

Alaska Food Coalition Teleconference Minutes
January 21, 2010
2:30 pm

Participants

Vicki Dodge-Pamplin, Neighbor Works Anchorage
Tim Kimphyaeook, Nasqragmuit Tribal Council (SP?)
Rebecca Steadman, Valdez Food Bank
Laura Drew, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Delta Junction
AnnaBell Stevens, United Way
Gloria Benson, Yakutat Healthy Community Coalition
Alice Hollinger, Food Pantry of Wasilla
Andrea Thistle, AFC President
Gus Mark, Juneau Youth Services
Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, POWER
Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition

Welcome

Andrea Thistle, AFC President

Member Quick Update: Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega, Delta Junction

Alpha Omega is a 501(c)(3) that has been around for 10 years. They have two basic services, medical transportation to Fairbanks or Anchorage and operating 5 food programs. They partner with the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and distribute TEFAP commodities. They distributed 41 tons of TEFAP food in 2009, serving 10,185 families, with 2 staff members. Other food-based programs include Senior Nutrition and Education, distributing Farmers Market discount coupons (seasonal), and maintaining a pantry with donated food distributed on an emergency basis. They distributed 1100 pounds to 18 families in 2009. Volunteers help with distributions. Yesterday they passed out TEFAP, 3 tons of food in a 1 ton truck. They have grown from delivering in a van 10 years ago.

Question: Alpha Omega is on the road system, other member groups are not. There are challenges of getting food through the mail. Are there resources for villages not on the road system? Laura Drew, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, noted that ANTHC provides FDPIR commodities to those rural tribes in need of food assistance. Tribal Councils can apply with ANTHC - 729-2959. Also, Food Bank of Alaska ships food across the state – 272-3663.

School Meals Funding Update

Senate Bill 213 – An Act Providing for Funding for School Lunch and Breakfast has been pre-filed by Sen. Bill Weilechowski/Anchorage. The base amount in the bill is

.35/Lunch and .15/Breakfast; legislative staff has confirmed they will correct this, it should be .35/Breakfast and .15/Lunch. AFC members are encouraged to sign the AFC resolution in support of funding for school meals (send to AFC Manager) and encourage other community groups to sign on. Already, 7 school districts have signed on. We will share this information with our legislators when we go to Juneau.

IIDF Messaging for School Meals Bill Support:

Our message for school meals will be positive. Our basic message is School Breakfast:

Improves Student Performance
Increases School Attendance
Decreases School Violence
Fights Obesity and Improves Nutrition

Vanessa will distribute talking points for members to use when talking to community leaders and legislators about funding for school meals.

Robin Stilwell: Update on Federal Child Nutrition Re-authorization. The federal bill includes WIC, school meals, after school snacks and meals, and Summer Food Service Program. We are pushing for increased and simpler access in Alaska, and reimbursements that allow programs to be sustainable. Sen. Al Franken/MN is sponsoring with Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Begich as co-sponsors on a bill to eliminate the reduced price category for free lunch or free breakfast; it will eliminate the co-pay if they qualify for subsidized lunch, increasing the free threshold to 185% of the poverty guidelines.

To support this, FBA will be putting out advocacy alerts as child nutrition reauthorization comes before Congress. The U.S. House/Senate is focused on other issues right now.

AFC Annual Meeting

20+ members are expected to attend the annual meeting: 7 from Anchorage, 2 Statewide, 2 Wasilla, 1 Nome, 1 SE AK, 1 Seward, 1 SW Alaska, 3 ASNA, 1 Kenai. The legislative breakfast will focus on Alaska data from the 2010 Hunger Study. AFC will schedule meetings with legislators for AFC members attending to show our support for SB213.

Call ended: 3:05 pm.