

Alaska Food Coalition
September Teleconference
10/16/2010

Participants

Lori Rounds, Mid Valley Seniors
Ethel Breese, Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center
Brehan Kohl, AK DEC Food Safety
Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition
Gail Berger, Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center
Monica Dalhberg, Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center
Abby Huggins, Nome Community Food Bank
AnnaBell Stevens, Anchorage United Way
Tracey Burke, UAA School of Social Work
Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
Sara Clark, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Central
Jo Dawson, AK EED Child Nutrition
Jordan Lewis, Bristol Bay Elders Action Group
Rebecca Steadman, Food Bank of Valdez
Richard Tubbs, Palmer Senior Center
Rachel Greenberg, Palmer Senior Center
Julia Sargent, UAF, Cooperative Extension Services, Anchorage
Paul Watson, Alaska Food Coalition Food Stamp Outreach
Lee Sanger, Nikiski Senior Center
Chef Clay Randolph, Wasilla Senior Center
Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Leslie David, Minto Senior Center
Linda Bond, St. Francis House
Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
Dana Paperman, Seward Senior Center
Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation

Welcome

Anna Bell Stevens, Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) Executive Committee Secretary
AnnaBell thanked everyone for calling in today, this may be the largest number of callers AFC has ever had. (26 participants)

Member Highlight

Ethel Breese, (foodsvc@mtaonline.net) Food Service Director, Chugiak Eagle River Senior Center
The Chugiak Eagle River Senior Center has been serving the Chugiak-Eagle River community since 1975. They have 63 independent apartments and 23 assisted-living apartments. There is a waiting list for the independent apartments, but they do have some assisted available. They also have an adult program for seniors to spend the day. The center serves between 5500 and 6000 meals a month; they have the capacity to serve 150 congregate meals per day, M-F, and currently deliver 40 – 50 home-bound meals.

In July the Center started distributing USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) boxes. They provide 37 senior boxes of food per month currently. The Center also distributes senior farmers market program coupons for fruits and vegetables, 70 coupons were distributed this summer. They take seniors

to a local farm where they can pick their own food and use the coupons. The Center raises money through grants and events. This year they sponsored a "Death by Chocolate" fundraiser. The Food Service Department also raises money through catering special events and high school sports team dinners. They will be open on Christmas Day serving dinner to anyone who stops by. The Center believes in giving back to the community.

Guest Presentation

Tracey Burke, PhD, MSW
Associate Professor, School of Social Work
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Tracey has worked on many different projects with Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) and the Alaska Food Coalition (AFC). Tracey teaches Service Learning, mostly for social work and early childhood education students. Shawn Powers, former FBA Director of Advocacy connected with Tracey in 2004; he needed volunteers for the 2005 Hunger Study. This past year, the relationship with FBA and AFC has grown with opportunities for more students. Tracey likes to give students opportunities to work in the community, a chance to discover the patterns of who is suffering, who is hungry. Students are required to do hunger related tasks such as working a shift at FBA, participate in Food Stamp Outreach and one shift serving people. Last year was the first year the class participated in a Food Stamp Challenge (feeding yourself for one week on the small amount of money you would get through food stamps). It was very eye opening for the students. Students are usually very busy and go for 'quick' items, not always the most nutritional. Amada Arredondo, a student from last year has been instrumental in getting a campus-wide Food Stamp challenge this year; it starts September 26 and will be promoted in the campus paper. Tracey has found that some students who take the challenge discover that they actually qualify for Food Stamps. Tracey will be giving us an update on the Challenge later this fall.

AFC Reports: 2009 Census Data

2009 Census data was released today showing the U.S. poverty rate climbed to 14.3 percent, the highest level since 1994, from 13.2 percent in 2008. The poverty line in the U.S. was \$10,830 for a single person and \$22,050 for a family of four (higher in Alaska). Vanessa noted that equates to \$10.20 an hour wage. The number of residents without health insurance climbed to 51 million, from 46 million in 2008. Data on individual states will be available later this month. Vanessa will send out Alaska information when it becomes available.

AFC Reports: Food Stamp Outreach

Paul Watson has visited 11 agencies this month and plans to visit 9 more. Agencies are experiencing increases in clients, more homeless, layoffs, evictions and people from out of state. He has been visiting agencies in Anchorage, Eagle River and Mat-Su. Alaska Food Coalition plans to take Food Stamp Outreach to more communities in the near future. Please let us know if you would like us to conduct Food Stamp Outreach in your community.

Wasilla Area Seniors Video Project

Chef Clay Randolph, nutritionmanager@alaskaseniors.com 907-376-3104 x 8663

National Meals on Wheels CEO/President Enid Borden is coming to Alaska to assist Wasilla Area Seniors with a video project. The project will document the difficulties of delivering homebound meals in areas outside the larger communities, especially in rural Alaska. Chef Clay would like to include senior centers that deliver meals in areas that are outside south central, something up north and/or on the coast. The film crew will be here the second week in November, so we have a short time to prepare. Wasilla Area Seniors will host a reception dinner in Wasilla for Ms. Borden; it will be an opportunity to learn more about the Meals on Wheels program and how to join. Meals on Wheels would like to see a chapter started in Alaska. Chef Clay mentioned having a closing reception hosted by the last agency highlighted on the video tour.

Vanessa will schedule a teleconference of the Alaska Food Coalition Senior Workgroup to discuss details of the video next Thursday, September 23 at 2:30 – 3:15. Call In: 1-866-316-1519 code: 713725. She will send out an email reminder to the AFC list and any other interested agencies. Please feel free to share the email with any interested parties.

Closing

Heather Harris, AFC President. Thanks all, please remember to visit the Food Bank of Alaska website <http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/> for Hunger Action Month. Fill in the fields to pledge to take action against hunger this September. The local food bank that gets the most pledges by population percentage will get a truckload of food.