



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
MAY 15, 2008
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. George Briggs, The Glory Hole
 2. Don Houk, Wasilla Lake Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry
 3. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
 4. Shawn Powers, Food Bank of Alaska
 5. Debbie Delsie, Abbott Loop Give and Take
 6. Anna Bell Stevens, United Way
 7. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
 8. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
 9. Annie Newell, Salvation Army McKinnell House
 10. Michael Curran, Office of Community and Faith Based Initiatives
 11. Jennifer Nieves, Catholic Social Services
 12. Heather Gallitan-Baker, Wasilla Area Seniors and Blood n Fire Ministries
 13. Brenda Duty, DEC
 14. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
2. Member Quick Intro – Don Houk, Wasilla Lake Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry
 - a. The Wasilla Lake Church of the Nazarene is part of the Mat-Su Nazarene Churches Compassionate Ministry. The food pantry, started in 2003, runs out of a converted two-car garage. They use five refrigerators and two freezers. Interested clients are put on a waiting list and once accepted, are allowed to get food once weekly for 12 weeks. At the end of the 12 weeks, that client is removed and replaced with another client from the waiting list. The pantry

serves 29 families a week (approximately 116 people) and averages about \$175 in food expenditures each week. The program has 14 volunteers who not only help clients select their food, but also serve as friends, mentors and a shoulder to lean on for clients. In the near future, the food pantry is going to have to replace a refrigerator and purchase a new vehicle for food pick-ups.

3. Policy Committee Recommendations – Kerri Burrows
 - a. School Breakfast Initiative
 - b. Denali Kid Care
 - c. Food Purchase
 1. Kerri explained the recommendations from the AFC Policy Committee. The recommended legislative agenda (view a copy of the agenda [here](#)) includes support for the School Breakfast Initiative, Denali Kid Care and a Food Purchase request. Kerri gave details about each recommendation and noted that while not all of the initiatives will have a direct impact on food pantries, they will have an indirect effect that will help ease the burden. Shawn Powers, FBA, noted that the recommendation for support of Denali Kid Care, a health insurance program for low-income kids, comes from the understanding that medical costs are oftentimes what puts a family in the position of needing food assistance. Kerri asked if anyone had questions regarding the recommendations. Don Houk asked for a better explanation of the Food Purchase and the method for distributing the money. Susannah Morgan, FBA, explained that the method of distributing by region based on percent of the population in poverty has been the most equitable way we have found to distribute the funds. With no other questions, Kerri asked the membership if they were an agreement with this agenda. With no one objecting, the recommendations of the policy committee were accepted as presented.
4. Food Safety - Alaska DEC, Division of Environmental Health Food Safety and Sanitation
 - a. Brenda Duty, Alaska DEC, gave a short presentation regarding food safety and the role DEC plays in the food pantry system. She noted that a new brochure has been created that addresses some of the often asked questions regarding unusual food safety issues. You can see it [here](#) or by visiting the DEC website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/index.htm>. Brenda stated that normal food pantry distribution does not require a permit from the state, but if you plan to serve food during your distribution, have samples available for clients or have a bake sale for fundraising, you need to make sure you are within the exemption. Essentially, you need to make sure that everything you serve doesn't fall under the "temperature controlled" category. If you have to keep it hot or cold, you can't distribute to clients without a permit. If you have any questions regarding food safety, you can contact Brenda at brenda.duty@alaska.gov.
 - b. Susannah reminded everyone that Food Bank of Alaska does have a system for addressing food recalls that affect Alaska and would be happy to work with the DEC to get information out to the anti-hunger network regarding food recall or food safety issues. Brenda thanked Susannah for the offer to be an information outlet and reiterated that there have been a plethora of food

recalls in the past year and given the vulnerable population served by food pantries, we all must be extremely diligent in watching for recalled food that may end up at our agencies.

5. Questions

6. Other business, concerns or issues

7. Wrap-up

With no other business, concerns or issues, Andrea adjourned the meeting at 3:00.