

COUNTY OF GRANT, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. R-11-29

INTRODUCED BY: **HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES GRANT COUNTY**

A RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A FOOD POLICY FOR GRANT COUNTY AND ITS COMMUNITIES; AND CREATING THE COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY.

WHEREAS, Grant County is comprised of responsive communities; and

WHEREAS, Grant County is located in a rural and geographically-isolated area of the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that many rural New Mexicans do not have adequate access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods because of the increased costs of food and lack of access to grocery stores and transportation; and

WHEREAS, research shows that people who do not have adequate access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods are likely to have diet and health problems and to experience forms of food insecurity such as hunger and overweight issues; and

WHEREAS, health problems caused by poor nutrition, including obesity and diabetes, cost New Mexicans three hundred twenty-four million dollars (\$324,000,000) annually; and

WHEREAS, an average of one in three children and one in two adults in Grant County are overweight or obese; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a wide variety of affordable, safe and nutritious food, local and sustainable
2 when possible and provided in a respectful manner, should be available to all County residents;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to ensure that access to
5 affordable, safe and nutritious food is not limited by economic status, location, or other factors
6 beyond a resident's control; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to ensure that the price of food
8 in the County remains reasonably close to the average price existing in the balance of the region;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to ensure that all reasonable
11 efforts are taken to improve the incomes and decrease the needs of those who are most
12 susceptible to food insecurity.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY**
14 **COMMISSIONERS OF GRANT COUNTY** that it is the policy of the County of Grant to
15 improve the availability and access to safe and nutritious food, local and sustainable when
16 possible, at fair prices to improve the health and well-being of all residents, particularly those in
17 need. The County of Grant shall also maintain and improve the natural resources, land base,
18 infrastructure and skill sets that are necessary to produce local food to realize the vision for a
19 vibrant, sustainable food and agricultural system.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Advisory Council on Food
21 Policy is established as follows:

22 A. **NAME**. The Council shall be called the Grant County Food Policy
23 Council (the Council).

24 B. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of the Council is to integrate all departments of the
25 County as well as a diverse group of public and private stakeholders in a collaborative effort to

recommend policies, implement projects, create awareness and encourage partnerships to fulfill the County food policy.

C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The Council may:
 - a. Monitor the availability, access, price and quality of food throughout Grant County;
 - b. Collect data on the food security and nutritional status of County residents;
 - c. Through the issuance of reports and other communication, inform County policy makers, administrators, communities, and the public-at-large about the status of the region's food system and food security;
 - d. Monitor and analyze the administration of County food and nutrition programs;
 - e. Explore new means for the County government and its communities to improve the food economy, the availability, accessibility and quality of food and assist the County government and its communities in the coordination of their efforts;
 - f. Recommend to the County government and its communities the adoption of measures that will improve existing and add new programs, projects, regulations, or services when needed;
 - g. Prioritize and recommend potential food policies and initiatives for the County government and its communities to adopt and implement related to:

- (1) Economic vitality of food and farming sectors;
- (2) Public health and quality of life;
- (3) Transportation and infrastructure;
- (4) Land, water, and natural resource conservation and management;
- (5) Food insecurity;
- (6) Education;
- (7) Referrals to social services;
- (8) Direct service of food;
- (9) Direct and indirect purchase of food;
- (10) Advocacy before state and federal legislatures and agencies;
- (11) Support of private efforts; and
- (12) And other direct and indirect issues related to the food and agricultural system.

2. Council members will:

- a. Prioritize issues for Council action;
- b. Serve on the Council's subcommittees;
- c. Assume a leadership role within the community related to food issues;
- d. Bring areas of concern to the attention of the Council;
- e. Serve as the eyes and ears of the Council in the broader community;
- f. Attend meetings and public events as necessary;
- g. Participate in special Council activities and events;

- h. Identify opportunities for promoting food programs and other efforts intended to reach the goals of the County food policy;
- i. Identify and recommend leaders in the community for appointment to the Council; and
- j. Elect a representative to attend, serve, report and correspond with the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council.

