



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE  
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE  
AUGUST 21, 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. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
  - b. Donna Williams, Naknek Native Village
  - c. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
  - d. Jennifer Nieves, Catholic Social Services
  - e. Anna Bell Stevens, United Way
  - f. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
  - g. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
  - h. Gary Forrester, Lutheran Social Services
  - i. Tamara Olsen, Lutheran Social Services
  - j. Michael Curran, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
  - k. Shodie Akin, Child Nutrition Services
  - l. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Services
  - m. Heather Gallitian-Baker, Wasilla Area Seniors and Blood n Fire Ministries
  - n. Mike Rochin, New Hope on the Last Frontier
  - o. Aaron Osterback, Southcentral Foundation Elder Program
  - p. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
  
2. Member Quick Intro – Lutheran Social Services
  - a. Lutheran Social Services moved into a new, 2,000 sq. ft. building at 1303 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in Anchorage a few months ago and is already starting to see an increase in clients. Since the move, they have served 500 more clients through their pantry and signed up 20 new clients to the CSFP program. Along with a pantry and CSFP, the organization also distributes TEFAP commodities. In FY08, they distributed more than 257,000 pounds of food.

On average, they serve about 630 families a month and last year served more than 21,000 individuals.

### 3. AFC News – Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition

#### a. Membership Drive

1. The membership drive is going well this year. To date we have 42 members on the new roll call. Seventeen of those members are new to the coalition. In comparing last year's membership, we still have 40 members from last year that have yet to renew their membership. If your organization hasn't renewed, please do so right away! Email Kerri at [afc@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:afc@foodbankofalaska.org) to get a membership application if you have lost the one you received in the mail.

#### b. New Vice President

1. Irene Lee, vice-president, has left her post at Catholic Social Services. We wish her well in her new endeavors. Jennifer Nieves, Program Director for St. Francis House at Catholic Social Services has graciously volunteered to take Irene's position. Thanks Jennifer for stepping up and welcome to the coalition!

#### c. Mini-Grants

1. The following organizations have volunteered to sit on the Mini-Grant Committee
  1. Seward Senior Center
  2. He Will Provide, Inc.
  3. Valley Open Bible Fellowship
  4. Emmonek Tribal Council
  5. Juneau Youth Services
2. The committee has met several times and is getting close to having an application ready. They have agreed with the 13, \$1,000 grants and have opted to give preference to rural locations off the road system. The applications should be available for members by September 15 and will be due at the end of October.

#### d. School Breakfast Initiative and Legislative Agenda

1. Our legislative agenda this year includes the following items:
  1. School Breakfast Initiative – We are again pairing up with the Alaska School Nutrition Association (AKSNA) to try and get this passed. In response to some questions we received from leadership last year, AKSNA has modified the ask this year to the following:
    - a. \$0.15 additional reimbursement for each free/reduced price lunch
    - b. \$0.35 additional reimbursement for each free/reduced price breakfastAKSNA has already met with the EED commissioner and will be sending a budget proposal to his office in the coming weeks. We are happy to support this initiative for the second year and have great hopes that it will pass.
  2. Denali Kid Care – The AFC is signing with many other child advocate groups to get the eligibility for Denali Kid Care increase from it's current level at 175% of the federal poverty

level to 200%, the original level that was introduced when the program was started. Susannah noted that some people might not know what Denali Kid Care is. Kerri went on to explain that the program is a federally-funded and state supported health insurance program for low-income kids.

3. The final legislative item is for food purchase. The AFC is recommending a \$300,000 line item to be distributed evenly across the state to food banks for food purchase and transportation.

#### 4. Hunger Action Month – Kerri Burrows

##### a. Activities – School Breakfast Tours

1. In honor of Hunger Action Month, we have a legislative event planned on September 30. Currently, the following organizations have signed on to host their legislator for a visit in their organization and a trip to a local school that is/isn't serving breakfast/lunch so they can learn more about the program.

1. Abbott Loop Community Church
2. Food Bank of Alaska
3. He Will Provide, Inc.
4. Seward Senior Center
5. Homer Community Food Pantry
6. Kenai Peninsula Food Bank of Alaska
7. Lutheran Social Services
8. North Star United Methodist Church
9. Wasilla Area Seniors

If your organization would like to get involved, please email Kerri at [afc@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:afc@foodbankofalaska.org) as soon as possible. Packets for this event will be emailed out to participants the week of August 25.

##### b. Promotional Materials

1. We have Hunger Action Month promotional materials! We have a poster and flyers. They will be emailed to you next week, but if you would like hard copies mailed to you, please contact Kerri.

##### c. Ways for you to bring awareness to your organization during this month

1. Take advantage of the month of September to work on getting your organization out in the spotlight. If you need suggestions, please contact the AFC.

#### 5. Questions

#### 6. Other business, concerns or issues

#### 7. Wrap-up

With no other business, Andrea adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.