



Health and Hunger Task Force

Meeting Notes

Friday, August 14th, 2026 | 10:00am-11:00pm | Zoom

Meeting Recording:

- **Link:** [HHTF - August 14th](#)
- **Passcode:** na4icg^%

Meeting Notes:

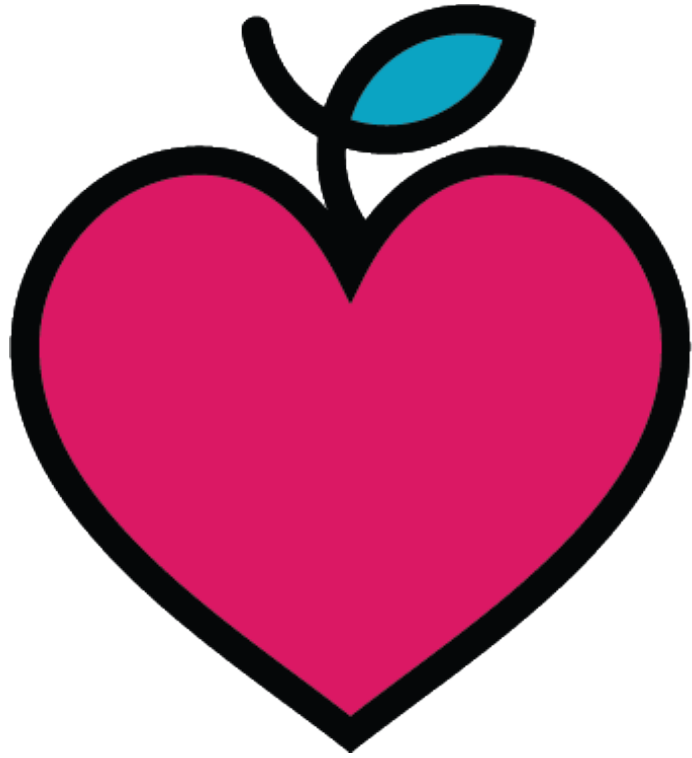
- **Welcome & Opening Remarks:** Dawn Koffarnus, Second Harvest Food Bank, Chief Health Systems and Financial Officer
 - Dawn welcomed participants and provided an overview of the meeting, highlighting recent changes to food and nutrition assistance programs and their impact on neighbors, community organizations, and healthcare systems. She also emphasized the Task Force's focus on building stronger infrastructure and relationships across Central Florida rather than simply reacting to changes.
- **SNAP Work Requirements and Related Changes Introduction:** Angela Corona, Second Harvest Food Bank, Health Systems Manager
 - Angela introduced Erica Astacio, Benefits Connection Program Manager, and Adam Harris Agency Relations Coordinator to share updates from what we're seeing across some of the changes in the federal food programs.
- **SNAP Work Requirement Updates:** Erica Astacio, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Benefits Connection Program Manager
 - Erica provided an overview of changes to SNAP work requirements and discussed what Benefits Connection staff are seeing as neighbors navigate the new requirements.
 - Under the new federal rules, the population generally subject to the work requirements includes adults ages 18–64 who are physically and mentally able to work and who are not responsible for a dependent child under age 14.
 - Groups that were previously automatically exempt may now be subject to the requirements, including people experiencing homelessness, veterans, former foster care youth up to age 24, and individuals responsible for dependent children age 14 or older.
 - The applicable standard is generally 80 hours per month of qualifying work, participation in a work program, volunteering, or a combination of these activities.
 - Individuals who are subject to the requirements and do not meet them or qualify for an exemption may face limits on SNAP eligibility.
 - **Florida Implementation:**
 - Florida already operates a mandatory SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program, so the state is incorporating the new requirements into an existing system.

- DCF screens individuals and may refer mandatory participants to Florida Commerce and their local CareerSource.
 - Neighbors may receive multiple notices and interact with multiple agencies, creating additional administrative complexity.
- **Challenges Identified by Benefits Connection:**
 - Part-time, seasonal, self-employed, and workers with fluctuating schedules may have difficulty understanding how their hours count toward the requirement.
 - Parents may be confused about whether their children's ages affect their exemption status.
 - People experiencing homelessness may face significant barriers related to transportation, internet access, stable housing, and reliable mail.
 - Some neighbors have received notices they do not understand, requiring Benefits Connection staff to work with DCF to clarify the process.
- **Program Impact:**
 - The Benefits Connection staff are spending more time answering questions and helping neighbors navigate requirements rather than completing applications.
 - Prior to the changes, approximately 60–70% of people assisted through the program resulted in SNAP applications. That percentage is now approximately 50–60% with increased SNAP interruptions and denials.
 - The team is monitoring whether neighbors understand notices, whether exemptions are being appropriately screened, whether required activities are realistically accessible, and whether SNAP interruptions continue to increase.
 - These policy changes ultimately affect whether neighbors can maintain access to food, and frontline organizations play an important role in helping people understand requirements, exemptions, and their rights.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Updates:** Adam Harris, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Agency Relations Coordinator
 - Adam provided an overview of TEFAP, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and recent changes to the program's eligibility form. TEFAP provides federally funded food products to partner agencies (food pantries) for distribution to people experiencing food insecurity. To receive TEFAP food, neighbors must complete a TEFAP eligibility form. The language in the new eligibility form that launched in August has created new challenges for partner agencies attempting to distribute food and neighbors trying to access it.
 - **Eligibility Form Updates:**
 - The eligibility form has returned to requiring a signature after previously using a checkbox.
 - The updated form includes language that asks food recipients to attest that they are U.S. citizenship or qualified legal alien to be eligible to receive TEFAP food.
 - There is no documentation required or requested at the time of signature.
 - Individuals who are uncomfortable signing the updated form are still able to receive non-TEFAP food.