3. The Council will report to the Board of County Commissioners on at least a quarterly basis.

D. MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS.

1. The Council shall consist of thirteen members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Eight shall be from the private sector (non-government employees and those not under contract with a government agency) and five shall be government employees, of which two shall be employees of the County of Grant.
 2. Members shall reside in Grant County, New Mexico, and shall have expertise in relevant fields, and to the extent possible, represent the diversity of the community in aspects such as culture, gender, age, and geography.
 3. The County employee members shall be:
 - a. The County Manager or his/her designee; and
 - b. One member from the County Planning Department with the largest involvement in food-related issues and services or as otherwise appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.
 4. Of the eight private sector members, all should be actively engaged in at least one program, service, or business related to food insecurity, public health or economic development of the local food system, including the production, processing and distribution of food. Private sector members may represent the food industry, non-

profits, consumers, educators and dieticians. From among these eight, at least one should represent emergency food or food insecurity programs, one should represent agriculture, one should represent ranching, one should represent food or nutrition education, and one should represent the for-profit food industry. Representation from related state, federal and local governments should be encouraged including (but not limited to) the women, infants and children (WIC) program administered by the New Mexico Department of Health, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administered by the Income Support Division of the New Mexico Human Services Department, the County extension office administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the New Mexico State University, and those involved in food or nutrition education and public health.

5. The Council shall elect a Chair and Co-Chair. The Chairs may appoint sub-committees and sub-committee chairpersons as needed. Subcommittees may also include non-Council members from the public or private sectors.

E. TERMS. Of the initial appointments, six of the members (four private sector and two government sector) shall be appointed for two year terms and seven (four private sector and three government sector) shall be appointed for three year terms. Subsequent terms shall be for three years to maintain staggering of terms. There shall be no limitation to the number of consecutive terms a member may serve. The Chairs shall serve for a two year term. After three consecutive unexcused absences a Council member shall be automatically removed and notified thereof by the Chair. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members may be removed by the Board of County Commissioners as originally appointed, with or without cause.

F. **MEETINGS.** A quorum shall be at least seven members. The Council will meet at least quarterly and shall conduct all meetings in accordance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and adopted County policies and procedures.

G. STAFF. The Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program of Grant County will serve as the initial primary liaison to the Council. The County will provide stenographic services; however, the County may agree to rotate, on an annual basis, the primary liaison and stenographic services responsibilities. The Council may also use support from the state or federal governments or the private sector as needed. The Council may request assistance from all departments in the County in the performance of its duties in order that the County food policy may be realized.

This resolution supersedes Resolution No. R-10-37, which was adopted in 2010.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 25th day of August, 2011, by the Grant County Board of County Commissioners.

GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Brett Foster

BRETT KASTEN, CHAIRMAN



GABRIEL RAMOS, MEMBER

Christy melli

CHRISTY MILLER, MEMBER

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONER KASTEN, COMMISSIONER RAMOS AND COMMISSIONER MILLER
FROM: ANDREA SAUER, HKHC PROJECT COORDINATOR & FPC COUNCIL STAFF
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REDEFINE A QUORUM FOR THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
DATE: 8/16/2011
CC:

At the August 10, 2011, Grant County Food Policy Council meeting, the Council voted to request a change in the definition of a quorum. The current quorum rules are outlined in County resolution R-10-37 on page 6:

“**F. Meetings.** A quorum shall be at least seven members, consisting of four private sector members and three government sector members.”

The Council requests that the Commission amend this language to the following:

“**F. Meetings.** A quorum shall be at least seven members.”

The reason for this request is the Food Policy Council has had difficulty maintaining a quorum for regular meetings, due to schedule conflicts with its government sector members. The Council would like a quorum to be a simple majority, at least seven of the 13 members, so they can continue to conduct official business when government sector representatives are unable to attend. According to current Council bylaws, Food Policy Council members may send a proxy in their place with prior written notice to the Co-Chairs or staff. A Council member may submit their votes and comments in writing for the proxy to relay at regular Council meetings. Council members also have the option to participate via conference call or other technology such as Skype.

Please contact me with questions.

Thank you,

Andrea Sauer



**Office of the
Grant County Manager**

Phone: 575-574-0006

Fax: 575-574-0073

MEMORANDUM

To: Andrea Sauer, Food Policy Council Staff
Emailed to: asuer@grmc.org

From: Randy Hernandez, Executive Assistant

Date: August 30, 2011

Re: Resolution R-11-29; Food Policy Council

Following this memo, you will find the new resolution that the Grant County Board of Commissioners adopted on August 25, 2011. The reason behind this new adoption was for the Food Policy Council's request to change Section F regarding quorum requirements. Please know that with this new adoption, resolution R-10-37 will no longer be in effect; and resolution R-11-29 will be the active.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 575-574-0006.

Thank you!