



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
SEPTEMBER 17, 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. Abby Huggins, Nome Community Food Pantry
 2. Anna Belle Stevens, United Way
 3. Jo Dawson, State of AK Child Nutrition Services
 4. Vickie Dodge-Pamplin, Anchorage Neighborworks
 5. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
 6. Diana Jeska, Homer Community Food Pantry
 7. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
 8. Linda Swarner, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
 9. Loretta Spalding, Sterling Area Senior Center
 10. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
 11. Barbara Dunn, Bristol Bay Native Association
 12. Laura Drew, ANTHC
 13. Jennifer Nieves, Catholic Social Services
 14. Michael Curran, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
 15. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
2. Member Quick Intro Diana Jeska, Homer Community Food Pantry
 - a. Homer Community Food Pantry was started 19 years ago and is one of three social service nonprofits in Homer. They serve between 80-130 families each month, a considerable increase since last year. They also have a satellite pantry in Anchor Point that serves 35 families a month. In addition to the pantries, they do approximately 25 deliveries each week and send 20 food boxes to Nanwalek, AK.

3. AFC Updates

a. Hunger Action Month

1. Food Stamp Challenge – We have several AFC members that are participating in the FSC. We hope you are having a great time and getting a new perspective on budgeting with Food Stamps. The FSC blog is <http://fba09fchallenge.ning.com/>. Please take a minute to read the blogs from participants---not only are many of them highly entertaining, they give all of us a glimpse into how hard it is live on a food stamp budget.
 2. Coloring Contest---We haven't gotten much response on the coloring contest. If you work with kids, please let the AFC Manager know so we can pass on information about the coloring contest.
- b. Membership Update—We have 52 members that have completed their AFC application and sent in money. Many of you are still participating but haven't renewed your membership. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS TODAY!
- c. Mini-Grant Update—If you have any questions about the mini-grant application, please contact the AFC. To date, no applications have been received.
- d. AFC Manager New Hire – Vanessa Salinas was recently hired as the new AFC Manager. She will start with the coalition on October 5. Kerri will be moving over to work with Food Bank of Alaska, so will be available to transition Vanessa into the position.

4. Holiday Food Distribution – How is Your Community Going to Feed Hungry People?

a. Communities that Make it Work

1. Robin Stilwell – Food Bank of Alaska – Thanksgiving Blessing and is a program in which Food Bank of Alaska works with more than 25 faith-based organizations to distribute holiday food to nearly 6,000 families on the Monday before Thanksgiving in 8 different locations. The program is in its 6th year. All the sites offer the same foods and have the same process and clients can go to a site close to their neighborhood to get assistance. Anna Belle Stevens, who sits on the Blessing committee, noted that the event is a well-oiled machine now and it has been going on without a hitch for several years. Neighborhood GIFT is in its second year of a new system that incorporates the Blessing distribution model. Along with FBA, United Way, Salvation Army, and Toys for Tots also play a large role in this program. In the same fashion at 5 different sites, clients can get both food and toys for Christmas. While the kinks are still being worked out with GIFT, it is well on its way to being just as large as Thanksgiving Blessing.
2. Diana Jeska – Homer Community Food Pantry – HCFP works with two other local nonprofits and the Lions Club to help out with Thanksgiving. They serve food boxes over two days to approximately 180 people. They try and get a large portion of the food at the food bank and through donations, but have to purchase a portion as well. For Christmas, they serve more than 300 families over two days and combine toy distribution as well. The biggest issue with the project is assuring that there is no duplication of

clients. All clients must register before the day of the distribution so the coalition of agencies knows how many people they need to serve.

b. How Can the AFC Help You Feed Hungry People?

1. Are you looking to start a community-wide distribution for the holidays? Do you have questions? Contact the AFC Manager to get connected with other AFC members who can offer advice!

5. Questions

6. Other business, concerns or issues

7. Wrap-up

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.