



**2008 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
MEETING ROOM
(419 6th Street)
JUNEAU, ALASKA
FEBRUARY 11 - 12, 2008**

MINUTES

Monday, February 11th (11 am - 3 pm)

Attendees

Mike Rochin (New Hope on the Last Frontier)
Dana Paperman (Seward Senior Center)
Kimberly Stryker (Alaska DEC, Division of Environmental Health Food Safety)
Rick Driscoe (Juneau Youth Services)
Nick Timurphy (Bristol Bay Native Regional Association Food Bank)
Laura Skiba (North Star United Methodist Church)
Linda Swarner (Kenai Peninsula Food Bank)
Susannah Morgan (Food Bank of Alaska)
Ruth Riley-Elvsaa (Food Bank of Alaska)
Kerri Burrows (Alaska Food Coalition)
Heather Gallitian-Baker (Blood n Fire Ministries and Wasilla Area Seniors)
Tamara Olsen (Lutheran Social Services)
Irene Lee (Catholic Social Services)
Captain Jessyca Elgart (The Salvation Army)
AnnaBell Stevens (United Way)
Jo Dawson (Alaska DEED, Child Nutrition Services)

Welcome, Linda Swarner, President

A. 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Fundraising: Best Practices for Anti-Hunger Agencies

Merri Mike Adams, scheduled presenter, was unable to attend because of illness. In her place, Kerri lead the group on an interesting discussion about where each agency stood in the life of successful fundraising. Members shared both good

and bad fundraising experiences. The group was able to take home some information that will help them further assess where they need to be focusing their attention next to process effective fundraising practices.

B. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Alaska Food Coalition Business (Teleconferenced)

1. Member Updates

- a. Kim Stryker, DEC – If you ever have any questions regarding food safety in your organizations, please call! It is still free to get food worker cards.
- b. Mike Rochin, New Hope on the Last Frontier – New Hope is currently serving about 250 families a month and giving out 4,000 – 6,000 lbs of food every week. They run a client choice food pantry and are also a Mobile Food Pantry site.
- c. AnnaBell Stevens, United Way – AnnaBell brought brochures for two United Way sponsored programs: Earned Income Tax Credit and Alaska 211. Kerri noted that people can also check out the website www.alaska211.org for information on the new service. Call 800-478-2221 if you can't get through on 211 (rural Alaska primarily)
- d. Tamara Olsen, Lutheran Social Services – LSS is serving more than 700 families a month and currently does donated food, TEFAP and CSFP.
- e. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska – FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) launched in September and Food Stamp Outreach launched in December.
- f. Heather Gallitian-Baker, Blood n Fire and Wasilla Area Seniors – Blood n Fire is a compassionate ministry that provides food, clothing, benevolent funds for those in need. The organization serves all of Mat-Su but focuses on Meadow Lakes to Houston/Willow. Wasilla Seniors has a meal site and is serving lunch every day.
- g. Laura Skiba, North Star United Methodist Church – North Star just turned over a breakfast program to the state. After six weeks, the state is unsure whether the program will continue. NSUMC ran the program for the previous 8 school years. There is worry among former volunteers with the program that the state won't provide to students as they did. They are also hoping to open up a soup kitchen in the near future.
- h. Jo Dawson, State of AK Child Nutrition Services – Outreach for Summer Food Service Program is just beginning. New program to bring fresh fruit and veggies for schools with low-income kids. The program will start next year and will be an excellent outlet for rural areas to get fresh produce. The milk waiver is now in effect for those rural schools in which getting fresh milk to the site would not be financially feasible.
- i. Irene Lee, Catholic Social Services – St. Francis House is currently handing out more than 450,000 lbs. of food each year. The organization has a new director and is always looking for more ways to stretch their resources.
- j. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank – The KPFB does commodities distribution, runs a soup kitchen that serves a daily lunch and serves 60 agencies. They distribute 1 million pounds of food each year. They just received a federal appropriation for expansion.

- k. Nick Timurphy, Bristol Bay Regional Native Association Food Bank – BBNA Food Bank is currently serving 16 villages and Nick has a roster of approximately 100 clients. As a tribal organization, only TEFAP foods are being distributed currently.
- l. Dana Paperman, Seward Senior Center - The SSC serves lunch Monday –Friday. They also assist local organizations such as Boys and Girls Club and He Will Provide Food Pantry as requested.
- m. Jessyca Elgart, Salvation Army Family Emergency Services – The Salvation Army has just moved into a new, smaller, but much more attractive facility. The help approximately 500 families a month with both prescription and food assistance.
- n. Rick Driscoe, Juneau Youth Services – no update

2. Mini-Grants

- a. Twelve mini-grants were awarded this year for a total of \$38,000. In the next grant cycle, we hope to continue the grant with Rasmuson for a \$20,000 match of the current funds (\$10,000) provided by the AFC .
- b. Scope: Currently the mini-grants are for physical capacity only. The members voted that they would like to expand these grants to include opportunities for organizational development e.g. The Foraker Group membership/training opportunities, and a more defined idea of physical capacity. Kerri noted that several innovative projects were dismissed by reviewers because they didn't fall under the traditional definition of capacity building. A better education for reviewers this year will be important in getting innovative projects funded.
- c. The members also agreed to limit the grants to organizations that hold a membership with the Alaska Food Coalition. Not only will this help with membership participation and retention, but will discourage applications from potentially unsustainable organizations.

