



**POLICY COMMITTEE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
APRIL 17, 2008
3:00 – 4:00 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. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
 3. Shawn Powers, Food Bank of Alaska
 4. Lance Johnson, Nome Community Center
 5. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
2. School Breakfast Initiative
 - a. Successes – Successful School Breakfast Report and presentation; met with 45 legislators so they know who we are now; feedback from members is that they felt much more informed this year about the issue and more comfortable about speaking with their legislators
 - b. Failures – The obvious failure is that the initiative didn't go anywhere, but in this failure, several things are pointed out to us:
 1. We need to get the initiative put into the Education Budget. It will be much easier to get it through the hoops if we have the support of the Commissioner of Education. The downside—that position is not currently filled.
 2. Legislators are seeing a connection between the school breakfast initiative and a few obesity initiatives that were traveling through the capitol this year.
 - c. Where Do We Go Next?
 1. The issue was brought up by Susannah that most coalitions go into the session with a legislative agenda that includes many issues

instead of just one initiative. Now that we have our feet wet, maybe it's time to broaden our horizons. Several issues were brought up that might compliment the school breakfast platform including WIC, but the most reoccurring themes were Denali Kid Care and Food Purchase. WIC is a program that has been on the anti-hunger legislative agenda in other states, but we felt that we needed more education on the history and future of the program before we addressed it in a legislative agenda.

1. The recommendation of the AFC Policy Committee is that we expand the current legislative platform of School Breakfast to also include Denali Kid Care and a Food Purchase Program.
 - a. Denail Kid Care, the government-funded health insurance program for kids under 18, is given to families based upon income eligibility. When the program started, the state used the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) of 200%, but changed the eligibility process in 2003. With inflation, by 2007, 3,500 kids that could have been eligible under the original rules were unable to participate. In 2007, the legislature moved the eligibility to 175% of the FPL, but this still leaves thousands of kids without basic medical coverage. Find out more about it:
<http://www.adn.com/opinion/view/story/310737.html>
 - i. The Policy Committee recommends that the AFC support increasing the income eligibility back to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
 - b. Food Purchase – This is a new idea for Alaska but has been successfully passed in other states and would be highly beneficial for rural areas. There are a variety of different ways we could ask for funding, but many states have requested funds for food purchase and/or transportation. The monies could come through the Alaska Food Coalition and be distributed fairly amongst all anti-hunger agencies in the state.
 - i. The Policy Committee recommends that the AFC support a budget line item giving \$300,000 to the AFC, to be distributed evenly throughout the state based on population and poverty, to be specifically used for purchase and transportation of food product.
 1. The figure for this recommendation comes this calculation:
\$4.93 (avg. amount other states are currently receiving per person in poverty) x 59,000 (Alaskans in poverty) = **290,870**
2. In response to questions from legislators about why they are hearing about both obesity and hunger for kids in Alaska, the AARP has volunteered to host a forum on school nutrition. At this forum, the organizations focused on obesity in kids and those of us working

toward support of the School Breakfast Initiative can come together and explain how both agendas are important and how they affect each other. Shawn Powers with FBA will be the lead contact on this event.

3. Child Nutrition Reauthorization – Shawn Powers, FBA
 - a. What Will Be Our Role?
 1. The Child Nutrition Program (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program) is up for reauthorization in 2009. The national anti-hunger organizations are already working on an agenda and marketing tactics. The AFC will be contacting members in the next few weeks about what they would like to see change in the Child Nutrition Program and we'll pass on information we get from the national level.
4. Farm Bill Update – Shawn Powers
 - a. Isn't it Time for the Fat Lady to Sing????!!
 1. We think that it's probably not! It doesn't look good for the Farm Bill to get through the April 18 deadline with approval. We have hounded our delegation with support for the Farm Bill, but will hold off until we know what the new extension will be. Thank you to all who have been dialing the delegation to let them know how important this issue is to hungry Alaskans.
5. Questions
6. Other business, concerns or issues
7. Wrap-up

With no other business, Andrea adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.