

Schools & After-School Domain Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 2:00pm-3:30pm Via Zoom	Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 2:00pm-3:30pm Via Zoom (no June meeting)
Attendees: Deirdre Kleske (HHSA), Jennifer Taylor (COI), Paige Metz (San Diego County Office of Education), Janelle Manzano (SDUSD), Heather Berkoben (Dairy Council), Lorrie Lynn (Rady Children's), Mike Miller (HHSA Behavioral Health Services), Nidia Croce (HHSA), Chelsea Walczak Vircks (AHA), Stephanie Kowack (Gr8ful Connections), Heather Cruz (Chula Vista Elementary School District)	
Recorder: Sophia Yonus	

Topic/Issue	Discussion	Action
Welcome & Icebreaker	Icebreaker: Please introduce yourself in the chat (name, organization) and also respond to this icebreaker: <i>What is one activity you'd like to do during the Memorial Day weekend?</i>	
Announcements	Partner announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Berkoben: Dairy Council of CA Summer Meals promotional flier now available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HealthyEating.org/SummerMeals for free summer meal promotion flyers or nutrition enrichment activities for sites HTroska@HealthyEating.org For the No Kid Hungry Hotline (text "Food" to 304304) Nutrition Education enrichment activities to engage students at summer meal sites. Lorrie Lynn, Rady Children's Hospital: We are doing 2 days of water safety education with the Aquatics Center, San Diego Parks & REC, and other partners. Also celebrating the school walking program that was supported by the COI min-grant program. Grands prizes of four tickets each to the San Diego Zoo are given to the two students who were most engaged. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Paige Metz</i>: The San Diego region of CAHPERD (California Association of Health, Physical Education and Dance) has recognized Deirdre Kleske as its Community Partner of the year! Congratulations to Deirdre!! ● <i>Deirdre Kleske</i>: Financial support for schools and community gardens is coming soon from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), through the County of San Diego, and to a nonprofit organization to distribute grants. Part of this funding will go towards community food production, which includes school gardens, including joint-use gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ County is currently working on a mechanism of how they're going to give out funds and what the eligibility requirements will be. ○ The COI supported the concept of Joint Use School-Community Gardens in the past, and we are interested in highlighting more examples of school gardens that have either formal or informal partnerships with community or faith-based groups. ○ I will ask our district reps to connect with their district wellness leads to see if we can identify other examples of joint use school gardens. ○ <i>Heather Cruz</i>: as a district wellness lead I know how many gardens we have at district schools, but I will be able to inventory the number of gardens but will need to find out if any are joint-use. ● <i>Chelsea Walczak Vircks</i>: [this was sent out by San Diego Food System Alliance and some may have gotten it- but a reminder for this RFA https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/caf2sgrant/ (CA Farm to School Grant Program)] ● <i>Deirdre Kleske</i>: Congratulations to San Diego Unified School District. The Board of Education unanimously approved the 2022 Wellness Policy Revision! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Wellness Council worked on this revision since last fall. ○ Wellness policy received a 93/100 in comprehensiveness and 77/100 in strength using the WellSAT 3.0 scoring tool. ○ A big congrats to Kate McDevitt for her leadership!! ○ Kate gave a good presentation to the board and there was much interest in further supporting wellness efforts, including adding more Wellness Centers at high schools. 	<p>Save the Date for the August 16th Schools & After-School Domain meeting - special presentation from the founders of a model joint use school-community garden!</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Chelsea</i>: can't wait for CVESD to join them next year, Heather, Cruz! ○ <i>Deirdre</i>: Yes, CVESD has one of the other "A+" model wellness policies, and we'll work to take it to an even higher level next year. 	
