Kane County Hunger Relief Network
October 7, 2026, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome –** Christine Birns

2. **KCHRN Hunger Action Month Update –** Dianna Strong

    i. Kane County Board adopted a proclamation recognizing September 2026 as Hunger Action Month.
    ii. KCHD developed a shared social media toolkit with Hunger Relief Network partners, including weekly educational content, suggested captions, and customizable graphics to promote food insecurity awareness and available resources.
    iii. A partner video featuring local organizations was produced and shared to highlight food insecurity and community efforts to address hunger.
    iv. Social media engagement included:
        - Partner video: 141 YouTube views and 480 Facebook views
        - Weekly Facebook Toolkit posts: 321-1348 views per post

3. **Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) Update –** Matt Carlson & Robert Desio

    i. **Food Distribution:** Matt shared that NIFB distributed 97.8 million pounds of food across its 13-county service area in FY2026, with approximately 750,000 miles travelled annually to support food distribution.
    ii. **Kane County Impact:** Approximately 12.9 million meals distributed in Kane County, serving an average of 61,404 residents monthly.
    iii. **SNAP Updates:** IL experienced an estimated 24% decline in SNAP enrollment since July 2024. NIFB is examining the impact of work requirements and other factors contributing to the decline.
    iv. **SNAP Funding and Advocacy:** Robert shared updates on state and federal SNAP funding changes, including the anticipated shift of benefit costs to IL beginning 2028, and ongoing advocacy efforts to preserve SNAP benefits.

4. **Kane County Workforce Development –** Adam Schauer

   i. **Program Overview:** Adam provided an overview of workNet Batavia and workforce development services available to residents in Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb counties.
   ii. **Services and Eligibility:** Services include career counseling, resume and interview preparation, job-search assistance, and employer connections. Programs support unemployed and underemployed individuals, low-income individuals, and young adults.
   iii. **Partner Referrals:** Organizations encouraged to connect residents with workNet for individualized assistance and explore opportunities to coordinate referrals.

5. **Partner Spotlight –** Summer Richards (Well Child Center)

   i. **Program Overview:** Summer provided an overview of Well Child's Center Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, which supports pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five.
   ii. **Eligibility:** Eligibility is based on participant category, residency, income and nutritional risk. Individuals receiving Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF are automatically income-eligible.
   iii. **Available Services:** WIC provides monthly healthy food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to community resources.
   iv. **Public Charge Update**: Summer discussed recent federal public charge changes and potential immigration-related concerns. WIC eligibility requirements remain unchanged.
   v. **Program Access:** Food benefits are provided through an electronic benefits card (EBT) for use at authorized retailers. Well Child Center operates 4 WIC clinic locations in Northern Kane County.

6. **Member Feedback & Next Meeting**

   i. Next meeting date: **January 13, 2027, 1:00pm – 2:00pm**
   ii. Link for member feedback: KCHRN Meeting Feedback Survey

7. **Meeting Adjourned**