



**POLICY COMMITTEE
FOOD BANK OF ALASKA
ANCHORAGE
May 29, 2009
10 – 11 a.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. Susannah Morgan, Food Bank of Alaska
 2. Robin Stilwell, Food Bank of Alaska
 3. Kerri Burrows, Alaska Food Coalition
 4. Ken Farrow, Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.
 5. Andrea Thistle, Valley Open Bible Fellowship
2. 2009 Legislative Agenda
 - a. Successes
 1. We did not get any bills passed this year, but we did have great success in reaching legislators, educating them and inquiring about potential sponsorship. Rep. Peterson and Gruenberg both showed interest on the House side and Olson, Kookesh and Paskavan showed interest on the Senate side for potential sponsorship of the school meal initiative.
 - b. Failures
 1. We were unable to get any of our bills passed, but as we knew going into the session, with the downturn in the economy, we were not likely to much through this session
 - c. Where Do We Go Next?
 1. All agreed that it takes several years to get bills through and we should continue to work our stated agenda items. Susannah suggested that we need to bring on more supporters, such as Boys

- and Girls Club, PTA and the School Board Association. Work on connecting with those organizations is ongoing.
2. Kerri will put together a one-page synopsis of our progress toward getting a school meal initiative passed.
3. Child Nutrition Reauthorization – Robin Stilwell, FBA
 - a. Status – The reauthorization has been quiet for the time being but a new act supporting CACFP legislation regarding the addition of a supper component (S.990 After School Meals Act) has been garnering much support, including the recent addition of Alaska Senator Mark Begich. Sen. Murkowski has yet to sign on to co-sponsor this bill.
 - b. Plans – Until the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill gets moving, most of our energy will be directed toward continuing to support the After School Meals Act and trying to get Murkowski to sign on for support.
 1. Additionally, Robin suggested asking AFC members to sign on to the FRAC Statement of Principles for CNR (http://www.frac.org/Legislative/action_center/statement_principles.htm)
 1. Kerri will promote through next Coalition News.
 4. 2010 Legislative Agenda
 - a. Areas of focus
 1. Legislative Changes
 1. School Meals
 2. Denali Kid Care
 2. Policy Changes
 1. Continue to support AKSNA and HJR 24
 2. Drug Felons and Food Stamps:
 - a. Currently the state will not allow drug felons to get Food Stamps. This is an option that each state has and many states have forgone the option and now allow drug felons to have Food Stamps. Robin will investigate if there are other no-cost options that will expand benefits that can be packaged and presented to legislators.
 - b. Tactics for Educating policy makers
 1. STUNTS: Susannah suggested that we've spent a lot of time educating legislators, now it's time to build an emotional connection. There was much discussion about options including bringing kids/teachers to Juneau in February and having a contest for kids who can draw/write about the importance of a good meal.
 2. Kerri will work to put together educational packets about nutrition and school meals and connect with current Summer Food Service Programs to get kids involved in the contest. Gift certificates will be given to winners and the winning items will then be forwarded on to legislators. The deadline for completion of this project will be October 2009.
 3. Additionally, Robin and Susannah suggested working with MediAK, a student-centered multi-media organization to create a video about the importance of school meals. The video could then be distributed

electronically to legislators and posted on YouTube. Robin will contact MediAK with the idea.

5. Questions

a. Follow-up meeting

1. Kerri suggested a follow-up meeting in the July/August timeframe. If any earlier action needs to be taken, she will let committee members know.

6. Other business, concerns or issues

7. Wrap-up

- a. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
- b.