- The updated requirements may create an additional barrier for some neighbors, particularly those who are uncomfortable providing the requested attestation.
 - The impact of the changes on the number of people receiving TEFAP food is not yet known. Adam noted that updated statistics were expected to provide a clearer picture beginning in September.
 - Eligibility forms remain valid indefinitely when there are no changes to income, household, or address; a new form is required when those circumstances change.
- **Fresh Access Bucks & Florida SNAP Budget Updates:** Angela Corona, Second Harvest Food Bank
 - Angela provided updates on the Fresh Access Bucks (FAB) program, and additional SNAP-related state budget changes with the future of the program remaining uncertain.
 - **Fresh Access Bucks (FAB):**
 - Seven FAB locations operated within the Second Harvest service region.
 - FAB allowed SNAP recipients to receive additional dollars for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables. The program provided an additional \$1 for every \$1 spent on eligible SNAP products, up to \$20.
 - In 2025, approximately \$1.8 million in FAB dollars were used across Florida to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - Funding for the program is currently paused as a result of federal funds not being released. There is no timeline for when the program may restart in the future.
 - The final opportunity to earn additional FAB dollars ended July 31, 2026.
 - Remaining FAB dollars could be redeemed through August 16, 2026, with the program officially paused beginning August 17, 2026.
- **SNAP Administrative Funding Update:**
 - Beginning in October, states will be required to cover 75% of SNAP administrative costs, compared with the previous 50% state share.
 - Florida's approved state budget includes an additional \$50 million to cover the increased administrative cost for SNAP for the coming fiscal year.
 - Angela noted that Florida's SNAP payment error rate declined to 12.9% but remains above the 10% threshold relevant to future SNAP benefit cost-sharing requirements.
 - The state benefit cost-sharing requirement is expected to become a larger consideration in a future fiscal year.
- **Common Metrics & Beacon Governance Framework Updates:**
 - Angela provided an update on Common Metrics, the Task Force's data strategy for aligning organizational priorities and supporting collective impact. The current phase of the Common Metrics work focuses on sharing organizational data through the Beacon mapping platform.
 - **Governance Framework:**
 - A draft governance framework has been developed to establish a foundation for responsible data sharing.
 - The framework addresses roles and responsibilities for Second Harvest, Task Force member organizations, the Steering Committee, and the Common Metrics Working Group.

- It includes a proposed data-sharing agreement structure and data-use policies.
 - It outlines processes for accessing and sharing data through Beacon.
- The framework also includes guidelines and supporting documents needed for cross-organizational data sharing.
- The Common Metrics Working Group has completed an initial review of the framework.
 - The next step is to have the framework reviewed by a healthcare privacy attorney before sharing it with the broader Task Force for feedback.
- **Beacon Training Opportunities**
 - Monthly Beacon 101 trainings will continue with trainings held on the third Thursday of every 2 months (10/15 (in-person), 12/17 (In-person))
 - Sign up using [this form](#).
 - Under the developing governance framework, completing Beacon 101 training will likely be required for organizations participating as part of the Task Force team in Beacon.
- **Closed-Loop Referral Workgroup Updates**
 - Angela provided an update on the cross-coalition Closed-Loop Referral Working Group, which includes representatives from the Health & Hunger Task Force, the Department of Health's Closed Loop Initiative, and the Ginsburg Institute.
 - The working group recently conducted interviews and focus groups with organizations across the community to better understand how closed-loop referral systems are being used and how organizations navigate referrals.
 - Findings from this work were compiled into a white paper.
 - White Paper Focus:
 - Current closed-loop referral practices in Central Florida
 - Challenges organizations are experiencing with referral platforms
 - The broader resource-referral environment
 - Experiences with different technology platforms
 - Recommended next steps for improving alignment
 - **Key Recommendations:**
 - Center for success on whether the community member accessed the needed resource rather than solely on whether the referral process was completed.
 - Develop shared definitions, standards, and expectations for referrals.
 - Integrate resource referral and navigation into organizational culture and operations.
 - Improve collaboration and interoperability among referral technology systems.
 - Strengthen and sustain cross-sector relationships and treat coordinating systems as core community infrastructure.
 - Develop long-term governance or coordinating structures for closed-loop referral work.
 - Continue investing in research and evaluation.
 - To read the full white paper, click [here](#).

