



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

New York State Council on Hunger and Food Policy

Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2023, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235, Apple Orchard Empire Conference Room
Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building, 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217
10 LeCount Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801

Walden Savings Bank, 15 Scott's Corners Drive, Montgomery, NY 12549
Foodlink, 2011 Mt. Read Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14615, 2nd Floor Community Room
The Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 44-36 Vernon Boulevard, Long Island City, NY
11101

Queens Public Library at Corona, 38-23 104th St, Queens, NY 11368
Online via WebEx

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1. Called to order by Nicole Leblond, designated Chair by Commissioner of *NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets*
2. Roll Call: It was determined that the quorum was met by in-person attendance in Albany and other publicly noticed locations.

Attendance on record:

Council Members in Albany:

1. Nicole Leblond, NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
2. Jill Dunkel, NYS Dept. of Health
3. Susan Zimet, Office of Temporary Disability Assistance
4. Kathleen DeCataldo, NY State Education Dept.
5. Allison Argust, Empire State Development
6. Natasha Pernicka, The Food Pantries for the Capital District/ The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York
7. Krista Hesdorfer, Hunger Solutions NY
8. Ashley Oeser, NY Farm Bureau
9. Ellie Wilson, Price Chopper Supermarkets
10. Julie Suarez, Cornell University, CALS

11. Rose Golden, Office for the Aging

Council Members in NYC:

1. Racquel Grant, The Campaign Against Hunger
2. Joel Berg, Hunger Free America
3. Jerome Nathaniel, City Harvest

Council Members in alternative locations:

1. Karen Erren, Feeding Westchester
2. Jeff Crist, Crist Brothers Orchards
3. Mitch Gruber, Foodlink
4. Carmen Boon, Food Bank for NYC

Affiliates:

1. Gabrielle Viens, NYS Office of General Services
2. Nicholas Barber, NYS Office of General Services
3. Natalie Birch-Higgins, New York State Dept. of State/Office for New Americans
4. Tessa Edick, FarmOn! Foundation
5. Dan Egan, Feeding NYS
6. Camesha Grant, Food Bank for NYC
7. Marla Guarino, Buffalo Go Green
8. Julia McCarthy, New York State Health Foundation
9. Kristen McManus, American Association of Retired Persons
10. Tashara Leak, Cornell University
11. Caitlin Lazarski, New York School Nutrition Association
12. Christine Kanawada, Office of Children and Family Services
13. Bronwyn Starr, New York Health Foundation
14. Randi Shubin Dresner, Island Harvest Food Bank
15. Larry Tse, National Young Farmers Coalition/Choy Commons
16. Kristine Ellsworth, Department of Environmental Conservation
17. Kathleen Finlay, Glynwood Regional Center for Food and Farming
18. Rachel Sabella, No Kid Hungry New York

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets staff: Taylor Goodell, Kelly Young, Katie Howard, Kendall Hough.

3. Opening remarks and State updates from Deputy Commissioner Nicole Leblond
4. Open meetings Law presentation by Katie Howard, Special Assistant, Counsel's Office, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
5. Resolution for Open Meetings Law extraordinary circumstance
 - a. Kathleen DeCataldo, NYS Education Department, made a motion to adopt the resolution.
 - b. Susan Zimet, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, seconded.
 - c. Motion approved by a voice vote of 18 yeas, 0 nays and no abstentions.

Council on Hunger and Food Policy

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, by passing Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 (“Chapter 56”), the New York State Legislature amended Section 103 of the Open Meetings Law; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 56 adds Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law, permitting the Council on Hunger and Food Policy to authorize its members to attend meetings by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(a) requires the Council on Hunger and Food Policy to adopt a resolution following a public hearing authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2) allows for hybrid meetings by requiring “that a minimum number of members are present to fulfill the public body’s quorum requirement in the same physical location or locations where the public can attend”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(c) requires that members be physically present at any such meeting “unless such member is unable to be physically present at any such meeting location due to extraordinary circumstances . . . including disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member’s physical attendance at such meeting”; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 103-a(2)(d), any members attending by videoconference must, except during executive session, be “heard, seen and identified, while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(g) requires that any meeting where a member attends by videoconference be recorded, posted to the Council on Hunger and Food Policy webpage within five business days, and transcribed upon request; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(h) requires that members of the public be permitted to attend and participate, if authorized, in any meeting by videoconference when a member attends by videoconference.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Hunger and Food Policy authorizes its members who experience an extraordinary circumstance, as described above and further defined by any rules or written procedures later adopted, to attend meetings by videoconference: (i) as long as a quorum of the members attend in-person at one or more locations open to the public; (ii) as long as the member can be seen, heard, and identified while the open portion of the meeting is being conducted; and (iii) as otherwise permitted under Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council on Hunger and Food Policy shall create written procedures further governing its use of videoconferencing by its members in compliance with Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022.

6. Public Comment Period
 - a. One comment from Lucy Joyce, Cornell Cooperative Extension, regarding Nourish NY and HPNAP contracts
7. Nourish NY and HPNAP Updates (Jill Dunkel, NYS Department of Health)
8. Workgroup discussions
 - a. Economic Vitality & Institutional Purchasing of Local Agriculture (Julie Suarez, Cornell University, CALS)
 - b. Improving Nutrition and Promoting Food as Medicine (Ellie Wilson, Price Chopper Supermarket)
 - c. Strengthening Food Assistance (Natasha Pernicka, Food Pantries for Capital District)
 - d. Expanding Food Access Discussion (Krista Hesdorfer, Hunger Solutions NY)
 - e. Cultivating Food Equity Discussion (Natalie Birch-Higgins, NYS Office for New Americans)
9. All group discussion led by Taylor Goodell
 - a. The Council on Hunger and Food Policy discussed areas of opportunity, including the need for comprehensive resource mapping to better assess assets in the field, and targeted solutions to increase the resiliency of New York's agri-food value chain.
10. The next meeting date is October 19, 2023.
11. Chair designee Nicole Leblond adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.