



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
APRIL 16, 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. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
 3. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
 4. Gary Forrester, Lutheran Social Services
 5. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
 6. Laura Drew, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 7. Holly Lawson, Downtown Soup Kitchen
 8. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
 9. Michael Curran, Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
 10. Anna Bell Stevens, United Way
 11. Jo Dawson, State of Child Nutrition Services
 12. Shodie Akin, State of Alaska Child Nutrition Services
 13. Gus Marx, Juneau Youth Services
 14. Mike Rochin, New Hope on the Last Frontier
 - b. Hunger Fact – HJR 24
 1. House Joint Resolution 24 enables military families that are living off the base to qualify for the school nutrition programs.

Families who live off the base are given an additional basic allowance for housing (BAH). Due to this increase of income children of these families are not qualified for the school nutrition

programs. Many of these families are struggling financially. This presents a major issue for families that have one or multiple children to feed and a vital program such as the free lunch program is denied to them because of the location of their homes and increased income due to the basic allowance for housing.

HJR 24 encourages the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to look at the issue presented to the heroic military men and women and thus their families. This is an opportunity to ensure our military families do not have to endure additional hardships while a family member is defending our country.

2. Member Quick Intro – Downtown Soup Kitchen, Holly Lawson
 - a. Nestled in red shack in an alley between 4th and 5th St. in Anchorage, the Downtown Soup Kitchen is one of the city's largest soup kitchens. The kitchen serves more than 90,000 meals a year and also provides weekly shower and laundry services. Meals are served out a small window five days a week starting at Noon until the soup runs out. In the last six weeks, the soup has consistently run out a half hour earlier than normal. It doesn't appear to be slowing. Holly Lawson is the new director and started at the kitchen early this year. She is happy to announce that the zoning ordinances have been cleared and the Downtown Soup Kitchen will be soon be building a new facility at their current location that will help them serve even more.

3. Summer's Almost Here—How Do We Feed More Hungry People?
 - a. Policy Committee – The AFC Policy Committee meets twice a year to identify the legislative agenda for the coalition. We are currently looking for members who would like to be a part of this committee. If you have never been to our Annual Meeting in Juneau and you have an interest in setting the agenda for educating our policy makers on hunger in Alaska, this would be a great opportunity for you to get your feet wet. For those of you who have attended Juneau meetings, you know what our legislators are interested in—share your ideas about what legislative directions will be the most effective for the coalition. If you want to be a part of the committee, contact the [AFC Manager](#).
 1. Meeting Date – early to mid May
 2. Summer Interaction with Legislators – We're planning to have some interaction with legislators this summer. Share your ideas about what might be most effective.
 3. Hunger Action Month – September is Hunger Action Month. We'll be planning a legislative outreach project for this month. Help us brainstorm ideas.

 - b. Food Stamp Outreach – Recent increases in food stamp monies give even more credence to the effort to get more eligible Alaskans on the program. If you are in the Anchorage area, Food Bank of Alaska has an outreach coordinator that can come to your facility. If you are outside of the Anchorage area, food stamp outreach fliers can be sent to your facility. He Will Provide Food Pantry in Seward has been putting the fliers in each bag that leaves the

pantry and have had lots of success in connecting clients with the FBA outreach coordinator who can help them through the process.

- c. Summer Food Drives – The largest national summer food drive is happening May 9. The National Association of Letter Carriers is holding a food drive statewide. If you haven't heard about the food drive from your regional food bank or your local post office, contact them to see what your town is doing to participate. Large collection programs will be occurring in both Anchorage and the Valley.

If you are planning a summer food drive to help fill emptier than usual shelves and you need assistance and ideas on how to coordinate an efficient and successful food drive, contact the [AFC Manager](#).

- d. Summer Food Service Program – SFSP is the program that takes over for school lunch, but in Alaska, only 7 of every 100 kids that is getting school lunch is also getting a meal through SFSP. If you run an activity program for low-income kids during the summer or you know of someone who does, contact Shodie Akin at 465-4788 so she can help you get reimbursement for the meals and snacks you serve to kids.

4. Questions

5. Other business, concerns or issues

- a. Hunger Study is almost over. If you haven't filled out your agency survey or you have questions about, please call the [AFC Manager](#). If you were one of the many agencies where we conducted client surveys, a big thanks for all your assistance in getting the surveys collected!

6. Wrap-up

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