

Veggie Rx Meeting
2017 Convening Breakout Session
April 19th, 2017

Attendees:

Yesenia Gallardo, Healthcare Without Harm
Emily Sessoms, Huerto de la Familia
Jess Weiland, High Desert Food & Farm Alliance
Ecole Copen, OHSU
Katie Furia, Farmers Market Fund
Colleen (Umatilla),
Kris Soebroto, Village Gardens
Lynn Knox, Oregon Food Bank
Rachel Burton, Kaiser Permanente
Lauren Lubowicki, Zenger Farm
Lexi Stickel, Marion-Polk Food Share
Kaely Summers, Adelante Mujeres

Notes

Broke out into groups of 3 with representation of someone new to Veggie Rx programming, someone "seasoned" and someone who represented a larger organization interested in partnering with Veggie Rx programs in each small group. Groups shared questions and successes.

When reporting back to the larger group:

- Farmers Market Fund is interested in adding a Veggie Rx component to their FINI (Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives) proposal coming up for Double Up Food Bucks. This would be a DUFb Rx linked to SNAP benefits. Need to clarify eligible items, redeemable about farmers markets. Also models of this in Safeway Grocery Stores, but would want to emphasis local foods.
- Internal funding through hospitals and clinics can gain traction over time.
- Identified a need to create a Veggie Rx toolkit. Could include marketing package, make it easy for clinics to buy into the program. Also include sample enrollment forms, etc.
- Each clinic/healthcare system seems to have a strong belief in how Veggie Rx programs should be implemented.
- If organizations were to collaborate on federal funding, Kaiser might be interested in matching efforts.
- Accountable Health Communities Grant - involves the screen and intervene to connect patients to existing resources in their community. Focus on food security. Bruce Goldberg?
- Healthcare Without Harm might be interested in creating a technical assistance program for those interested in accessing Medicaid funding. The information hasn't been released yet about how to reimburse for individual patient accounts.
- Revolving loan fund for programs if they go the individual reimbursement route.

- Programs need to highlight the cost savings of programs (return on investment) for Medicare patients.

Sarah (Gorge Grown Food Network) shared that there was more initial staff input needed when starting the program, but that it has lessened as they've developed more efficient systems. Need to invest in relationship when setting up programs.

Joint evaluation: reviewing Betty Izumi's survey - decided that Eecole, Lexi and Kaely will select 5 questions that network organizations will hopefully implement during their 2017 season.