



**MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
OCTOBER 15, 2009
2:30 – 3:00 P.M.**

Toll Free Number: 1-866-316-1519 Participant Code: 723725

MINUTES

Attendees:

1. Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Center
2. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc
3. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
4. Jo Dawson, State of Alaska Child Nutrition Services
5. Alto Lee Dunn, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
6. Fatima Hoger, State of Alaska WIC Nutrition Coordinator
7. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
8. Abby Huggins, Nome Food Bank of Alaska
9. Jennifer Nieves, Catholic Social Services
10. Heather Harris, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation
11. Kassi Barrow, Food Bank of Alaska
12. Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition
13. Kerri Burrows, Food Bank of Alaska

1. Welcome: Andrea Thistle, President

2. Introduction: Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition Program Manager.

Vanessa's work history in Alaska includes advocacy and managing coalitions on tobacco use prevention and mining law reform. She was a legislative aide to Senator Bettye Davis. She has worked for non-profit organizations in Colorado and Washington DC, and looks forward to working with coalition members to end hunger in Alaska.

3. AFC Updates

Coloring Contest: 15 entries received; 7 drawings and 8 written. Deadline extended to October 31.

Membership Drive: Approximately seventy members are registered for 2010. (AFC is using a new database program, there may be duplication.) Nine members from 2009 have not renewed due to program changes, etc. Eight new member organizations have joined. Vanessa will do outreach to the ten 2009 member groups who have not renewed.

Mini-Grants: 13 will be issued
Vanessa reported 17 applications have been received.

Susannah expressed concern regarding the small number of applications received and requested we extend the deadline and reach out to folks who have expressed a need, particularly those receiving food through The Emergency Food Assistance Program who do not have freezer capacity. All agreed this was a good idea.

Vanessa will connect with Food Bank of Alaska to identify agencies. She will send an email to the selection committee updating them on the extension. Scoring will include acknowledgement of those organizations who submitted proposals before the extension.
New Deadline for Applications: Nov. 13, 2009

4. New WIC Food Package Changes: *Fatima Hoger, State WIC Nutrition Coordinator*

New foods will be included in the WIC food package starting 10/01/09. Clients have healthier food choices including fruits, vegetables, whole grain, and milk substitutions such as tofu and soy milk. There are reductions of some foods like cheese, juice. Infants will be able to get infant meat. Breast feeding moms and babies are supported with more foods to encourage breast feeding longer; allowing moms to produce more milk. Other foods added include canned beans, sardines, why were these changes implemented? WIC started in 1974; since then there has only been one significant change.

Some of the changes include a fruit and vegetable voucher; kids get \$6, moms get \$8, breast feeding moms get \$10. Messaging on the changes includes eating more fruits and vegetables. New food package will provide low fat or fat free milk to children 2 or older. Cheese and eggs amounts have been reduced. Local agencies are working to bring about the transition. New checks went out to be cashed Oct 1. The WIC Department is hoping to see a reduction in weight and improved health for clients. The department has made changes in their computer system, and is conducted education with health care providers.

5. Questions:

Andrea: For formula, any changes? Fatima: Yes, change in the amount according to age, 1-3 months get less than 4-6 months and older. The scale is based on child nutritional needs guided by the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. There is a PSA on the State of Alaska website, also on U-tube. Vanessa will send out links.

U-Tube Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zf1O0c6lJBg>

State of Alaska Links:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/TotalBFgeneral.pdf>

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/PartBF.pdf>

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/Postpartum.pdf>

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/Infant.pdf>

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/Childgeneral.pdf>

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/aug09/Pregnancy.pdf>

6. No other business, concerns or issues.

Call ended: 2:53 P.M.