3. Treasurer's Report

Alaska Food Coalition
Treasurer's Report
as of January 28, 2008

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining in Budget
Personnel Services	23,420	45,000	21,580
Travel	3,784	5,000	1,216
Supplies	589	1,000	411
Other	13,844	16,000	2,156
Total	41,636	67,000	25,364

FY09 Proposed Budget	
Personnel Services	45,000
Travel	5,000
Supplies	1,000
Other	
Minigrants	10,000
Website updates	3,000
Educational materials	3,000
Total	67,000

The FY09 budget was approved by members.

4. Plan for FY09

a. FY08 Accomplishments and Proposed FY09 Goals and Objectives

FY 2008 Goals

1. Submit a large grant for capital improvements based on information collected by the capacity-building project. This involves completion of the final analysis of community needs and identifying grant opportunities.
2. Develop the educational outreach program to further the Alaska Food Coalition's mission 'to educate policy makers about Alaskan food needs'. The AFC Manager will regularly contact legislators and opinion makers with information on hunger and anti-hunger efforts. The information will include results from informal surveys of clients.
3. Distribute mini-grants to food programs throughout the state to improve their ability to distribute food to hungry Alaskans.
4. Maintain the Alaska Food Coalition network, through teleconferences and annual meetings.
5. Strengthen the Coalition by adding more members from the non-profit and state sectors and by approaching a broad spectrum of opinion-makers, politicians and representatives from the food retail industry.

FY 2008 Accomplishments

1. *Capacity-building Project*

- Project scaled down based on data analysis and funding sources.
- Agencies identified for coordinated capital request.
- Data mapping ongoing.

2. *Educational Outreach Program*

- Policy Committee formed and directed support of School Breakfast Initiative in conjunction with Food Bank of Alaska and Alaska School Nutrition Association.
- Legislative update sent 1/2/08

3. *Mini-Grants*

- 12 grants distributed
- Average grant amount: \$3,115
- 6 grants given to member organizations
- 8 grants given to organizations outside of Anchorage
- \$20,000 grant from Rasmuson to supplement funds from AFC
- Total of \$38,000

4. *Alaska Food Coalition Meetings*

- Teleconferences held on 9/26/07 and 1/25/08
- Executive Committee meetings held 9/18/07 and 1/16/08

5. *Membership*

- 68 members for FY08, an increase of 7 members from last year.
- 50 Non-profit, 7 government agencies, 2 individuals and 9 tribal organizations
- Membership pitches made in FY 2008 through: mail drive to all food programs in Alaska (8/07), e-mails, phone calls, site visits, online, flyers.

FY 2009 Proposed Goals

- Coordinate a pilot project for a coordinated capital request grant for selected member agencies. If successful, subsequent coordinated requests could be submitted for funding.
- Take hard data from Capacity Building Project and create maps with Google Earth that can be used for advocacy and fundraising for anti-hunger agencies throughout the state.
- Distinguish the standards of service for Alaska's anti-hunger agencies, identify geographic gaps in service and set priorities for addressing the service needs across the state.
- Participate in the 2009 Hunger Study in conjunction with America's Second Harvest, which includes conducting 300 consumer interviews statewide, as well as collecting over 300 agency surveys. Survey data will provide information to help understand hunger and food insecurity. The information will also help draft policy changes as well as help secure funding for Alaska's food banks and the Second Harvest organization.
- Continue working with Food Bank of Alaska and Alaska School Nutrition Association on the School Breakfast Initiative. Regularly contact legislators regarding anti-hunger efforts throughout the state.
- Distribute mini-grants to food programs throughout the state to improve their ability to distribute to hungry Alaskans. Continue to increase the funding for the mini-grant program and research impact of grants on funded organizations.
- Maintain the Alaska Food Coalition network through monthly teleconferences and an annual meeting. Strengthen the coalition by coordinating with agencies on an individual basis and offering tangible services to connect them to the coalition and its goals and objectives.
- Offer organizational development opportunities to members that include, but not limited to, information on how their organization can get more food to more people, raise more money, be organizationally effective and make a

difference in the lives of their clients by advocating for change on the local, state and national level.

