



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
JANUARY 22, 2009
2:30 – 3:00 P.M.**

Toll Free Number: 1-866-316-1519 Participant Code: 723725

MINUTES

1. Welcome from Alaska Food Coalition President, Andrea Thistle
 - a. In attendance:
 1. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
 2. Anna Bell Stevens, United Way
 3. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
 4. Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation
 5. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
 6. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
 7. Diana Jeska, Homer Community Food Pantry
 8. Michael Curran, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
 9. Jo Dawson, AK Child Nutrition Services
 10. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
 11. Amber Kraxberger, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
 12. Sherry Worthy, AWAIC
 13. Sharon Sigafos, AWAIC
 - b. Hunger Fact:

Every day, 14,000 kids in Alaska eat breakfast at school; more than 50,000 eat lunch. This number has increased almost 100 percent in the last 10 years; however, the participation rate for those students eligible for free and reduced breakfast is only 34 percent, putting Alaska 48th in the nation for breakfast participation. If the participation rate increased to 60 percent, another 2 million dollars of federal funding would come to the program. Only 68 percent of schools that serve lunch also offer breakfast. Currently, the federal government funds the majority of the school meal program for school districts at over 28 million dollars. Small amounts of additional funding comes directly from

school districts. Alaska is one of eleven states in the country that doesn't have any state legislative support for school meal programs.

Scientific research suggests that eating quality meals, especially breakfast, increases test scores, decreases school violence and lowers the rate of obesity.

2. Member Quick Intro – AWAIC, Sherry Worthy
 - a. AWAIC is a shelter for women and children of domestic violence. More than 18,000 safe bed nights were supplied in the last year.
 - b. They also have CACFP and TEFAP and give out 41,000 meals in their emergency shelter.
 - c. Anti-hunger advocacy is part of their mission and hope to get more involved with AFC.
 - d. Sharon Sigfoos is the new Operations Director and will be the AFC contact.
3. AFC News – Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
 - a. Annual Meeting Reminder
 1. Dates – February 8 – 10, 2009. We will be starting at 7 on Sunday night and will be done by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.
 2. Nominations for Office: Offices are held for one year. Nominations for office are due to Kerri by January 28
 3. Business Meeting: The AFC Business Meeting will be held with attending members on Monday, February 9th at 2 p.m. We are working on teleconferencing this meeting. Minutes will be posted on the website after February 16, 2009.
4. Advocacy Updates
 - a. AFC Legislative Agenda
 1. School Meals
 2. Denali Kid Care
 3. Food Purchase
 - b. Status of School Breakfast
 1. DEED Budget
 2. Legislative Sponsorship
 - c. What's Going to Happen in Juneau?
 1. Time to meet with legislators
 2. Networking with each other
 3. Hunger Study – We have a huge study that will be affecting each of us. We'll find out more about how this important work can help each of our organizations.
 - d. What Does this Mean for the Anti-Hunger Network?
 1. Legislative agenda has very little request for direct impact funds, but instead are working toward sweeping changes that will have a cumulative impact.
 2. AFC has been in Juneau for several years now and there is an expectation and faces are starting to become familiar. If you aren't going this year, please considering putting money in your budget for

this trip next year as it has been a valuable experience for previous attendees.

5. Questions

6. Other business, concerns or issues – Increased numbers of people needing assistance. Both Ken and Andrea gave statistics that show that numbers are rapidly increasing in their organizations. Ken noted that pick-ups for food boxes are far ahead of the usual 75% turnout, and Andrea noted that the numbers of households coming to her pantry have almost doubled since before the holidays.

7. Anna Bell Stevens noted that she will be in Juneau next week and will be happy to knock on doors of legislators while she is in town.

8. Wrap-up

With no other business, Andrea adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.