Presentation: Gr8ful Connections	<p><i>Paige Metz</i>: A friend reached out to let me know about the work she does to bring four smaller North County school district PTA Councils together to collaborate and pool funds to make a greater impact. This is a model that other PTA or parents groups might use in other parts of San Diego County.</p> <p><i>Stephanie Kowack, Gr8ful Connections</i> https://www.gr8fulconnections.com/ (a program of the North Coastal Council of PTAs)</p> <p>Presentation highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTA consists of parents, teachers, and administrators to provide activities for students and education for parents. ● The Ninth District PTA coordinates PTAs in San Diego and Imperial County. The Ninth District is divided up into 17 PTA Councils. ● Some Councils are a single, larger district. Some are a combination of smaller districts in the same region. ● The North Coastal Council of PTAs is made up of the PTAs in 4 districts with 24 schools: Del Mar, Encinitas, San Dieguito and Solana Beach districts. ● The Gr8ful Connections program evolved as Stephanie and other parent leaders progressed with their kids from elementary to middle school in Solana Beach and San Dieguito school districts. ● The PTA wanted to figure out what needs they could meet for parents, students and the community. ● One accomplishment was funding the establishment of a garden at Solana Pacific Middle School in Solana Beach School District. ● Another was creating a wellness committee and wellness center at Carmel Valley Middle School in the San Dieguito High School District. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The realized there was a need for area districts to join forces to raise more money for better speakers and programs that families in any of the districts could access. • Gr8teful Connections includes the original 4 districts, plus Cardiff and Rancho Santa Fe. Parent Foundations in these districts are included in invitations to events. • They have held 17 events in three years. More than 500 parents attended their first event. Over 2200 email addresses are a part of the Gr8ful connection site. • Many of their speakers have written books, so the program purchases books as a way to pay the speakers and then gives the books to parents for free at the events. These talks have been very helpful in addressing topics for children and teens. <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Deirdre:</i> this is an interesting model of not only what a PTA can do, but a way parents can combine forces across multiple districts. Are there other groupings of districts like your model that you are aware of, or ways other districts could learn from your model? • <i>Stephanie:</i> We have parent foundations that aren't PTAs and we notify them of our events • <i>Deirdre:</i> Do you have a listing of your speakers and events? • <i>Stephanie:</i> Gr8ful connections website has all of our listings and we record all of our speakers as well. • <i>Deirdre:</i> Some of these speakers might be ideal to invite to the Summit on Student Engagement and Attendance which will be held as part of the 2022t the Live Well Advanced later this year. Thank you Paige for inviting Stephanie to present this information to our partners. • <i>Paige:</i> Of course. It's a great idea to combine bigger and smaller schools/program together as a great example of collective impact. 	
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<p>COI Updates</p>	<p><i>Jennifer Taylor, COI</i></p> <p>COI Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The COI backbone team is working on some transitions for staffing over the upcoming weeks. Jennifer Taylor will be stepping down as co-director. While we are sad to see her go, we are also joined by new staff to support some of COI's special projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are excited to be joined by Liliana Osorio, who will be supporting the Community Domain and Community Council. Liliana brings a strong background in community engagement and also supports HEALthy4U, a trauma-informed care project with the Center for Community Health. ○ We also are delighted to work more closely with Sarah Vicente, who will be supporting our policy and advocacy activities including connections with the Government Domain, as an extension of past support she has provided for COI's policy agenda. ○ We also work with several interns who have provided important contributions to our team--thank you to our continuing interns (Shaina Llerena, Isabelle Stevens, Courtnei Jones, Socorro Trujillo, and Angelica Sanabria) as well as outgoing interns (Melina Jacobo, Sophia Yonus, Camille Yabut, Florence Lo, Khushi Shah, and Rachael Mouat)! ● As we manage these transitions, the COI backbone team is also hiring for a few roles -- based at the UCSD Center for Community Health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can learn more about the COI (Co)-Director position here. ○ In addition, our team is now hiring a Communications Specialist - posted here. ○ We would appreciate your help in sharing this information and encourage you to connect with Blanca Melendrez (bmelendrez@health.ucsd.edu) if you have any recommendations on candidates. <p>Policy agenda overview</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COI is actively updating its policy agenda in collaboration with our 7 domain workgroups. As you may recall from last month's Schools meeting, the COI is currently developing strategies to support its two broad policy areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support of SB464, Food4All, which expands access to California Food Assistance Programs for all Californians regardless of their immigration status. We are fortunate to have Nourish CA as a key COI partner supporting our mobilization in this area. We recently identified a new policy area, which broadly speaking will support community food production in San Diego County. As a reminder, this broad area aims to support community food production activities such as community gardens by supporting policy changes at the city or county level. As a starting point, COI is working with the County to provide input on potential barriers and opportunities to implementing community food production activities. This input will guide the distribution of \$6 million in ARPA funds for community food production initiatives across the county. As a longer term goal, COI will also identify local policy opportunities that improve implementation of community food production, working in partnership with local municipalities. This month, the COI Domain Council convened to explore strategies specific to this new policy area. The Domain Council comprises co-chairs from each of the 7 domains (including Deirdre Kleske, Paige Metz, and Kate McDevitt as co-chairs of the Schools & After-School Domain). The session was led by Paul Watson, President of the Global Action Research Center. A few highlights from this session (Miro board here): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus question for planning retreat was: "What strategic actions can we take in the next two years that will support the development and/or adoption of Community Food Production Policies within San Diego County (Municipal/City and County)?" The group identified four (4) areas of strategic activities that would move their efforts forward. Those areas of activity are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping Needs and Opportunities – This area focuses on mapping the county to gain a clear understanding of the 	
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	<p>following: Where the need is? Who else is doing this work? What does the work look like?</p> <p>2. Building Capacity – This area focuses on sharing and leveraging community expertise, along with training and education. These efforts would involve tapping into existing partnerships and/or domains in an effort to leverage relationships to share information pertaining to establishing and sustaining community food production sites. This area would include identifying training and education sources for new gardeners in areas such as garden design (e.g., Co-op designs), Methods and Techniques (e.g., water-wise growing techniques) and adapting food items to specific growing areas within the county.</p> <p>3. Identifying Support – This area focuses on sustaining gardens and funding sustainability. This work includes promoting both start-up funding and ongoing support for existing gardens. The activities could also include recruiting businesses and groups to support school-based and community gardens.</p> <p>4. Advocating for Policy – This area focuses bringing together policy partners working on advocacy to share successes and challenges. The work includes training leaders in legislative advocacy processes and tools, while also identifying specific policies that are supported by all domains (e.g., school board policy supporting joint use of school gardens or getting garden education curriculum into school district policy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps: COI is exploring ways to continue working with Global ARC to identify strategies informing 12-month domain work plans -- with a focus on concrete action steps to address each of the 4 strategic directions. As part of that followup, the Domain Council might decide to focus on just 1 or 2 of these strategic directions to support focused efforts within our capacity. 	
