

**Alaska Food Coalition**  
**April 15, 2010 Teleconference**

Participants

Jo Dawson, State of Alaska, HHS  
Vicki Dodge-Pamplin, NeighborWorks, Anchorage  
Helen Idzorek, UAF Cooperative Extension Program, Fairbanks  
Anna Bell Stevens, Anchorage United Way  
Julia Sargent, UAF Cooperative Extension Program, Anchorage  
Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition  
Gus Marx, Juneau Youth Services  
Brad Parfitt, Juneau Youth Services  
Alice Holiinger, Food Pantry of Wasilla  
Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank  
Marsha Partlow, Catholic Community Service, Juneau  
Katherine McConkey, Copper River Native Association  
Rebecca Steadman, Valdez Food Bank  
Michael Curran, Alaska Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives  
Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, Anchorage

Quick Member Update

Gus Marx, Juneau Youth Services  
Juneau Youth Services is a behavioral health program for kids 3-21 years, focusing on feeding kids and youth homelessness. The program is federally funded, with a street outreach program that includes a mobile crisis van. They had 2800 contacts last year, distributing 2400 units of food and drink. Keeping a positive relationship with local police has worked well for them. The Basic Center Program is a 10-bed facility for runaways, some state custody kids, some homeless. They do a lot of mediation. The Transitional Living Program has 13 beds for 18-21 year olds with 4 beds in two apartments for 16-17 year olds. They also help clients shop for nutritious food and apply for food stamps. Southeast Alaska Food Bank is a resource for Juneau Youth Services. When the kids are learning how to budget, 75% of them end up accessing the food bank by the end of the month. If you have additional questions about the program, contact Gus at 907-789-7610.

Guest Presentation: Julia Sargent and Helen Idzorek, UAF Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>  
CEP has four programs with offices in Anchorage, Bethel, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Glenallen, Juneau, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Sitka and Soldotna. Resource publications are available online. Funds for the programs come through federal, state and university funds.

*1. Agriculture and Horticulture:* The Master Gardener Program is very popular. There are some costs involved, regular gardening classes are free. Integrated pest management is another program, if you have carpenter ants, mold, etc. call the hotline number for

ideas to solve your problem. Other programs include Rural Development, Water Quality and Noxious and Invasive Plants Management. Website: <http://apache.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/>

2. *Health, Home and Family Development* facilitates the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) and Alaska Nutrition Education Program (ANEP). ANEP is for food stamp eligible clients only. ANEP works to help people on food stamps with budgeting. The goal is to reduce the reliance on emergency food. FSNEP has more flexible guidelines and is geared toward families with children. Both programs offer free group and individual in-home classes in conjunction with State of Alaska Department of HHS. In Anchorage, the food they use in cooking class comes from Food Bank of Alaska. They have set up classes at agencies and public assistance offices. They take clients to the grocery store and teach them how to shop. Some clients have saved \$30 per shopping trip after completing the training. Besides ANEP and FSNEP, other services include information on canning, food preservation, food safety, chronic disease management, credit and financial management. Extension agents and specialists also offer information on domestic violence issues, emergency preparedness and consumer issues. Website: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/hhfd/>

3. *Natural Resources and Community Development* provides outreach education regarding forest resources, mineral resources and mining, water resources, and rural communities. Program faculty and staff partner with a wide variety of local, state and federal governments, regional Native Alaskan tribal organizations and non-governmental organizations to address such issues as resource management, economic analysis, public policy education, and rural development. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/nrcd/>

4. *4-H & Youth Development*- Sponsored jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska 4-H is the educational youth development program of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. 4-H Youth Building Capacity Program has sewing projects, gardens and a program that raises reindeer. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/4h/>

If you would like information on a training/program in your area and you do not live in a community with a Cooperative Extension Service office, contact Helen Idzorek in the Fairbanks office: 907-474-2437 for the Distance Delivery Option.

Another popular program is the Strong Woman Program; it is also open to men. It focuses on strength building to prevent bone loss and osteoporosis.

#### AFC Senior Workgroup Report

Issues of concern identified by the workgroup:

- Seniors need help getting food into their homes, transportation issues and delivery.
- Not knowing how to cook.

- Seniors are taking part of their aggregate meal home for a second meal; most centers do not have enough money for two meals. Resources are needed to send extra food home with seniors.
- It's hard for some seniors to stock their shelves at home, lack of strength.
- Most pervasive: Seniors fear things are getting worse.

Alaska Food Coalition will connect with AGE NET, a senior advocacy organization to see how AFC and AGE NET might work together.

The May AFC White Paper will focus on senior issues.

#### AFC Rural Workgroup Report

The Alaska Food Coalition will draft a letter of support to send to U.S. Senator Murkowski in support of changes to IRS regulation 170(e)(3), which prohibits donors from taking an enhanced federal tax deduction for food donated to non-501(c)(3) organizations, such as tribes.

#### Candidate Questionnaire:

Vanessa suggested AFC try to get a couple of questions about hunger in Alaska on a candidate questionnaire. Many advocacy groups send them to candidates before the August primary. Questionnaires must be non-partisan. Alice/Food Pantry of Wasilla would like to include questions about needing a food bank branch in Matsu Valley. Linda/Kenai Peninsula Food Bank recommended we bring this up at the upcoming Food Policy Council and with Alaska School Nutrition Association to see if other groups would be interested in doing a questionnaire jointly. Vanessa will follow-up with both.

#### SB 213 Update

SB 213 passed the Senate, and now awaits a hearing in House Finance. A Food Bank of Alaska Action Alert was shared with AFC members with legislator contact information.

#### Addition Items

Jo Dawson with State of Alaska Health and Social Services reminded members about the availability of USDA TEFAP grants. May 17 is the deadline for rural applications and June 1 for urban. Jo will send a link for the grant information to Vanessa for distribution.

Julia with UAF Cooperative Extension asked if AFC members would be interested in signing Jamie Oliver's petition for school meal nutrition changes.

<http://www.jamieoliver.com/petition> Jamie is a chef from England that positively changed the school meal program in England and brought this same idea to the U.S. The website has a lot of resources and clips to aid schools. Episodes of the TV show are available on [hulu.com](http://hulu.com). The show airs in some areas on ABC on Friday nights at 8:00 pm.