

SOUTHCOAST FOOD SECURITY FORUM

Food Security in the Southcoast of Massachusetts: Hungry for Health

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Claire T. Carney Library, Grand Reading Room
Wednesday, March 28, 2018



The Second Annual Southcoast Food Security Forum is sponsored by Coastline Elderly Services, 4C Community Cross Continuum Collaborative, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Massachusetts, UMass Dartmouth, the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership, the Southeastern Massachusetts Food Security Network, and the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.



SOUTHCOAST FOOD SECURITY FORUM: HUNGRY FOR HEALTH – AGENDA

5:30 p.m. – Introductions & Welcome

- Kathryn Carter, PhD, Interim Dean, Charlton College of Business, UMass Dartmouth

5:35 p.m. – Investing in the Greater New Bedford Region

- Caite O'Brien, MS, Community Investor, Tufts Health Plan Foundation

5:45 p.m. – Nutrition: The Key to Healthy Aging

- Christine Sullivan, MS, Tufts Grant Coordinator, 4C Collaborative, Coastline Elderly Services

6:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion: Better Nutrition / Better Health - How are we doing?

- Shirley Chao, PhD, RD, LDN, FAND, Director of Nutrition Services, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- Dain Lindquist, RD, LDN, General Manager of Clinical Nutrition, Sodexo at Southcoast Health
- Patricia Foster, Nutrition Outreach Specialist, Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
- Barbara Canuel, MPH, RD, CNSC, Home Care Dietitian, Community Nurse Home Care

6:30 p.m. – Panel Discussion: Building a local food economy and improving health

- Stephanie Perks, MA, RD, LDN, Co-Founder, The Coastal Foodshed
- Derek Christianson, Owner and Farmer, Brix Bounty Farm
- Desa Van Laarhoven, Executive Director, Round The Bend Farm
- Gena Mavuli, MA, Executive Director, The Livestock Institute

7:00 p.m. – Keynote: Connecting the Dots: Hunger and Health

- Kathryn Brodowski, MD, MPH, Senior Director of Health and Research, The Greater Boston Food Bank

7:20 p.m. – Closing Remarks

- Deirdre Healy, MA, Director of Community Service and Partnerships, Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, UMass Dartmouth

7:30 p.m. – Reception

- Locally sourced hors d'oeuvres and opportunity to network with local health professionals, food security organizations, and food producers

8:00 p.m. – Southcoast Food Security Forum – Farewell

PRESENTER BIOS

Kathryn Carter, PhD, Interim Dean, Charlton College of Business, UMass Dartmouth

Dr. Carter was appointed Interim Dean of the Charlton College of Business July 1, 2017. Prior to this appointment, she served as vice provost for graduate and international programs strategy and dean at the Robert J. Manning School of Business. During her tenure, Dr. Carter advanced the Manning School of Business in new program development, including programs with global partners in China, Japan, India, Kuwait, and South Africa.

Caite O'Brien, MS, Community Investor, Tufts Health Plan Foundation

Caite supports the Foundation's community investments. Ms. O'Brien previously worked as a care manager at a state home care agency and was a trained leader in the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management course. Ms. O'Brien graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in human development and aging, and a master's degree in gerontology.

Christine Sullivan, MS, Tufts Grant Coordinator, Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.

Christine is retained by the 4C Collaborative to manage a grant funded by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, Nutrition: The Key to Healthy Aging- a project committed to improving health outcomes and reducing hospitalization rates among older adults by increasing food access and knowledge. Christine creates and coordinates collaborative efforts between community-based social service organizations and speaks about the health effects of food insecurity and malnutrition. Before earning her master's degree in nutrition communications at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Christine worked in the field of animal science and nutrition, teaching farmers how to optimize nutrition to reach their production goals.

Shirley Chao, PhD, RD, LDN, FAND, Director of Nutrition Services, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs

For 20 years, Dr. Chao has been the Director of Nutrition Services at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. She is on the Executive Board of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs and the past chair of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Health Aging DPG (formally the American Dietetic Association). She has authored or co-authored various journal articles related to nutrition services for older adults. Dr. Chao received her doctoral degree from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy of Tufts University.

Dain Lindquist, RD, LDN, General Manager of Clinical Nutrition, Sodexo at Southcoast Health

Dain is the general manager of Clinical Nutrition for Sodexo at Southcoast Health and has been in that role since 2011. At Southcoast Health, Dain manages a team of 30 registered dietitians that work in hospitals and ambulatory care clinics across Southern MA. Prior to Southcoast Health, Dain was the clinical nutrition manager at two hospitals in the Bronx, NY, director of the Tomkins County WIC program (Ithaca, NY), and coordinator of a childhood obesity prevention program funded by the state of NY. Dain is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and completed his dietetic internship program at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL.

