


**CITY OF GAINESVILLE**  
every path starts with passion  
FLORIDA



Leg. # 100410

## Results of Community Workshop on Meal Provision

October 21, 2010

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## Overview/History

- City Commission directed staff
- Formed a team of City, County, Agency employees and Volunteers
- Held on June 29 at Alachua County Health Department
- Facilitated by Marilyn Crotty, Director, IOG at UCF
- Presentations made by City Planning staff, Dept. of Children and Family staff, and HEP Executive Director Barbara Green
- Over 50 people in attendance
- Workshop/group discussions format



## Discussion Topics

### Address four major topics

- How can we provide a safe environment for participants in meal programs and for the community?
  
- How can we allow for the distribution of prepared bag meals?
  
- Explore the potential for increased meal services at new or existing sites.
  
- How do we increase the participation levels and utilization of the food stamp program?



## Topic One

- **How can we provide a safe environment for participants in meal programs and for the community?**
  - Consensus concerning improvements to the physical design of the facilities where meals are provided with suggestions for increased landscaping and courtyard areas for participants to gather before and after meals.
  - Respect for and by recipients of meal services is essential to maintain an environment that is safe for them and the community at large with both the management of food programs and participants taking responsibility for establishing and following behavioral guidelines.

## Topic Two

- **How can we allow for the distribution of prepared bag meals?**
  - No real consensus emerged regarding the provision of bag meals.
  - Concern about additional litter, the lack of nutrition in packaged meals, and no sense of community when not sitting down to a meal with others.
  - Increase the number of people who could be served, would disperse feeding programs throughout the county, and would eliminate the need for a facility.

## Topic Three

- **Explore the potential for increased meal services at new or existing sites.**
  - Increasing the provision of meals in the community with an array of suggestions of how that might be done
  - Need better communication and coordination among providers to minimize duplication and address unmet needs
  - Concern about meals being healthy and using locally grown fruits and vegetables was emphasized by several participants.

## Topic Four

- **How do we increase the participation levels and utilization of the food stamp program?**
  - Increase awareness and participation through improved educational efforts
  - Increase the number of sites (grocery stores, churches, etc. ) for the application process
  - Expanding the pilot “restaurant program” to include healthier options
  - Apply for some of the grants available through DCF.