

Vallejo summit to address food equity

By **Lanz Christian Bañes***Times-Herald staff writer/*

POSTED: 04/02/2014 12:59:46 AM PDT

Vallejo will host a summit later this month to address food security and food equity.

"We are going to look at definitions about food security and food equity. We're going to have maps, we're going to identify where people are obtaining food, and how much and how often," said Kari Rader, program director for Community Action Partnership Solano.

CAP Solano is one of several agencies, including First 5 Solano, the United Way of the Bay Area and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, who for the last few years have been holding meetings around combating poverty.

There have been seven of these summits so far, with the last on Nov. 13.

The April 16 meeting will involve analyzing where both homeless people and low-income families get their food, and the overall effectiveness of the system in Vallejo.

In 2011, the federal government designed three areas in South Vallejo as "food deserts," meaning residents there have low access to supermarkets or grocery stores.

"We're going to talk about what strengths we have in Vallejo, and what the challenges are. For example, the location we're having the meeting is very remote and one of the only places that serves food in that area," Rader said, of North Bay Four Square Church in eastern Vallejo.

What happens after the meeting, including potentially developing or modifying policies, will depend on those who attend, Rader said.

The Vallejo Hunger Summit meets from 1 to 4 p.m. April 16 at North Bay Four Square Church, 330 Avian Drive. For details, call Rader at 422-9910 or Laura Escobar of the United Way of the Bay Area at (415) 808-4380. The summit is open to the public.

Contact Lanz Christian Bañes at (707) 553-6833 or lbanes@timesheraldonline.com. Follow him on Twitter @LanzCBanes.