

## Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)

<b>MEETING SUMMARY</b>	<p><b>Date:</b> February 27, 2025</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 9am – 11am</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Virtual (MS Teams)</p>
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Joey Lu</b> (Food Access, #1), <b>Nurhazila Mohamath</b> (Food Access, #3), <b>Tanika Thompson Bird</b> (Community, #5), <b>Angie S. Wood</b> (Public Health, #6), <b>Yamila Sterling</b> (Public Health, #7), <b>Dan Torres</b> (Early Learning, #10), <b>Laura Nicholson (Early Learning, #11)</b>
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<b>Barbara Baquero</b> (Food Access, #2) <b>Jen Moss</b> (Public Health, #8)
<b>VACANT SEATS:</b>	Community Representative, Position #4 Public Health, Position #9
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Bridget Igoe, Office of Sustainability & Environment Hannah Pascual, Office of Sustainability & Environment Robyn Kumar, Office of Sustainability & Environment Chris Iberle, Office of Sustainability & Environment Sabi Yoon, SMWORKING Group Representative Madeleine Vistica, SMWORKING Group Representative Sebrena Burr, SMWORKING Group Representative Chenell Coppock, SMWORKING Group Representative Sharon Siehl, SMWORKING Group Representative
<b>VOTES AND DECISIONS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAB approves latest version of the vision and values document.</li> </ul>

### Welcome and Introductions

T. Thompson Bird, CAB Co-Chair, opened the meeting, facilitated introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

### Fresh Bucks Presentation

Robyn Kumar, Fresh Bucks Program Manager, provided on updates from the program and on its recent expansion.

- [Please click here for access to the presentation slides.](#)
- Questions/Comments:
  - *Is the budget increase for only one year? Or are we hoping that it will continue, but just not sure?* The \$6M addition is one year and we hoping to sustain past it; may need to cut 9,000-10,000 households if it is not. This is in consideration of keeping the \$60/month benefit.
  - *When did it separate from SNAP?* When the need was determined.
  - *Is there room on waitlist still?* There is still room on the waitlist.
  - *What is the reasoning for \$60/month benefit?* The \$60/month benefit was established to combat rising food cost and inflation (previously remained the same since 2018 until recent increase).
  - *Can you please explain the separation of SNAP further?* Fresh Bucks was originally a part of the SNAP Match program, but when the separation occurred, we made our own

criteria to capture folks who may still have a need but don't fit the SNAP criteria to receive that benefit.

- *What would be the thought behind keeping the \$60 and removing 9,000+ families versus reducing the benefit back to \$40 if it means keeping a higher case load?* This is the current thinking at this stage to showcase the severity of funding cliff.

## Updates on CAB Work

- The CAB reviewed the addition of the “no supplantation clause” under the budget principles section of the vision and values document. After initial review and clarification that the SBT funds are to also be used to maintain programs in addition to expanding and creating them, the CAB voted unanimously to approve the latest version of [vision and values document](#).
- The [CAB website](#) was updated with additional materials.
- OSE will begin their recruitment process to fill current vacancies of the CAB:
  - Positions to be recruited for: #4, #8, #9
  - Positions being considered for reappointment: #10
- A was overview of the 2024 SBT Annual Report and the [Seattle Food Action Plan Dashboard](#) was provided.

## Discussion between CAB and SMWORKING Group

- CAB and SMWorking Group members re-introduced themselves again and participated in the reflection activity.
- SMWorking Group provided a presentation regarding their history, the process for developing recommendations, summary for recommended Priority Actions, and explained alignment with FEPP Levy. [See link for presentation slides](#).
  - Questions/Comments:
    - *What are the non-food constraints on meals and how is feedback regarding this included in the SM Working Group's work (ex. Lunchroom space is too small, not enough time to eat)?* The amount of time designated for lunch is considered a major non-food constraint. There are opportunities to align and see what can work to fix this, and ideal next steps are to have a transparent and meaningful conversation with adults to ensure that appropriate actions are taken. Additional considerations include have free meals which streamlines the cafeteria process as well as additional strategies that could be included. More information can be found here: [School Meals & Food Education Working Group](#)
    - *What is the argument for the City/State to not provide free lunch?* There are various arguments, but the primary concern is providing food to those who don't need these meals and the cost it would take to support this. These conversations happen more at the statewide/policy side and not at a SPS level, however we can create culture of eating to reduce that stigma.
  - The CAB and SMWorking Group participated in a discussion facilitated by OSE staff after providing some history and context for reference: [Healthy Food in Schools](#)
    - *When you look at the different coalitions or groups you work with, does anything come to mind to help work together or things you'd like to see with the work that is going on?*
      - The CAB expressed Interest in the SMWorking Group's engagement with the FEPP Levy and where they are in the process. The SMWorking

Group has connected with DEEL in the past and are waiting to receive feedback for implementation plan.

- Additional feedback from the SMWorking Group included examples of successful collaboration with the community.
- OSE can be contacted to help connections with other partners.
- *Is there anything you want to see in the future?*
  - The SM Working Group expressed that it would be helpful to see CAB recommendations and receive updates. They welcome the opportunity to be involved or answer any questions relating to CAB work in the future.

### **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

- D. Torres, CAB Co-Chair, thanked everyone for their participation and asked if anyone had closing comments before ending the meeting.
  - Closing Comments:
    - The SMWorking Group members mentioned individual ways they would be able collaborate with the CAB in the future.
    - Events and funding opportunities were shared:
      - [Prenatal to Five \(P-5\) Innovation Fund Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#)
      - [School Learning Garden Network - Winter Workshop](#) at Catherine-Blaine K-8: [RSVP](#)

**-END-**