

## **THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION**



**The Alaska Food Coalition Quarterly Teleconference  
Tuesday, January 31st, 2006  
10am-11:30am Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Room 896, Anchorage**

### **Members Present**

**Jim Crockett** (Bean's Café)

**Margaret Duggan** (Municipality of Anchorage, Family Nutrition and Health Services)

**Ruth Elvsaaas** (Food Bank of Alaska)

**Kenneth Farrow** (Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.)

**Sophia Gomma** (Catholic Social Services)

**Tara Horton** (Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)

**Chris Johnson** (Anchorage School District)

**Susannah Morgan** (Food Bank of Alaska)

**Becky Parker** (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services)

**Pamela Phillimore** (Municipality of Anchorage, Family Nutrition and Health Services)

**Steve Reshetar** (New Hope on the Last Frontier)

**AnnaBell Stevens** (United Way of Anchorage)

**Linda Swarner** (Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Inc.)

**Henryk Szadziewski** (Alaska Food Coalition)

**Andrea Thistle** (Valley Open Bible Fellowship)

**Nick Timurphy** (Bristol Bay Native Association Regional Food Bank)

**Stephanie Wheeler** (Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)

**Jetta Whittaker** (The Glory Hole)

### **Member updates on their organization's work**

**Susannah Morgan** (Food Bank of Alaska)

Food Bank of Alaska has increased its food distribution to 5.8 million pounds. A building has been offered to Food Bank of Alaska on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway lease free for a year. The building will serve as the new Mat-Su branch of Food Bank of Alaska. Food Bank of Alaska plans to buy the building once the lease is up. Anchorage East Rotary has predominately funded a mobile food pantry for the Anchorage area which will distribute perishable food free of handling fees.

**Sophia Gomma** (Catholic Social Services)

Due to burst pipes Catholic Social Services, St. Francis House was closed recently. Food boxes for the homeless are now available by referral. The pantry at Catholic Social Services is maintaining the client choice model.

**Jim Crockett** (Bean's Café)

Numbers are up at Bean's Café, approximately 100-125 more people a day. There is concern over the increase in numbers and the consequent increase in food. This is being addressed with Food Bank of Alaska. The Alaska Food Coalition funded a new salad bar and Bean's Café is now using food more effectively and efficiently. Bean's Café is also transporting and serving food for Kid's Café.

**Steve Reshetar** (New Hope on the Last Frontier)

Numbers are up and capacity has been reached. As the month progresses more families come in to be served-about 270 families by the last Tuesday. New Hope on the Last Frontier is also working on Thursday evenings. A number of churches, including New Hope on the Last Frontier, are establishing a Love, Inc. for Anchorage.

**Chris Johnson** (Anchorage School District)

Clark Middle School has been granted Provision 3 Status which reduces application burdens and meal counting and claiming procedures. Approximately 6500 middle school students and 3900 high school students receive free school lunches. This represents 43% of the total of students who qualify. In addition, each school needs to have in place a Wellness Project by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Next year's Alaska School Nutrition Association conference will again be held in Anchorage in January after its success this year. The Alaska School Nutrition Association has 86 members and applications are available at [www.aksna.org](http://www.aksna.org), dues are \$5 a year.

**Ruth Elvsaa**s (Food Bank of Alaska)

Food Bank of Alaska's agency conference is scheduled for 1/31/2006. A food solicitor has been hired at Food Bank of Alaska.

**AnnaBell Stevens** (United Way of Anchorage)

Referral calls are up this year. United Way has been referring to Catholic Social Services and Lutheran Social Services.

**Becky Parker** (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services)

Becky requested that for informational purposes a list of food providers in Alaska be posted on the Alaska Food Coalition website.

**Stephanie Wheeler** (Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)

The Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives informed members that their partner The Alaska State Community Services Commission is holding its Statewide Conference on April 24 and 25 at the Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage. Also Community Funding Forums for FY 2006 have been organized for Kotzebue and Fairbanks with Faith-Based and Community Initiatives partners and Alaska state funders. Hill visits are on the calendar for March 1 and 2 in order to educate legislators on collaborative partnerships. On March 9<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives offices around the nation will be hosted in Washington DC. Funders from 50 states will be invited and ways on how to partner with Offices of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will be explored. A White House meeting has been scheduled and President Bush has been invited.

**Andrea Thistle** (Valley Open Bible Fellowship)

Community Café provides free meals and the number of clients accessing that service has increased. 35-40 meals are provided a day and dairy products are distributed to 70 clients a week.

