

# THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



## Alaska Food Coalition Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, 8 September, 2005 2:00pm-3:00pm at the Food Bank of Alaska

### Members Present

Vice-President, Jim Crockett, Treasurer, Susannah Morgan, and Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) Coordinator, Henryk Szadziwski, were present at the Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) in Anchorage. President, Linda Swarner, and Secretary, Louise Charles, participated by teleconference due to distance.

### Coordinator's Report

#### **1. Dues**

The coordinator gave an update on the number of coalition members renewing their membership for 2006. At the deadline date of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 for the submission of renewal forms, twenty-one members of forty-eight had returned them. Linda Swarner and Jim Crockett expressed concern at the numbers. Linda suggested that the coordinator check the contact addresses of those who had not renewed and make follow up calls to find out if non-renewing members wished to continue their support of the AFC.

#### **2. Mini-grants**

The coordinator informed the committee that the deadline for mini-grant applications is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The budget includes \$29,000 for mini-grants this year. **Capacity-building Project**

Henryk shared the initial tasks for the project with the committee; the community information gathering and food pantry questionnaire development. The former task is going to be tracked in an Access database especially designed for the project while the latter task (in its Anchorage stage) will be designed in conjunction with FBA Food Pantry Coordinator, Starr van Mersbergen. Jim sought clarification on the project aims, asking if it was a needs assessment of Alaskan food pantries which Susannah confirmed and added that the project was geared towards making a grant proposal to the USDA or the Denali Commission. Jim discussed the fact that the Mental Health Trust may provide an additional funding opportunity and enquired as to the timeframe of the capacity-building project. Susannah thought that the completion of the community and food pantry information gathering by the end of FY2006 was a realistic target. The members all agreed that the coordinator provide a status report on the project at the next executive committee meeting.

### **3. Hunger Study**

The Coordinator talked about the impending release of the provisional hunger study results for Alaska from America's Second Harvest. A panel is being assembled to review the report and the coordinator confirmed that Tracy Burke, Karl Pfeiffer and Tony Nakazawa were willing to serve on the panel. Jim added the importance of consistent hunger-in-Alaska data to provide to donors while Susannah noted that the hunger study will not provide data on the universe of hunger but rather data on the demographics of clients who access emergency food.

#### **Website**

Susannah updated the committee on website developments, sharing the fact that the AFC has commenced a \$6-a-month fee for website maintenance with Information Insights in Fairbanks. This was a change in arrangements with Information Insights as they had been running the website without cost. Information Insights have maintained their rates on website updates and have been asked to quote a figure on site development by October 2005. Susannah then explored the idea of changing the website arrangements next year so that the AFC would have a self-adminable website, allowing the coordinator to change content as required. Susannah added that this could be done as part of the FBA website upgrade and expressed sensitivity about the relationship between the FBA website and AFC website. The other committee members agreed to consider the options when available.

#### **BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) Questionnaire**

Susannah outlined the benefits of using the state BRFSS annual health survey to obtain more detailed information on hunger in Alaska. Susannah added that six USDA created questions about food insecurity could be attached to the survey at a cost of \$2,500 for each question. Susannah then explored funding possibilities for the questions. Jim agreed that the study would be critical to the anti-hunger movement in Alaska but expressed concern about demands on the AFC coordinator and that the proper time should be given to such an important project. Louise and Linda both agreed that the AFC should pursue the study and explore the possibilities of funding.

#### **Agenda for Fall Teleconference Meeting**

The committee agreed that the agenda for the fall teleconference should mirror the one followed in the fall 2005 Excom meeting. There was also agreement that time should be put aside so that members could share what was happening with their organizations. Finally, a discussion about the impact of the recent Katrina hurricane disaster and its impact on the Alaska anti-hunger system was agreed to put on the agenda. All members then decided to maintain e-mail correspondence before fall's teleconference.

#### **Date/Time/Location of Fall Teleconference Meeting**

The members agreed on 3pm-5pm, Thursday, 27 October, 2005 for the next member teleconference. The Frontier Building in Anchorage was agreed as the host location.

**The meeting was adjourned by President, Linda Swarner, at 3:00pm.**

Minutes prepared by Henryk Szadziewski