

Delaware Food Is Medicine

Improving Health, Strengthening Systems, Sustaining Communities

Agenda

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay
2. **FIM Updates** - Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay
3. **Delaware Council on Farm and Food Policy** -Nikko Brady
4. **FIM Working Group Chair Updates** - Michelle Axe, Drew Wilson, Allison Karpyn, Maggie Norris-Bent
5. **Public Comment**



Delaware Food is Medicine Definition

Long Definition

“Food is Medicine” (FIM) programs integrate food-based nutritional interventions into healthcare to prevent or treat disease and advance health equity. These health sector strategies prescribe medically tailored meals, groceries, and/or produce to support disease management and overall well-being, based on individual health conditions and social needs. In Delaware, FIM means leveraging our network of community health workers, collaborating with our community-based organizations, prioritizing our agricultural community, and incorporating a diverse range of animal proteins, fruits, vegetables, and value-added foods to promote health.

Short Definition

Food Is Medicine incorporates healthy food into patient care by prescribing a variety of nutritious foods, prioritizing Delaware grown options, to improve health outcomes.

November Meeting – Connecting Health & Food Systems: Payment Pathways for Food is Medicine

Erika Hanson and Heather Latino from the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School will offer an overview of the evolving Food is Medicine (FIM) landscape, highlighting how nutrition interventions are being integrated into health care delivery and payment throughout the U.S. The presentation will explore how national policy developments are impacting the field and provide up-to-date examples of state approaches and strategies to integrate nutrition interventions into health care while prioritizing local food sourcing and community-based organizations. Attendees will gain an understanding of the available opportunities to build state FIM programs that benefit patients, producers, and their communities.



Heather Latino, JD, is a Clinical Instructor at the Food Law and Policy Clinic at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. Since joining the Clinic in 2023, Heather has helped lead initiatives supporting community organizations, nonprofits, coalitions, and government entities—including local, state, and tribal partners—interested in developing or expanding Food is Medicine policies and programs. Her work centers on the critical connections between Food is Medicine initiatives and local food systems. Heather is a co-author of the recent report on *Maximizing the Impact of Nutrition Interventions with Local Food Procurement*, which outlines strategies for states to integrate local agriculture and other food systems values into Food is Medicine policies and initiatives. Heather has a Master of Laws in Food and Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law.



Erika Hanson, JD, is a Clinical Instructor at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation and a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School where she works with partners and students to advance innovative health care models. Erika primarily focuses on legal and policy implementation matters concerning health care financing and delivery of services that address the social determinants of health, reproductive justice, and the design of cash payment as treatment pilots for seriously ill patients and their families. Prior to joining Harvard, Erika was a Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York City where she represented clients, conducted class action litigation, and led policy advocacy on a wide range of health law issues, and she was a Georgetown Women's Law & Public Policy Fellow and a Reproductive Rights & Health Legal Fellow at the National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C. She is a licensed member of the New York State bar.

Delaware Council on Farm and Food Policy

Council Update - Nikko Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff for Climate, Food Systems, and Planning, Office of the Governor Matt Meyer

**Delaware Council
on Farm and Food Policy**



Updates from Workgroup Chairs

Program Implementation - Maggie Norris-Bent, Chief External Affairs & Communications Officer, Westside Family Health

Funding, Policy, Sustainability - Co-Chairs: Michelle Axe, Farm and Food Policy Council Member and Manager, Food is Medicine, Christiana Care **and** Andrew Wilson, Division Director, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance

Data, Research, Evaluation- Allison Karpyn, Co-Director of the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy and Professor of the Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Public Comment