**Jetta Whittaker** (The Glory Hole)

Number of meals served has decreased by 4% but bed nights are up 7%. The Glory Hole distributes 90 regular boxes a week which is up since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Nick Timurphy** (Bristol Bay Native Association Regional Food Bank)

The Bristol Bay Native Association Regional Food Bank will be located in a new building in downtown Dillingham by the end of February.

**Pam Phillimore and Margaret Duggan**

Any agencies interested in having WIC information available to their clients please contact Margaret Duggan at 343-4777.

**Linda Swarner** (Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Inc.)

The number of meals served compared to 2004 is down although TEFAP and CSFP applications are up. The suspected cause in the drop of meals served is the high price of gas. Many clients are phoning ahead to find out what is on the menu in order to decide if they should use the meal service. The Food Research and Action Center conference is being held in Washington D.C. at the end of February and Linda and Susannah Morgan of Food Bank of Alaska will attend.

Linda also provided an update on Samantha Castle-Kirstein, Executive Director of Fairbanks Community Food Bank who could not attend the teleconference. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club have reversed their policy to send food to reclamation centers instead of to local anti-hunger agencies. Fairbanks Community Food Bank lobbied heavily for this change and succeeded in changing Wal-Mart's national policy.

**Kenneth Farrow** (Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.)

A grant from The Alaska Food Coalition ensured that Alpha Omega Life Care could purchase a new refrigerator and improve the existing food storage facility. 3 tons of food was distributed from Fairbanks Community Food Bank to Alpha Omega Life Care continuing a two year partnership. 70 families are registered in two box programs from the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. The two programs combined serve approximately 150 people. Alpha Omega reports a good store of food for emergencies and has a small FEMA grant to distribute vouchers for use in local grocery stores. Alpha Omega is also involved in the Senior Farmers Market Program. A 40 hour week is devoted to food services.

**Coordinator's report**

1. Mini-grants

13 mini-grants were funded for FY2006, for a total of \$23,950.41. The results have been made public on the website and in Food Bank of Alaska's 'Food Update'.

2. Hunger Study

The draft report arrived this month. The Hunger Study Review panel of Tracey Burke and Karl Pfeiffer of the University of Alaska Anchorage and Hans Geier and Anthony Nakazawa of the University of Alaska Fairbanks made recommendations to America's Second Harvest concerning the report. The final version of the report will be available on February 23. Publicity surrounding the report has been arranged with a media plan e-mailed to all members.

3. Capacity-building Study

Aims to discover what agencies lack in terms of facility and equipment in order to meet expanding client need. Approximately 300 agencies have been mailed surveys statewide and a return rate of 25% has been recorded. Requests for completing the survey over the phone have been made to agencies who haven't returned the survey. Alaska community information to complement the survey is almost complete and is being entered in a database with the survey information. A brochure, e-mailed to all Alaska Food Coalition members has been prepared for publicity use.

### **Treasurer's report**

The treasurer announced that The Alaska Food Coalition was within its budget of \$65,000 for FY 2006.

### **Tracking anti-poverty legislation, a possible future role for the AFC?**

Jim Crockett pointed out that the Alaska Food Coalition mission statement to “educate policy makers about Alaskan food needs” had not been acted on. Stephanie Wheeler suggested a sub-committee to track legislation at all levels. Susannah Morgan stated that advocacy work by The Alaska Food Coalition should enhance and coordinate with local efforts and that the coalition should be cautious as it is funded by the State of Alaska. Susannah added that an advocacy role for The Alaska Food Coalition was not included in FY 2006 plans. Susannah informed the members that Food Bank of Alaska has written a grant for an advocacy position and that she would be willing for that person to coordinate efforts with The Alaska Food Coalition. Jim moved for a sub-committee to plan for tracking legislation which was seconded by Steve Reshetar. The committee is comprised of: Steve Reshetar, AnnaBell Stevens, Jim Crockett and a Food Bank of Alaska representative.

### **Annual meeting 2006 (location, date, and further suggestions)**

The members settled to provisionally set the dates of April 24 and 25 for the Annual Meeting. It was decided to hold the meeting in Juneau so that the Coalition could achieve two aims; first, to reconnect with the state administrators of federal food programs and second, to meet with state legislators and their staff to update them on the hunger situation in Alaska. The latter goal would be achieved by holding a reception at The Glory Hole in Juneau. An agenda and arrangements will be made by the President Linda Swarner and the coordinator Henryk Szadziewski.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Linda Swarner, at 11:40am.

Minutes prepared by Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator, Henryk Szadziewski.