

## **Expanding Food Systems and Public Health Collaboration Work Team Project Descriptions**

*As follow-up to the Food Systems and Public Health: Linkages to Achieve Healthier Diets and Healthier Communities conference, which took place April 1-3, 2009, at the Airlie Center near Washington, DC, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded the following five interdisciplinary Work Teams to expand on the themes developed at the conference through policy-relevant, interdisciplinary activities. Work Teams are being coordinated by the Healthy Eating Research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Activities of the Work Teams will be completed by the end of 2010.*

*The Food Systems and Public Health conference was designed to place the current food system and agricultural policy at the center of a discussion about policy-relevant research that is needed to move forward on making food systems healthier and more sustainable, while helping to address such issues as child obesity, food access and sustainable resource use. The conference brought together 100 national leaders and thinkers from the fields of health, nutrition, obesity, health policy, sustainable agriculture, agricultural economics and agricultural policy.*

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### **Healthy Sustainable Food System: Developing a Common Ground for Health Related Practitioner Organizations**

**Lead Organization:** American Planning Association

**Project Lead:** Kimberley Hodgson, MURP, MS, RD, American Planning Association

**Project Team:** Susan Roberts, JD, MS, RD, Roberts Law Firm, PLC; David Wallinga, MD, MPA, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Susan Polan, PhD, American Public Health Association

The broad purpose of this proposal is to convene several health related practitioner organizations (American Dietetic Association (ADA), American Medical Association (AMA), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Planning Association (APA), and American Public Health Association (APHA)) to engage in an initial conversation about why and how to influence food systems policy change at the federal, state and local levels. We propose a small, day-and-a-half long meeting in Washington, DC in spring 2010 to bring together representatives of the aforementioned health and planning groups. The objectives of this meeting are five-fold: 1) convene a core group that will form the backbone of a larger, future working coalition – informed by the basic strategy of emphasizing the co-benefits to health, sustainability and climate change of reforming the farm and food system; 2) develop a set of agreed upon principles that will form the foundation of a shared statement between the organizations; 3) develop a draft action plan to guide the future local, state and federal food systems policy work of the participating organizations; 4) map the policy landscape to brainstorm the inclusion of additional groups for future coordinated policy work; and 5) share principles, action plan and other materials with the membership of individual organizations, including at the APHA annual meeting in November 2010, the ADA Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in October 2010, the APA National Planning Conference in April 2011, and the AMA mid-term meeting in December 2010.

## **Common Drivers, Common Solutions: Chronic Disease, Climate Change, Nutrition and Agriculture**

**Lead Organization:** Institute for a Sustainable Future

**Project Lead:** *Jamie Harvie*, PE, Institute for a Sustainable Future

**Project Team:** *Ted Schettler*, MD, MPH, Science and Environmental Health Network; *Leslie Mikkelsen*, RD, MPH, Prevention Institute; *Corneilia Butler Flora*, PhD, MS, Iowa State University

The agricultural and health care sectors have both opportunities and obligations to help mitigate climate change, as well as aiding in adaptation. As policymakers plan and make decisions related to climate change, the health care sector can play an important role in advancing sound agricultural and health policy and practice that can have positive returns on public health domestically and globally. The Work Team proposes publication of a white paper to significantly increase awareness within the healthcare sector of the impact of alternative food systems on climate change and the risk of common chronic diseases. The publication will illustrate the common drivers of climate change and chronic disease and emphasize the opportunities for crosscutting solutions that promote disease prevention, advancement of health equity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will provide an assessment of current regulatory and systemic roadblocks, including reimbursement patterns and lack of incentives for health care to address primary disease prevention through activities that emphasize and improve access to more nutritious food while mitigating drivers of climate change. It will also describe initiatives in some model hospitals and make policy recommendations. These results will be disseminated through the Health Care Without Harm international network and allied organizations.

## **Exporting Obesity: Links between U.S. Agriculture and Trade Policies and Public Health**

**Lead Organization:** Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**Project Lead:** *Jim Harkness*, MS, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**Project Team:** *Sophia Murphy*, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; *Corinna Hawkes*, PhD, University of Sao Paulo

While there is growing recognition in the United States of the need for healthier, locally produced foods, there has been insufficient attention to the impacts of exporting unhealthy food systems to developing countries and how that production then rebounds on U.S. public health. The objective of this work is to demonstrate to health researchers and policymakers how the design of U.S. agricultural and trade policies is linked to obesity and other dietary health problems, and to show how this problem is taking on global proportions. The Work team will analyze the connections among US agricultural, trade and investment policies and their impacts on public health. They will focus on the trade and investment environment created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as well as other relevant trade and investments such as the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement and the FTAs signed between Mexico and Latin American partners in the 1990s. The team will produce a paper examining how changes in rules on market access and economic reform programs have affected the food environment in Mexico via their effects on the food system in that country and the U.S. and making recommendations for changes in U.S. agriculture and trade policies to promote healthier outcomes.

## **Mapping a Sustainable Agriculture and Public Health Alliance for the 2012 Farm Bill: Stakeholders, Points of Intersection, and Proposed Steps**

**Lead Organization:** Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**Project Lead:** *Rebecca Klein*, MS, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Project Team:** *Kate Fitzgerald*, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; *Ferd Hoefner*, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; *Mark Muller*, MS, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; *Roni Neff*, PhD, MS, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; *Kate Clancy*, PhD, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for a Livable Future (CLF) would like to begin a process in 2010 to identify ways that the health and sustainable agriculture communities can work together on federal farm and food policy reform efforts. As we all embark on our planning processes for the 2012 Farm Bill, we would like to take advantage of excellent new research on health (childhood obesity) and economic research on food access and sustainable resource use to craft policy proposals together that build on this base of knowledge. The Work Team proposes to 1) Review current research on food access and sustainable resource use; 2) Collect a shared base of information including the names of health, food security, and sustainable agriculture organizations; their structure; their interests in food and agriculture policy options; the principles underlying each group's policy goals; and in what capacity they can provide support; and 3) Draft a provisional concept paper on a public health and sustainable agriculture alliance in the 2012 Farm Bill, with potential policy options, research agenda, and proposed activities.

## **Farmers Market Evaluation Workgroup: Expert Meeting**

**Lead Organization:** The Food Trust

**Project Lead:** *Allison Karpyn*, PhD, The Food Trust

**Project Team:** *Heidi Blanck*, MS, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; *Sonia Kim*, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; *Joel Kimmons*, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; *Jan Jernigan*, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; *Laura Kettel Khan*, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; *Michael Bader*, PhD, University of Pennsylvania; *Amy Yaroch*, PhD, The Center for Human Nutrition

To increase the number and quality of farmers' market evaluations in the scientific literature, staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity and The Food Trust, are proposing to convene a face-to-face meeting of select content area experts to develop recommendations for standardized metrics for evaluating farmers' markets. These metrics will be in the areas of health impact, economic impact and potentially additional co-benefits such as quality of life indicators and food security. Anticipated outcomes/products of the project include: 1) Framework showing farmers' market potential benefit areas and consensus set of evaluation indicators; and 2) At least one peer-reviewed paper submitted for consideration (framework paper or instruments/metrics paper).