

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 2007, 10 AM – 11 AM HOSTED BY FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

Members Present

President, Linda Swarner
Vice-President, Nick Timurphy
Secretary, Sophia Gomma
Treasurer, Susannah Morgan
Manager, Henryk Szadziewski

1. Annual Member Meeting – Debrief

Successes and suggested improvements

- Advocacy training before going to Juneau provided members with the tools to communicate their message more effectively.
- Participation was impressive – especially from ‘new faces’.
- The meeting room needs to be closer to the Capitol Building – allowing easier access for members, state officials and legislators.
- The sessions were somewhat disjointed. Future meetings need to focus on one topic.
- The coalition event should move to the Capitol Building under the sponsorship of a legislator. This would encourage greater participation. Henry will look into how far out this should be arranged.
- Session coordination between officers was awkward. There needed to be smoother hand offs if officers were not going to be present at a particular session. The officers agreed on a leadership breakfast the first day of the meeting to coordinate schedules and go through the agenda.
- The meeting should begin with a member check-in. This would allow for members to get to know more about each other from the beginning of the two days as well as learn about their concerns. In addition, an agency spotlight session would also provide in-depth information on one or two agencies.
- A booklet of information and/or online document on each member agency would also provide information on member agencies. This could be available as a resource for members before going to Juneau or throughout the year.

- The coalition's legislative agenda is a concern. The Hunger Commission needed to be fleshed out. The Policy Committee has been created to address this issue and will meet for the first time in April.

Planning for next year – a timeframe, subject matter, possible speakers and any other thoughts for FY 08

- Advocacy training for all members next year was judged as unnecessary. However, new members may benefit from a session of effective lobbying. The manager will look into online trainings or Foraker sessions on advocacy.
- Committee members agreed that February was a good time to hold the Annual Member Meeting in Juneau. It was also decided that developing a theme for the FY 2008 Annual Member Meeting would be on-going.

2. Quarterly Teleconference – May

Wednesday, May 30 from 9 am – 10 am was fixed as the time and date of the fiscal year's last member teleconference. Items for the agenda included:

- An update on state legislation
- A Farm Bill update
- Coalition research update
- Ask members for ideas on a theme for the Annual Member Meeting
- A report from the Policy Committee

3. Increasing Member Participation – Ideas

Two areas for improving member participation were identified; attendance at teleconferences and the submission of food distribution data for the quarterly update to legislators and opinion-makers. These ideas were discussed:

- Recognition for agencies sending in information on food distribution. This could be by e-mail and/or online.
- Prizes for people who submit all information – a draw for a travel scholarship?
- Offer services to member agencies, especially ones which address daily concerns. A suggestion is to have Food Bank of Alaska's Food Pantry coordinator extend sustainability trainings to coalition members. Agency spotlights also work in this regard as an opportunity for a teachable moment.
- Brief updates from the manager on coalition business as well as innovative or interesting ideas emerging from the charitable food distribution network.
- Ideas which were thought not ready to introduce at the present time included defining the expectations of member agencies and the use of the website to create a forum for discussing on-going coalition business.

4. Policies and Procedures – Do we need to have them?

The Executive Committee members and manager agreed that at this stage in the coalition's organizational life written policies and procedures were not necessary. Sophia suggested the manager record the duties of the position. This has already been done. *Meeting was adjourned at 11 am by President, Linda Swarner.*