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	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chelsea</i>: San Diego Food System Alliance has cultivated a lot of relationships and mobilized around much of this work. Would be a critical partner to engage in this work. • <i>Jennifer</i>: completely agree and will be important to ensure we first understand work to-date and partners already working in this space -- working in collaboration with Supervisor Vargas's office • <i>Deirdre</i>: important not to duplicate efforts. The County Dept. of Parks & Recreation is creating a map of community gardens. They are not including school gardens so that may be a need the COI can help meet. • <i>Deirdre</i>: A promising strategy to explore is joint use school-community gardens. This COI webpage has information on this topic, and we hope to find more models of this type of more-sustainable school garden. • <i>Janelle</i>: I recently learned about a platform that a large school district in Florida uses to track their school gardens - I am planning to set it up this summer and start next school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Deirdre</i>: That's really interesting, Janelle. Heather Cruz had to leave but she may be interested to know more about that platform. 	
<p>Tips for Legislative Advocacy</p>	<p><i>Chelsea Walczak Vircks, American Heart Association</i></p> <p>COI Advocacy Tips (slides available here)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding public policy issues campaigns, review ways to spread your message, and review tips for involvement methods • Take time to do research, build or join coalitions that include partners and impacted communities, seek out resources to help implement the campaign, recruit and educate and engage advocates, engage the media and use social media, and decide if you will engage in lobbying efforts (need a strategic partners) • Advocacy can be just educating, rather than lobbying, so there are ways to get involved without being the person to make the ask. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have worked with partners like COI to have them help tell a story and help to bring the right voices to the table. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Example ask: Can we count on your support for AB2153 to expand Californians' access to fruits and vegetables? (legislators) ● 3 steps to getting to know your lawmakers or others working in policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ get to know your stakeholders beforehand - eg on LinkedIn ○ make the first contact and introduce yourself ○ grow the relationship: connect on social media, sign up for their newsletter, be a source of credible information and compelling stories. ● Ways to spread your message: email, social media posts, phone calls, in-person/virtual meetings, letters to the editor, media interviews, advocacy trainings, share story with decision makers ● Sharing your story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helps lawmakers put faces to policies and understand why they are important ○ provide human-interest side of the issue ○ help gain media coverage of an issue and inspire new advocates to join the effort ● Keys to a Successful Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ outreach for meetings: patience, persistence, and flexibility ○ preparation before meeting ○ share your story ○ have HEART meetings (see below) ○ stay on message and consider virtual meeting etiquette and technology needs for all participants ○ leave behind/send ahead ● Meeting Tips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prep for the meeting: review talking points and "assign" roles ○ stay on message and be positive even if lawmaker doesn't agree ○ focus on priorities at hand - save other issue for another time ○ Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know" and follow up ○ ask what is the best way to stay in touch with them ○ Thank them for their time, ask for a photo ○ follow up and remain a resource for them 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HEART (H: Hello with a smile, E: Engage lawmaker, A: Ask, R: Remember, and T: Thank the lawmaker) ● Calling or Emailing Stakeholders/Lawmakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Don't hesitate to call or email ○ Plan short talkings ○ Leave message if necessary ○ If you represent an organization - a letter to the office can also be a good tool ● Providing Testimony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand the process (in-person vs virtual, date/time, agenda) ○ write and practice your testimony (1-3 mins, identify yourself, share your experience, restate your position, practice out loud) ● Letters to the Editor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ usually written in response to a published story ○ can agree/disagree or add a new perspective to the story ○ Understand the parameters (short, 250 words max; include contact info) ○ Use a catchy title & answer these two questions (Why is this issue important? Why is it important to people in your community?) 	
Wrap up and Next steps	No June meeting. We will next meet on July 19th.	