

June 17, 2010
Alaska Food Coalition June 2010 Teleconference Minutes
2:30 – 3:00 pm

Participants

Gus Marx, Juneau Youth Services
Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition
Paul Watson, Alaska Food Coalition
Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation/POWER
Jo Dawson, State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Darren B. Copper River Native Association
Margaret Duggan, Municipality of Anchorage WIC Office
Darry Otness, Fairbanks Community Food Bank

Welcome

Heather Harris, AFC President

Guest Presentation: Darry Otness, USDA Commodity Program Manager, Fairbanks Community Food Bank

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank (FCFB) distributes USDA CSFP (Commodities Supplemental Food Program) boxes to new moms up to one year postpartum, children from birth to 6 years, and seniors over 60 who are at or below the CSFP income guidelines. You cannot participate in WIC and CSFP at the same time. When your child graduates from WIC at age 5, he or she can be on CSFP for another year, up to age 6. After age 6 they can participate in the School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program. Postpartum women who go off WIC at 6 months can be on CSFP for another six months. One box is issued for each participant. Participation is based on family income. For women and children income must be 185% of the poverty level. For a family of one the limit is \$25,021 per year. For seniors it's 130%, \$17,589 per year for a family of one. Darry orders the food and volunteers assemble boxes twice a month. Other organizations in Interior Alaska distribute boxes they get from FCFB. FCFB also ships out to 25 different villages, including Fort Yukon and Arctic Village. These boxes are pre-packed, and mailed through the United States Postal Service. Darry works closely with staff at the village councils. Participants can also pick up boxes directly at FCFB; distribution is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants have to certify every 6 months, they can do this through Public Assistance or WIC offices, and authorized organizations. In the villages she works with, you can sign up and get certified for the CSFP program at the village council office. Darry has several new villages who want to participate; Fairbanks Community Food Bank has been authorized to add 150 people to their distribution list. If you would like additional information, contact Darry at: 907-374-0555, darry@fairbanksfoodbank.org

Additionally, there are several locations in Anchorage, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Matsu Valley that distribute CSFP. Please call Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage at 907-272-3663 for a location closest to you.

Introduction: Paul Watson, Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator

Paul joined the staff at the Alaska Food Coalition June 14. He has been doing developmental disability work in Alaska villages since 2001; first in Barrow and the surrounding villages and most recently with Yukon Kuskokwim Health Center serving 56 villages in the Bethel region. Previously, Paul worked for the Social Security Administration and is familiar with several federal programs. Paul is looking forward to doing Food Stamp Outreach, and can be reached at 907-222-3119 email:

foodstamps@foodbankofalaska.org

AFC 2011 Mini-Grants

AFC will send out a call for proposals in early July. Grant proposals will need to be turned in by the end of September. Vanessa anticipates the grants will be \$1,000 each this year. She also plans to host a teleconference to review the grant criteria featuring AFC members who have written successful AFC grants. To apply for a mini-grant, you must be an AFC member and cannot serve on the grant review committee. Vanessa is recruiting AFC members to participate on the grant selection committee. Vanessa hopes to have representatives from around the state serving on the committee. If you are interested in serving on the review committee, or would like to participate in the grant proposal review teleconference, please contact Vanessa at afc@foodbankofalaska.org 907-222-3103.

2011 AFC Legislative Agenda

Governor Parnell did not sign the Denali Kid Care Bill, which was an AFC 2010 Priority. The AFC 2011 legislative priorities are 1) State funding for free and reduced school meals and 2) State funding to food purchases and the cost of transportation. Vanessa will be asking coalition members for suggestions on how to approach decision makers about state funding for food and transportation.

Closing

Heather Harris: Vanessa asked how the Summer Food Service Program site was going at POWER; this is their first year as a summer food site. Heather mentioned the challenges of trying to figure out how many kids are coming through (POWER is located at the Downtown Anchorage Transit Center) and how to store food in a very small area. If anyone wants to share program challenges with Heather, she can be reached at: hharris@aypfalaska.org

Next Call: Thursday, July 15