

A top-down view of a white ceramic plate with a gold rim, containing a salad of arugula, cherry tomatoes, and a portion of pasta. The plate is set on a dark, vertically-grained wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Michigan Local Food Council Network

Peer Advisors List

2024

How to use the Peer Advising List:

The MLFCN Peer Advising is a program that allows council members with experience in particular areas to share their unique knowledge with other councils, advancing each council's work, further developing food systems leaders.

Steps to set up for advising:

1. **Review** the Peer Advisor list and **Choose** someone who has a skillset you're interested in learning more about to apply to your work.
2. **Send** an email invitation requesting Peer Advising.
3. **Scheduling**: You and the Peer advisor will schedule a time to chat.
4. **Share** your experience with our team on what you've learned.

If you need help with matchmaking please contact Jordan Lindsay (lindsa57@msu.edu).



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Center for
Regional Food Systems

Tina Swanton - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Food Access Collaboration Team of Saginaw, Bay Food Network**

I focus on a regional picture so my passion and interest is to help get a local council started or current council built out/strengthened so as a region we can start to connect the dots and make for a healthy local food ecosystem.

Detailed Expertise in:

- Community engagement
- Governance & organizational structure
- Member recruitment/retention
- Network building
- Council development
- Accessibility

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Community food assessments
- Developing mission, goals, and strategies
- Action Planning

Policy issue expertise in:

- Healthy Food Access
- Food waste reduction and recovery
- Anti-Hunger



Contact info:

swanton@saginawfoodclub.org

989-529-3275

Saginaw



Kristine Ranger - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): Huron Shores Regional Food Council and North Central FPC

My consulting services have focused on both food systems and food production systems, guiding NPO's and for-profit entities to team, leadership and organizational development solutions.

Contact info:

kristine@knowledgenavigators.com

517-974-5697

Gladwin, MI

Detailed Expertise in:

- Governance & organizational structure
- Member recruitment/retention
- Strategic Planning
- HR Systems
- Conduct of Meetings, effective meetings/roles, etc.
- Evaluating grants (USDA Reviewer)
- Relationship Management
- Conflict
- Grant Writing

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Developing mission goals and Strategies
- Action Planning
- Forecasting and Backcasting
- Board Orientation
- Hiring/Selection

Policy issue expertise in:

- Healthy Food Access
- Anti-hunger
- Economic Development

Peggy Vaughn Payne - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Northwest Initiative of Lansing and Capital Area Food Council**

I am an African-American female with over 40 years of experience working with small businesses/minority business development, local and county government, nonprofit organizations, and a stint in education. I also coached several new nonprofit leaders in Lansing with their organizational capacity building through the Power of We Consortium many years ago. I enjoy getting to know and work with individuals who want to improve their capacity to provide the best services to their respective audiences.



Detailed Expertise in:

- Advocacy and Policy Capacity Building
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Racial Equity
- Governance & organizational structure
- Member recruitment/retention
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Council development
- Network Building

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Developing mission, goals, and strategies
- Action Planning
- Working with racially, ethnically and/or economically diverse communities

Policy issue expertise in:

- Healthy Food Access
- Anti-Hunger
- Economic Development

Contact info:

peggy@nwlansing.org

517-885-0659

Lansing MI



Marissa Prizgint - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Washtenaw County Food Policy Council**

I have extensive experience in training and instructional design which could translate to coaching others to deliver effective presentations and develop and deliver impactful training. I have knack for technical writing, proofreading, and creating effective job aids. I also have a thorough understanding of Michigan's Open Meetings Act and experience influencing policy at the local level.

Contact info:

egan1md@gmail.com

734-845-8005

Whitmore Lake MI

Detailed Expertise in:

- Land Trust or Conservation
- Communications and Marketing

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Developing mission, goals, and strategies
- Action Planning

Policy issue expertise in:

- Land use planning

Jae Gerhart - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Washtenaw County Food Policy Council**

I have served on the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council for 7 years, and as the Washtenaw County Local Food Coordinator for 6 years. I think a lot about local food as a driver for community health and economic vitality. I am excited to empower leaders throughout Michigan to activate their local communities and stakeholders in local food work.

Detailed Expertise in:

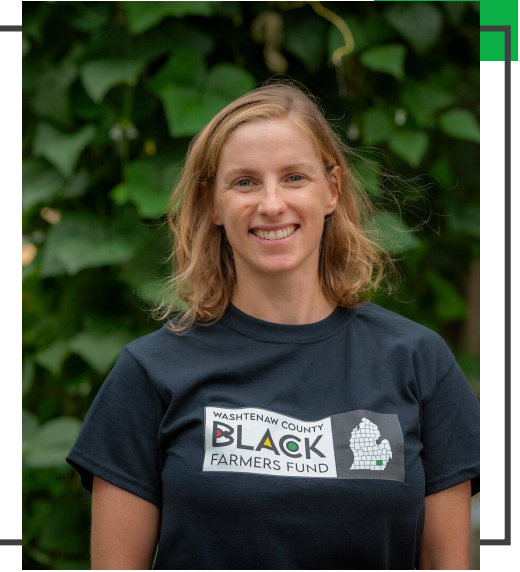
- Advocacy & Policy Capacity Building
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion
- Racial Equity
- Governance & organizational structure
- Network building
- Research and Data Collection
- Land Trust or Conservation

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Community food assessments
- Developing mission, goals, and strategies

Policy issue expertise in:

- Anti Hunger
- Land use planning
- Food Labor
- Economic Development
- Food Production



Contact info:

jae.gerhart@trinity-health.org

989-430-0926

Ann Arbor MI



Joe Bixler - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Thumb Food policy Council**

As an MSUE Educator, developed new food council in a five county region. Food policy goal orientation, food summits, food systems reviews in a community context

Contact info:

Jbixler4227@gmail.com

810-824-7621

Port Huron, MI

Policy issue expertise in:

- Healthy Food Access
- Anti-Hunger
- Economic Development
- Food Production

Detailed Expertise in:

- Advocacy & Policy capacity building
- Community Engagement,
- Food access, justice, and sovereignty
- Governance & organizational structure
- Member recruitment/retention,
- Network Building
- Strategic Planning
- Council Development

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- Policy brief writing
- Policy impact assessments
- Community food assessments
- Developing mission, goals, and strategies
- Action Planning
- Working with racially, ethnically and/or economically diverse communities
- Skill Inventory of your local food council or organization

Trevor Johnson - Peer Advisor

Organization Affiliations (s): **Oakland County Food Policy Council**

Community engagement and codesign are the first steps to a successful program. Using restorative and positive-sum practices, I can help your organization plan and act for future that works for everyone. My public health experience can also help facilitate transdisciplinary collaboration and movement building.

Detailed Expertise in:

- Community Engagement
- Food Access, Justice, & Sovereignty
- Member recruitment and retention
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Network Building
- Research & Data Collection
- Strategic Planning
- Council Development & Marketing
- Farm & Ecosystem Design

Food Systems Tool experience in:

- GIS Mapping
- Community Food Assessments
- Developing mission, goals, and strategies
- Action Planning
- Working with racially, ethnically, and/or economically diverse communities
- Skill inventory of your local FPC/org
- Local community research

Policy issue expertise in:

- Healthy Food Access
- Local Food Processing
- Food Labor & Food Production



Contact info:

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248-894-4059
Ferndale, MI