Barbara Canuel, RD, MPH, Home Care Dietitian, Community Nurse and Home Care

Barbara joined Community Nurse Home Care in 2011. Barbara has worked across the healthcare continuum, in acute care hospital settings, outpatient oncology centers and home care for 22 years. Barbara feels that educating people in their homes is the most rewarding, giving her the opportunity to empower her patients with real world strategies to help manage their disease process through the foods they eat. Barbara received her bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island and completed her dietetic internship to become a registered dietitian. Barbara has a passion for public health education and received her master's degree in public health with a concentration in social and behavioral sciences, from Boston University.

Patricia Foster, Nutrition Outreach, Greater New Bedford Community Health Center

Patricia has an extensive background working with the elderly population in the Greater New Bedford community. From 2000 – 2015, she worked for Coastline Elderly Services as a case manager, a supportive living coordinator, and a Community Mainstream Program coordinator. In 2015, Patricia joined the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center as a geriatric outreach specialist working under the Association for the Relief of Aged Women (ARAW) grant. In this capacity she ensures that elderly women are screened to receive appropriate services. Patricia is also a certified SHINE counselor.

Stephanie Perks, MA, RD, LDN, Co-Founder of Coastal Foodshed

Stephanie is a native Southcoast Mass resident with a passion for educating her community about healthy and sustainable eating. As a registered dietitian, she is dedicated to filling the gaps and building the bridges between local food producers and eaters. Most recently she co-founded Coastal Foodshed with Kim Ferreira and together they are working to make it easier for communities in and around New Bedford to access local food through farmers markets, farm shares, and farm stands. She is the coordinator for the Southeastern MA Food Security Network, and a food access consultant for Mass in Motion New Bedford.

Derek Christianson, Owner and Farmer, Brix Bounty Farm

Derek and his wife, Katie, started Brix Bounty Farm in 2008, and has been farming in the Northeast for the past sixteen seasons, relocating from Hawthorne Valley Farm in New York. BBF focuses on investing in our natural capital (soils) and human capital (agricultural skills and knowledge) to create sustainable sources of original wealth. BBF works to bridge the connection between soil, diet, and health, promoting the production of nutrient dense foods and sustainable growing methods, focused on improving soil health for long-term agricultural viability. Central to this mission are efforts to improve food security through community projects which increase knowledge and awareness of sustainable production techniques on farms and in backyard and community gardens. Derek currently serves as a project consultant for the Dartmouth YMCA – Sharing the Harvest Community Farm. He is also a member of Dartmouth’s Agricultural Commission and serves on the Bionutrient Food Association board.

Desa Van LaarHoven, Executive Director, Round the Bend Farm

In 2015, Desa and her partner Geoff Kinder founded Round the Bend Farm, a center for restorative community focused on encouraging life choices that value diversity, use nature as a model, and redefine wealth. Recently, Desa helped secure funding to protect 115-acres of farmland and focused on building an education center on RTB. Previously, Desa served as executive director of the Marion Institute in Marion, MA for eight years. She attended Stonehill College, where she earned her B.A. in biology, with a minor in environmental science. After college, she volunteered for AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), where she was awarded The Total Commitment award, the California Conservation Corps, and Rancho Mastatal, a sustainable education center in Costa Rica. In 2009, Desa was recognized as Massachusetts’ “SouthCoast Woman of the Year”.

Gena Mavuli, MA, Executive Director, The Livestock Institute

Gena is the executive director of The Livestock Institute a Westport-based non-profit championing best practices in animal husbandry and slaughter through educational programming for livestock farmers. TLI is closing the gap in local meat production with the opening of Meatworks, a USDA processing facility. Gena has been passionate about food and farming since her formative years living and working on local farms in rural Conn. She has a professional background in nonprofit management which began in El Salvador in 2003, followed by work in Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. She has worked on indigenous land rights, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and local food systems. Gena is an adjunct lecturer in Restorative Nutrition and Regenerative Farming at Endicott College and a chapter leader for the Weston A. Price Foundation. She holds a master's degree from Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a bachelor's degree from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Kathryn Brodowski, MD, MPH, Senior Director of Health and Research, The Greater Boston Food Bank

Dr. Brodowski is the Senior Director of Health and Research at The Greater Boston Food Bank. As the first to hold this position, Dr. Brodowski is responsible for creating partnerships between the GBFB and local hospitals and community health centers to connect those in need with healthy food and other critical resources, bridging the gap between hunger and health. She is also an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at UMass Medical School, where she teaches an annual food insecurity clerkship, and serves on the Massachusetts Medical Society’s Committee on Nutrition and Physical Activity.

Deirdre Healy, MA, Director of Community Service and Partnerships, The Leduc Center, UMass Dartmouth

Deirdre has more than 20 years of experience in the field of service and volunteerism. Starting as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, Deirdre held various positions with the Peace Corps and Corporation for National and Community Service before joining the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in 2001. Deirdre’s responsibilities have included the development of many aspects of the university’s civic engagement programming, including the America Reads Counts Program, Alternative Spring Breaks, Endeavor Scholar program, College Positive tours, various service-learning initiatives, and the SouthCoast Serves Collaborative. Deirdre received her master’s in public policy, with a focus on civic engagement, from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in 2009.