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries. They distribute 10,000 senior stock boxes monthly; after October 1<sup>st</sup> this will geographically be centered in the lower half of the state. During the pandemic, they started a successful partnership with Door Dash that has continued after the pandemic. Hunger Task Force sees 10,000 volunteers who sort foods, and another 5,000 volunteers at the Farm.

## Hunger Task Force Tour Photos:



## Emailed Agency Updates:

**Aging and Disability Resource Center- Courtney Klepp:** We had quite a decrease in Senior Farmers Market Vouchers for 2026. We unfortunately had to decrease the distribution sites this year, partly due to staffing issues and partly due to the decrease in voucher books. We might be able to request more from the State if we completely run out. We have one last distribution over at Waukesha Memorial Hospital where the Hispanic Health Resource Center has been relocated due to their building remodel on Barstow St. Last year we distributed 82 voucher books at HHRC, so that will be about the end of our vouchers. Waukesha County folks are able to get the vouchers at the ADRC located within the HHS building at 514 Riverview Ave, Waukesha 53188.

**Waukesha Public Library- Alyssa Pisarski and Paula Mason:** We're partnering with the Waukesha Lion's Club in July and they'll be offering free vision screenings for kids of all ages on Tuesdays and Fridays, July 7-31, 9am-12pm. I've attached a flyer if anyone wants to share it with families who might be interested. Here are our food-related programs for the season:

- We are welcoming Registered Dietician Jessica Gawrys to give three Adult Kitchen programs this summer! The June 29 one, "Fiber Forward", is already full, but as of this weekend, there are still spaces for the July 13 "Busting Food Myths" program, and the "Fueling an Active Lifestyle" program on August 17. Jessica will provide lots of great nutrition and diet information as well, and free samples will be available. All three programs start at 6 pm, and registration is required.
- For teens, we are offering a Cupcake Decorating program on July 14 at 1 pm. Registration is required.
- Our Kids in the Kitchen program will be offered on June 24, July 8 and July 22 from 4:30-5:30 pm each day. On June 24, participants will learn to make a berry sorbet. On July 8, they'll make homemade caramel corn and on July 22, they'll make salad in a jar. The program is geared for kids 5-12. Registration is required.

Patrons can register on [waukeshapubliclibrary.org](http://waukeshapubliclibrary.org) or by calling 262-524-3682.

**Waukesha County WIC- Lisa Topp:** WIC has a great addition to our Team, Danielle Hunkins as an LTE PH Technician. WIC has kicked off the FMNP season. We have limited FMNP checks to distribute so we are screening clients before issuing them. The Team continues to prepare for the ME (state monitoring - Management Evaluation) in September. The ME tool has included additional criteria that will be evaluated/assessed and the ME tools have been revised so we are taking additional time to ensure we will have a successful ME again this year. We organized another successful gardening event with WIC families (14 children and their parents), where children planted and took home a container garden with a cherry tomato or lunchbox pepper plant.

**Mukwonago Food Pantry- Hannah Hazelberg:** Mukwonago Food Pantry has a lot to share this month. First, I have attached photos of our Resource Building, newly painted, with all new carpet and flooring. Now that we have expanded our food pantry building, we are ready to rent office space at 307 Eagle Lake Avenue, right next door to our food pantry. I feel this would be a good non-profit group effort, several agencies using the office space on different days at different times. \$1,200 per month, includes heat, AC, water, trash pick-up, internet, security cameras inside & outside, lawncare & snow removal and current furniture.



Our Generac Greenhouse is almost finished, and we hope to get a few plants in yet this season. Our raised beds at our Resource Building are proving fresh lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, chives and more. We have had a very busy 18 months, planning and adding onto our building, landscaping is ongoing, our Generac Greenhouse is our final much needed addition. This will help provide our households, now at 378 with even more fresh food. We are all set up for distribution of Backpacks on Aug. 08, from 9am to noon. Our Annual Senior BBQ on June 10th was a success, so many of our local seniors look forward to this event.

**Next Meeting: August 25, 2026**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**