

**Rural Food Access Working Group Monthly Call – Meeting Minutes
March 2016**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation by **Dr. Lauri Andress** of West Virginia University, on **Health Impact Assessments** (see attached file). Lauri request that all participants complete pre- and post-surveys, which are required in HRSA public health training grant that is supporting the training efforts of the WVU school of public health office of public health practice and workforce development. Thank you in advance for your participation! We will give a few minutes at the beginning of the call for the pre-survey.
 - a. Notes: The West coast has been leading the way in innovative HIAs. Social determinants of health are important focus of HIA and are very broad (i.e., family poverty, school quality, housing). Health in all policies.
 - b. One key of HIA's is they are **prospective**, not retrospective evaluations. But sometimes it is difficult to know where the public policy process is – for example, when a highway is going to be built but policies have already passed to make it happen. Built environment projects usually get on the locality's books years ahead of time. So it's hard for HIA's to be proactive with that kind of timeframe.
 - c. Another key to HIA is the importance of gauging impact on groups' social status, inequalities, civic capacity, political influence.
 - d. HIA's can be politically unsettling, so there are important ways to present evidence to present findings but avoid ruffling political feathers.
3. Multisite Data Collection project update (*standing item*)
 - a. We've had 2 planning calls since the last monthly meeting, and Currently our study focus is: **Exploring the barriers and facilitators of using food hubs to enhance availability of local food in rural schools: A pilot study.**
 - b. Currently, our team has around 13 people, plus an outside adviser or 2. And we have 9 states represented.
 - c. We are currently reviewing around 40 articles and other documents that can give us background on this question, and help us focus our approach.
4. Fact Sheets project update (*standing item*)
 - a. Esther with partnering with Ellen Barnidge on a fact sheet on rural implementation. Please contact Esther if you have interest in a topic for future fact sheets, or would like to produce one yourself!
5. Announcements
 - a. Next presentations:
 - i. April, Tara Ray from Montana State U. on rural school nutrition.
 - ii. May: Patricia Sharpe from U. South Carolina on food hubs
 - iii. June: Barbara Baquero from U. Iowa

- b. NOPREN meeting will take place April 6 as part of the RWJ Healthy Eating Research meeting in St. Paul, MN.
- c. RWJF funding announcement: See the CFP at <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2016/healthy-eating-research--building-evidence-to-prevent-childhood-.html>