

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



QUARTERLY TELECONFERENCE FRONTIER BUILDING, ROOM 880, ANCHORAGE SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Kerri Burrows (Alaska Food Coalition)
Nila Morgan and Debbie Delsie (Abbot Loop Community Church)
Kimberly Stryker (Alaska DEC, Division of Environmental Health, Food Safety and Sanitation)
Michael Curran* (Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)
Kenneth Farrow* (Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc.)
Nick Timurphy* (Bristol Bay Native Association Regional Food Bank)
Susannah Morgan* (Food Bank of Alaska)
Ruth Elvsaas (Food Bank of Alaska)
Robin Stilwell* (Food Bank of Alaska)
Gus Marx* (Juneau Youth Services)
Linda Swarner (Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Inc.)
Jorge Hernandez (Latino Lions)
Martin Alexie* (Mountain Village Tribal Council)
Lance Johnson* (Nome Community Center)
George Briggs* (The Glory Hole)
Andrea Thistle (Valley Open Bible Fellowship)

*by teleconference

1. Member Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Alaska Food Coalition President, Linda Swarner and members introduced themselves.

2. Treasurer's Report

Susannah Morgan reported that the coalition was within budget. To date, the coalition has taken in nearly \$2,000 in membership dues.

3. Quarterly Teleconferences/Annual Member Meetings

A basic schedule was agreed on by the members for the next teleconference and Annual Member Meeting. Members agreed on January, 2008 for the teleconference and February 11 and 12, 2008 for the Annual Member Meeting. The January teleconference will prepare members for the Juneau Annual Member Meeting and School Breakfast Initiative. Andrea suggested The Baranof Hotel in Juneau as a place where members could stay during the Annual Member Meeting.

George Briggs with The Glory Hole offered his newly remodeled facility as a meeting venue for a coalition debriefing area and/or a presentation venue. Kerri also mentioned that Rosemary Hagevig with Catholic Community Service volunteered her organization for a meeting facility. With several options, members concurred the notion that the closer we can get to the capitol, the better access we could have to legislators.

Debriefing of the Annual Member Meeting would occur in May 2007.

4. School Breakfast Initiative

Susannah Morgan gave an update on the status of the School Breakfast Initiative. Still in its early stages, Susannah and Shawn Powers, Food Bank of Alaska Advocacy Program Manager, have been meeting with “friendly” legislators and have gotten a good response. The “full force” method of getting as many people and organizations to support the initiative is going well.

Kerri noted that Sen. Ellis has offered to host the coalition in the capitol on Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. and that inviting policymakers to a “school breakfast” might be a great way to get the message out.

Kerri also noted that this year, the coalition will be doing a legislator gift and opened the floor up for ideas on how to get the message out in a tangible form. George Briggs suggested putting photos of the legislators on a box of milk with a WANTED: TO HELP GIVE HUNGRY KIDS A GOOD BREAKFAST and delivering to the offices.

Kim Stryker mentioned the School Wellness Institute as a possible collaborator and gave Karol Fink with Health and Social Services as a contact for this program. She also noted that Alaska PTA organizations would be a great resource to get the initiative supported in the grassroots arena.

5. News from the Alaska Food Coalition

Kerri noted that there are 58 current members of the coalition for FY08, which is a drop of three members from last year. After follow-up with organizations, she has eight others that have promised to renew but haven't yet. Sixteen organizations have decided not to renew for FY08.

The deadline for the AFC Mini-Grant is September 30. Only seven applications have been submitted thus far.

6. Other business, concerns or issues

Diane DiSanto with the Municipality of Anchorage was unable to attend but wanted to address Hunger Awareness Day. The day has traditionally been held on June 5, but Susannah noted that America's Second Harvest has opted to go from one day to an entire month and name September as Hunger Action Month.

At the next teleconference, Susannah agreed to give a national update on the new Hunger Awareness Month plans.

Linda also mentioned World Food Day, which will be held on October 16 this year. Kenai Peninsula Food Bank sponsors an essay contest. She directed members to two websites: www.worldfooddayusa.org and www.breadfortheworld.org for more information. She also suggested the ELCA website (www.elca.org) as a reference for world hunger.

Michael Curran with the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives announced that the Compassion Alaska grant deadline has been extended to 5 p.m., October 3, 2007. Applications can be submitted electronically and awards are for up to \$20,000. You can get more information at www.hss.state.ak.us/fbci

Kim Stryker mentioned that Food Worker Cards are going to be available free of charge until the end of December. After December 28, if you are outside the Municipality of Anchorage (the city has specific regulations regarding food safety) and you serve food in your facility, at least one person has to have a Food Protection Manager Certification and all others must have a Food Workers Card. The Food Worker test can be given on site by the organizations themselves. For information about this or any other food safety and sanitation issues, contact Kim at Kimberly_Stryker@dec.state.ak.us or 907-269-7628.

7. Member Updates

Nila: Abbot Loop provides a full-spectrum of services to clients including food, meals, clothing and furniture. She will be leaving her position at the end of the month and Debbie Delsie will be taking over.

Kimberly: If you need new stickers or any information regarding food safety and sanitation, please contact Kimberly.

Ken: Alpha Omega Life Care provides a food pantry, CSFP and TEFAP, among many other services. They serve more than 150 people a month.

Ruth: TEFAP and CSFP are getting ready for renewals. TEFAP client applications can be filed with the organization and DO NOT have to be sent to FBA. CSFP applications MUST be filled out COMPLETELY before sending them in. There is no waiting list right now for CSFP—all clients will be added to the box program as soon as their paperwork is completed and put into the system.

Linda: The Kenai Food Bank garden was harvested this week between the rainstorms by two classes of kindergarteners.

George: Money for a facility and kitchen renovation has been trickling in and he expects The Glory Hole to be completely renovated by early next year.

Andrea: Construction is near completion for Open Valley. TEFAP has doubled since taking on Christian Pilots TEFAP program.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Linda Swarner, at 10:30 am.