

Questions for the Grassroots Solutions to Corporate Power 2016 Workshops
Saving The Environment From Corporate Destruction
Health & Food April 25

1. Should we have a right to health care?

Yes

UN Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Nixon, 1972 Health Strategy, equal access to all for healthcare

All industrialized nations have national health care except the US

Corporations fought National healthcare

Medicare for all

Regulatory system unresponsive to new science

Local care – Cape Care

Sonoma County Child health care

2. What role should the market play in health care?

Harvard Researchers

“health care too precious, intimate and corruptible to entrust to the market.”

Long been a debate.

Truman almost passed national healthcare

60 years ago SCOTUS declared that health care is a business

Medicare opened up public Healthcare to market forces

Market allows private institutions to skim of the most lucrative clients & procedures

Biggest lobbyist sector in DC

FDA captive of the drug industry

3. Does it make sense to create national single payer health care state by state?

Worked in Canada

Rational distribution of medical personnel & infrastructure

Use of generic drugs

Per person costs would drop by 57%

Single payer would promote health not sickness

4. What impact has Affordable Care Act made to this movement?

Dissipated the drive?

Govt \$ subsidizing private healthcare

& medical insurance industry

5. How powerful are insurance companies in establishing public policy around health?

- Lobbying chart
- Funds only allopathic medicine
 - Does not allow for alternative medical strategies
- Stopped Clinton Health care
- Killed CA healthcare
- Central architect of ACA

6. How does the expense of health care in the US compare with other countries?

- US is twice the median level of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations.
- Americans do not fill out prescriptions, fail to visit doctor delay tests & treatments
- American pay 35% more for their drugs than other people in industrialized world

7. How can we deal with all the corporate produced chemicals we are exposed to?

- Research local chemical exposures
- Demand that all chemicals be tested
- Make poisoning of the planet a compelling issue

8. What is the connection between Congress, Lobbyists and the Health Care industry?

- Revolving door between congress, regulatory agencies and health care industry
 - Bill Gradison ranking Republican on House ways & means commtee
 - Became head of Health Insurance Association of America HIAA
 - Now Health Insurance Plans of America –
 - \$9 million in lobbying
 - \$342,000 in campaign contributions
 - HIAA major combatant to Clinton health plans
 - Billy Tauzin Congressman who designed Medicare prescription drug bill
 - Head of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

9. What is the precautionary principle and how can it help us?

- Corporations have no right to harm us
- Passed in Mendocino county
- Chemicals need to be tested so we can make safe public policy
- Tolerable amount of poisons is not precautionary

10. What are some of the problems with corporate agriculture?

- Mass confine, slaughter & production
- Campylobacter ,Salmonella in chickens
- Pigs hoof & Mouth Disease in S. Korea
 - H5N1 bird flu
- Pesticides on GMO Crops leads to Autism
- Pollution causing dead zones in Gulf of Mexico

Patenting life
Seeds
GMO crops
Destroying small farmers across the planet –
busting up homes & communities
creating a global migrant work force
Decreased safety & health of food
Destruction of soil quality

11. How have corporations used the regulatory agencies to discourage the local food industry?

Food Safety Modernization Act.
Farmers taken away in handcuffs
Farmageddon
Expensive food safety rules are a barrier to entry for small farmers

12. What are the corporate connections to the regulatory agencies?

Campaign contributions
Revolving door through congress
Corporate, Regulatory agency revolving door
John Sheehan
-No one should drink raw milk

13. What are the benefits of local food production?

Builds Community
Social embeddedness of market relationships
Non market relationships create economic relationships and visa versa
Farmers markets
Margaret Thatcher “there is no such thing as society, only individuals
Provides local employment
Boosts the local economy
Closed loop farming
More efficient
Builds the soil
Less Greenhouse gasses
Unpasteurized milk reduces asthma
Corporations can not co-opt local

14. Should small farmers be exempt from the regulations meant to regulate agribusiness?

Yes
The customer/ farmer relationship is a strong enough regulator

15. What is the Local Food & Community Self-Governance Ordinance (LFCSGO)?

Developed in Maine to protect small farmers and their customers

Local law, spreading horizontally and moving up to state & federal level
Empowering for local citizens
Stimulate state economy
Attracts youth to the state
Reduces bureaucratic barriers to business
Challenges corporate power
Truth & respect between members of a community
Protects peoples' relationships and their own judgement
Protects social networks

16. Should we promote a LFCSGO for Mendocino County?

CRNMC
Charter County First

17. What is the importance of Home Rule?

Allows local govts to pass laws that deal with issues not claimed by the state & Feds
County Charter is Home Rule
Necessary to have Home Rule to pass LF&CSGO

18. What is rights-based organizing?

LF&CSGO
Measuer S
Established Community Bill of Rights
CELDF
We have the right to protect community health, safety, environment and resources
Removing power from power

19. Is the consumer/farmer relationship able to ensure healthy food?

Consumer is the real regulator
Small community can react fast
Subsidiarity

20. Should we have a right to eat what we want?

Govt says we do not have the right to eat
Should the government protect us from ourselves
Are corporations using food safety to create barriers to entry for competitors

21. Should access to healthy food be a human right?

Hunger vs poverty
We have enough to feed 10 billion
Out of world population of 7 billion, 1 billion are hungry
Waste & distribution
China in Africa
Right to feed ourselves
Education & resources need to go to farmers
70% of farmers are women
UN Declaration of Human Rights Article 25