- Organizations interested in participating in the Closed-Loop Referral Working Group can contact Angela to be added to the working group listserv and meeting invitations.
- **Next HHTF Meeting:**
 - Friday, October 9th, 2026 (**Recognizing the 10-year anniversary of the Health & Hunger Task Force**)
 - In-Person (411 Mercy Dr, Orlando, FL 32805)
 - 10:00am-12:00pm
- **Additional Materials:**
 - PowerPoint: HHTF Meeting – August 2026: Pages 6-20



HEALTH & HUNGER TASK FORCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

AUGUST 14, 2026



NEW CONNECTION OPPORTUNITY

“HEALTHCARE PATHWAY”



HEALTHCARE PATHWAY FOR FOOD PARTNERS

Supporting cross-sector collaboration by helping food distribution partners build partnerships with healthcare organizations and strengthen their capacity to address food insecurity and improve health outcomes.

WHAT IS IT?

Learning Opportunities for Food Partners

- Webinars
- Online Courses
- Peer Learning Opportunities

Connecting Services Between Sectors

- Mobile Clinics
- On-Site Health Screenings
- Education
- Research Opportunities

WHO AND HOW

Food Partners

- SHFB Partner Agencies (Food Pantries)
- HHTF Food Distribution Partners

Healthcare Partners

- Organizations seeking to provide services onsite at a food partner location
- Organizations seeking to provide training opportunities for food partners

How to Get Involved

- Next HHTF Newsletter:
 - [Link to Food Partner sign up](#)
 - [Link to Health Focused Partner Sign Up](#)



HHTF UPDATES

COMMON METRICS



SINCE WE LAST MET...

- Common Metrics Governance Framework in Draft Form
 - Roles/Responsibilities
 - Agreements Structure
 - Access and Approval
 - Data Sharing Process and Guidelines
 - Outline of Supplemental Documents
- Initial Review by CM Working Group
- Next Step: Send to Healthcare Privacy Lawyer

DATA LEVELS

Level 1: Public Data Gathered by SHFB

Publicly available data obtained and maintained by SHFB on behalf of the HHTF.

Example: Service locations from easily obtainable sources (i.e. FQHC list, Hospital List)

Level 2: Public Data Provided by HHTF Members

Publicly available information that is contributed or curated by member organizations because it requires significant effort to collect, maintain, or validate.

Example: Primary Care locations, Food Pantry locations*

Level 3: Private Organizational Data – Non-Sensitive

Non-public organizational data that has been aggregated, summarized, or otherwise prepared such that individuals cannot reasonably be identified.

Example: FindHelp search data, food finder search trends, service utilization counts

Level 4: Private Organizational Data - Sensitive

Person-level records that do not contain direct identifiers but may still present re-identification risk due to their level of detail.

Example: HRSN screening results, referral records and outcomes, client level service utilization

OCTOBER HHTF MEETING

- October HHTF Meeting
 - Meet and review Level 1 and 2 data together
 - For example: Service Locations
 - Suggest data your organization can provide OR public organization data you want to see in Beacon.

Beacon Indicator Suggestion



REMINDER: BEACON 101 TRAININGS

- Third Thursday of each month
- In Person and Virtual Options Available
- *Will be required to join HHTF Beacon Team*

Monthly Beacon Training





HHTF UPDATES

CLOSED LOOP REFERRAL WORKGROUP UPDATES



THE WHITE PAPER

What's going on?

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Problem Statement

What's happening in the broader resource referral environment?

- Literature Review

What are we seeing in Central Florida?

- Overview of local platforms
- Community Organization Feedback

What should we do about it?

- Discussion: Sustainability
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

RECOMMENDATION ACTIVITY

Referral Processes and Experience

- Center success on the community member, not the process
- Develop shared definitions, standards, and expectations for referrals
- Integrate resource referral and navigation into organizational culture and operations

Systems and Technology

- Collaborate across referral systems to integrate and analyze shared data
- Pursue technology solutions that improve alignment and interoperability across systems

Partnership and Alignment

- Strengthen and sustain cross-sector relationships
- Treat Coordinating Systems as core community infrastructure

Sustainability and Leadership

- Identify long-term governance or coordinating structures
- Invest in ongoing research and evaluation

READ THE FULL PAPER





FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

SECOND HARVEST FOOD
BANK

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

NEXT MEETING

