



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
JUNE 18, 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. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
 3. Jo Dawson, State of Alaska
 4. Kim Stryker, DEC Food Safety
 5. Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation
 6. Gus Marx, Juneau Youth Services
 7. Michael Curran, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives
 8. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
 9. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
 10. AlexAnna Salmon, Igiugig Tribal Council
 11. Sharon Sigafos, AWAIC
 12. Laura Drew, ANTHC
 13. Aaron Osterback, Southcentral Foundation
 14. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
 15. Shelia Walker, Wasilla Area Seniors
 16. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
 17. Judy Warren, Sterling Senior Center
2. Member Quick Intro – Wasilla Area Seniors, Shelia Walker
 - a. Shelia has been with WASI since January. One of her first tasks at the organization was to revamp the food service program. Serving both Meals on Wheels and an in-house lunch, the food service program was cut to minimal hours because of budget constraints. In the last three months, the

organization has been able to cut their food budget by 48 percent through the use of food from Food Bank of Alaska. Because of this decrease in food costs, the senior center will resume its normal hours beginning July 1, 2009.

- b. In addition to food services and the senior center, the organization also manages housing units, an assisted living center and contracts with another organization to provide transportation services.

3. FY10 – Alaska Food Coalition News

- a. Membership Renewal

- 1. Membership Renewal will begin again in July. Nothing will change this year with membership dues, but look in both your snail-mailbox and your email inbox for information regarding your membership!

- b. Mini-grants

- 1. Request for capacity

- 1. There have been several inquiries to the AFC regarding mini-grants. With the increase in available government food, new organizations are distributing and many of them don't have appropriate storage for the available food, including freezer space for frozen items. It has been requested that we consider applications for capacity building instead of/in addition to food purchase. Several members including Susannah Morgan, Jo Dawson, Ken Farrow, Andrea Thistle and Linda Swarner expressed a preference for moving to capacity building instead of food purchase. Sustainability and need were noted as motivating factors in choosing capacity projects over food purchase. Andrea noted that the coalition should choose one or the other as it would be too difficult for the review committee to make selections if both capacity and food purchase were options. Linda also noted that she would like to see the grants continue to be available for members only.

- 2. Because this change would impact the focus of the grant, it was suggested that we put a proposal out to the entire membership for a vote. Kerri will email that proposal out in the next few days and announce a result as soon as possible.

- 2. Mini-Grant Review Committee

- 1. Three AFC members have stepped up to sit on the review committee. If your organization received funds last year, you are ineligible this year and this would be a great chance for you to sit on the committee. In addition to the three who volunteered before the teleconference, Linda Swarner, AnnaBell Stevens and Laura Drew also volunteered their service.

- 3. Deadlines

- 1. The grant applications will be available mid-August and due in mid-September.

- c. Hunger Action Month

- 1. Contacting Your Legislator

- 2. The Human Connection

- 1. We are looking for schools that would be willing to participate in a coloring contest/writing contest about the importance of

food and school nutrition. If you work closely with any schools, let us know!

4. Questions

5. Other business, concerns or issues

6. Wrap-up

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