

Alaska Food Coalition Quarterly Teleconference

January 12, 2005

3601 C Street; Suite 890; Anchorage

3:00-4:00 PM

Members Present: Susannah Morgan, Janelle Gomez, Julie Beatty, Steve Reshetar, Mike Roshin, Becky Parker, Jim Galbraith, Jim Crockett, Anna Bell Stevens, Sara Jackson, Diane DiSanto, Stephanie Wheeler, Don Walters, Linda Swarner, Louise Charles, Jon Walters, Julie Yoder, Jim Dalman , Kim Stryker, Ken Farrow, Sophia Gomma.

Kim Stryker (DEC): Kim shared that she has taken Nancy's place at the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Reviewed DEC's proposal for revisions to the Alaska Food Code.

Fish Project: Julie gave an update about the Halibut Project, coordinated by Trevor Jones. Since October's meeting, Julie has traveled to Kodiak to meet with Trevor to learn more about the project. Plans have been made for Julie and Trevor to travel to Victoria, BC on January 17 to attend the annual International Halibut Commission meeting. On Tuesday-Wednesday, they will meet with the Conference Board and the Processors Advisory Group about the project. These two bodies act in an advisory capacity to the Commission. The hope is that both advisory groups will request the proposal be approved by the Commission.

Recently Julie and Trevor also participated in a teleconference with Drew Scalzi, past Commission member, who resides in Homer. He mentioned that there is a chance that the proposal will also be referred to another regulatory body, the North Pacific Management Council, for approval. This organization meets 5 times per year. There are three meetings scheduled in AK this year; the first of the three will be held in Anchorage on April 1, 2005.

Julie recently sent out a mailing to PAG and Conference Board members, letting them know that AFC would be presenting this year at the annual meeting.

Mini-Grants: An update was given about the status of the mini-grants. The deadline for applications is January 28, 2005. A panel of five volunteers will be evaluating the grant applications and award announcements will be made on March 1. In addition, many calls have been received from senior programs requesting applications or inquiring of details; many have referred to the article published in the Senior Voice within the last couple of months. Currently, six applications have been received- a total of \$10,000.00 has been requested.

Hunger Study 2005: Julie gave an overview of the Hunger Study 2005 which begins in January and goes through April of this year. At the last meeting, the Coalition decided to support the coordination of the 2005 Hunger Study for AK. This study, sponsored by America's Second Harvest, is a nation-wide study that looks at services provided by charitable food programs. This is the fourth study of its kind. The first was in 1993, the second in 1997, and the third in 2001. Recent studies on hunger in America have shown that 9% of US households are considered food insecure. There is a belief that this number is understated as studies have had difficulty reaching people without phones or who are homeless.

Julie gave an overview of the project. The study has two parts. There is an agency survey and a client survey. There have been 47 Alaska programs in the preliminary selection to participate in the agency survey; names were selected based upon data provided by Alaskan food banks to A2H. The client survey will be composed of 400 face-to-face interviews with consumers of food assistance programs state-wide. Interviews will be conducted by volunteers trained by AFC the first week of February. An announcement was made to call Julie if you would like to volunteer or if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer.

Susannah reviewed a revised AFC budget put together and discussed by the Executive Committee to include staffing and travel costs for the study- the amount totaling approximately \$10,000.00. This amount would specifically be taken from funds reserved for mini-grants. Executive Members had decided to ask membership to vote on using funds for the cost of the study. However, Susannah announced since the last Executive Committee Meeting, a donor of the Food Bank of AK has given \$10,000.00 to help pay for the study. Susannah proposed to still consider the use of a tiered system in disseminating grant funds. She requested that \$10,000.00 be set aside for the study if needed. That means that \$22,000.00 of grant funds would be disseminated in March. Agencies that are next in line to receive grant dollars would be sent a letter stating that their funding is contingent on available monies and would be notified in May. A motion was made and then seconded to approve this plan. As it stands, \$10,000.00 of mini-grant funds will be set aside for the study. If the funds are not needed, they will then be allocated to agencies who have requested funds for their programs

AFC Membership Process: Julie discussed the current procedure for becoming a member of AFC. At this time, the process is very informal. Discussed plans to formalize the process to include an application form and a sliding scale for membership dues. Reviewed the sample scale. Linda and Diane shared their thoughts about the need to allow for associate memberships for individuals who are with State or Federal Programs. Also discussed the need to allow for options for individuals who cannot afford the dues. Plans made to generate a list of benefits that an individual or agency gains from becoming a member. This will be added to the web page. Plans also made to implement the new membership process in July of 2005. Julie will also check with funding sources to ensure that adopting a membership procedure with dues is not in violation of grant guidelines.

Spring face-to-face Meeting: Julie announced that the annual face-to face meeting will be held at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank on May 10 and 11. Reviewed agenda items and asked members about presenters they would like to invite to the meeting. Ideas included a representative from America's Second Harvest, a rep from WIC, or a speaker who can address lobbying efforts. Susannah shared she would be in touch with A2H about speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.