The goals and objectives for FY09 were approved by the members.

b. Election of Officers

The following candidates were presented to the membership:

President: Andrea Thistle
Vice-President: Irene Lee
Secretary: Dana Paperman
Treasurer: Susannah Morgan

With only one nominee for each position, ballots were filled out for formality and the nominees accepted an office with the AFC for the following year.

c. Other business, concerns or issues

With no other concerns or issues, the meeting was adjourned at 3 pm by Linda Swarner, president.

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Hill Visits

Tuesday, February 12th (9:00am – 4:00pm)

9:00 am - 10:00 am *School Breakfast with Policy Makers and Presentation of the School Breakfast Report, Fahrenkamp Room, Capitol Building*

1. Sponsored by Sen. Johnny Ellis and Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

10:30 am – 12:00 pm *Hill Visits and Floor Introductions*

1:00 - 2:00 pm *Legislative Question & Answer*

1. Representative Gabrielle LeDoux (R)
2. Senator Johnny Ellis (D)

Sen. Ellis was unable to attend. Rep. Lindsey Holmes attended in his place. Both Rep. LeDoux and Rep. Holmes agreed that little would be gained from them discussing the importance of hunger issues to the group as the group could probably speak more effectively about it than they could. What the two Representatives did have to offer is insight into how to get your message to legislators. Main ideas from their presentation:

- Use bullet points to present information. Always have the background research, but don't present it until you have legislators interested. Start big picture!
- Constituent is a magic word. Legislators drop (almost) everything to talk to a constituent. When making personal visits, match constituents with legislators as often as possible.

- Be creative when trying to get the attention of legislators. At the very least, don't use white paper. Three dimensional invitations don't get lost on a desk. Food is always a good way to get the attention of legislators and staffers.
- Don't dismiss the importance of staff members. An energized staff member can get an issue on the desk of a legislator far more often than any lobbyist.
- When sending letters or emails, personalize them. This means you have to send individual emails instead of group emails and stay away from form letters. Try and get constituents to write their own letters. If that is not possible, come up with as many sample letters as possible and spread out to constituents. If a legislator gets 10 letters that are exactly the same except for the signature, they don't put much weight to the effort.
- Use the interim session to your advantage. While legislators are in their districts, they have a lot more time to devote to issues.
- If you invite a legislator to an event and you don't get a response, try again. It takes at least three attempts to get your message across.

2:00 – 3:30 pm *Legislative Debrief - Future Directions*

A debrief regarding the meeting, recent legislative actions and the future of the coalition was moderated by Susannah Morgan. Main points of the discussion:

- The Legislative Q&A was much more effective this year. The ins and outs of working with legislators was very informative.
- The AFC needs to have a presence in Juneau before the Annual Meeting. Possibly two weeks before the event, we need to have one person in Juneau knocking on doors.
- A legislative sponsor for the presentation is a necessity.
- The coalition members would like to visit a Juneau member's facility while in town, e.g. The Glory Hole.
- If having a breakfast, start it at 7:30 am and have the presentation at 8 am Try and get the legislators before they get their day going.
- The buttons were really good and a necessity in getting the message out.
- Floor introductions should be on Monday, not Tuesday. M/W/F are guaranteed sessions.
- Members attending should show up on Sunday night for a pre-conference informal dinner where we can all get on the same page with the issue.
- Members agreed that travel scholarships need to be sent out earlier next year. They also agreed that it was fair to require all scholarship recipients to meet with their legislators regarding the AFC issues while in Juneau.
- Members agreed that travel scholarships should only be granted to dues-paying organizations (not associate or individual members). Members were also in agreement on the upcoming changes for membership dues. The membership status will change and the only organizations that will be eligible for associate membership will be those that are not providing direct anti-hunger services (e.g. state offices, transportation companies, coalition networks). This will allow for more organizations to apply for both mini-grants and travel scholarships.

- The AFC Manager needs to coordinate free lodging options (e.g. The Salvation Army apartment, purchasing airline miles instead of tickets)
- Tag-teaming meetings helps members feel more comfortable.
- Members that aren't attending meetings should be contacted to see how we can get them more involved. Attending members agreed to contact non-participating members to see what needs to happen to increase participation. This project will be facilitated by the AFC Manager.
- AFC Manager needs to connect members with school nurses in their area to help get legislators into the schools so they can see the issues with school breakfast.
- Instead of quarterly teleconferences, monthly meetings would keep members more involved. The meetings can be held at Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) but should be limited to 30 minutes.
- Planning for the Annual Meeting should start a few months earlier than it has in the past. This will give more time to get better rates for travel and/or raise money for travel.
- All attendees should get nametags with the AFC logo, their name and the position at their organization.

Meeting Moderator: Susannah Morgan, Alaska Food Coalition Treasurer

Meeting Secretary: Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition Manager