

FOOD ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – Jan 30th, 2019

Chair Jeff Mathias called meeting to order (10:04am)

Yvonne announced Ahndrea Blue stepped up to fill position as Vice Chair
Secretary position is open

Review minutes from last meeting (September).

Ken Trainor moved to accept the minutes, Jeff Mathias seconded. **Minutes Accepted.**

Review Work in Progress & Status – Service Counts Survey

Yvonne – (reference *Background Summary on Survey* doc Yvonne shared) gave summary of work to date) 77 responses were received Sept – Dec 2018, Kyle M. worked on data

Kyle – (reference *Service County Survey data doc* – especially the “snapshot” section) 75 agencies reported on 140 different programs. Only 9 of them were qualified as “supplemental.” Other 131 were serving 3+ food groups in any given distribution.

Discussed asking if backpack programs, homeless bags, supplemental clients, etc. should be included on EFAP reporting as optional? After input and discussion from agencies on the call, it was offered by Kim E. that the state can add to the conversation by putting out talking points surrounding this topic in the EFAP Spring Meeting instructions. WSDA will draft something up and route it through FAAC since we will be getting materials ready the next month or so. Acknowledged this will take some time to ease folks into reporting these numbers.

WSDA Updates

- Where we are right now is we have 1 state legislature stakeholders’ request - \$100,000 focused on the Farm to Food Pantry (F2FP) Initiative.
- Fed Shutdown: One of the strategies is to have a state supplemental budget request for the current year. Are there state funds we can use immediately for use by June 30 to help offset what’s going on with fed shutdown? Shutdown ended Fri, but concern is that this may be temporary.
 - A state supplemental budget request for \$856,145 has gone to OFM, this is what we had done internally at WSDA. This is a bare minimum request and may remain on hold unless there is a 2nd federal shutdown.
 - Includes \$252,024 just to keep us operational through March 31. That keeps the 1/12th cap that we’ve placed on direct contractors for your operational expenses.
 - Includes \$604,121 to continue to pay for limited operational funding and to pay contractors expenses through June 30, 2019.
 - We also worked with DSHS, SNAP, DOH, and OSPI to discuss the impact of the shutdown on our respective programs and clients. How can we prioritize these requests for this emergency state supplemental request? The agencies selected support for food banks as a priority. Again the funds requested from OFM for WSDA do not replace the true impact of the federal shutdown, it’s just a stop gap to help us continue operating, to keep the food bank doors open. No way does it replace EBT/ SNAP funding (\$105 mil per month just to keep SNAP operational on a monthly basis)

- We still think there is a need for this emergency supplemental request, we're hearing from USDA what our funding levels will be for the next continuing resolution (mid Feb) - which are very small. It doesn't change our perspective that there is a need, it sounds like SNAP and WIC have funding Apr-May. There may be a need for a larger request.
 - For those of you who operate TEFAP, you know that we're getting a lot of the Trade Mitigation Program food. TMP foods received December through March did not come with any additional operational funding. TMP foods received in April and beyond will come with some operational funding that is to be passed down 100% to contractors (and potentially subcontractors).
 - In AZ they are doing 1.2 million state budget request, they are similar to us in size, but it's specifically to offset the increased costs associated with the large volume of TMP foods coming into the system. We're looking at ways to ensure we'll get the food in case of another shutdown. The way to do that is to order our entitlement foods that are coming Jul-Sept, early, in the hopes that USDA will purchase them, once they are in purchase status we know they'll be flowing into the system. You'll see James call a food ordering subcommittee meeting earlier than we normally do so we can get those foods ordered.
 - Is there interest in convening a separate meeting so we can continue this conversation in more detail?
- For supplemental state request, Kim asked if any of the agencies would be agreeable to sharing their client numbers earlier than usual (by Feb 10th) to be used as data to tell the story of why emergency funding is needed. Penny, Emily, and Ken noted this might be a challenge as most of the subcontractors they work with struggle to even get data to them by the 20th of each month. Kim asked that if they can even get data from just a few subcontractors and then the lead would compare it with year's past that would be very helpful data. Ken and Emily said they'd be willing to do this.
 - Aaron from FLL – appreciate the contingency planning. Would certainly support being aggressive about requests to the legislature, whether it be to accommodate more food in the system or the transportation and shortage needs.
 - Kim noted WSDA will be talking to USDA Western Region (first time since shutdown) and will be sending out an update from that conversation.
 - Kim confirmed that if employees are not being paid (i.e. furloughed government employees) then they would qualify for TEFAP - just like an unemployed person.

FOOD UPDATE FROM JAMES: Milk Feb-Mar & Apr-Jun will be twice per month instead of once per month. Recommends that contractors and subs have an aggressive strategy to get the milk out as quickly as possible. Milk Apr-Jun will be in gallons (instead of half gallon). Will be same quantity, just larger containers. Amount of food total that we're getting Apr-Jun is staggeringly increased. It's important for sites to understand that there isn't any kind of distribution rates for any of these products. Move the food immediately, don't sit on it! If they are getting twice as much, they should be giving out twice as much! UHT milk had been purchased as entitlement (Aug-Oct 2018), unfortunately it wasn't received due to production issues. Some of that milk is starting to come in all of the sudden. New order sheets will be updated and sent out by this Friday or Monday.

REVIEW GOALS FOR 2019

- **In-kind VOLUNTEER rate** review (refer to *EFAP IN KIND VALUE SFY 20 & 21* doc) – reminder, this is only for EFAP reporting internally, not meant to be used for donations/in-kind values each organization chooses to use.

Kris Stannert moved to accept the state of Washington 2020 minimum wage rate of \$13.50 + \$3/hr for in-kind labor rate for the next biennium. Ken Trainor seconded. All in favor, no opposed, motion to recommend to WFC board to accept \$16.50 as in-kind volunteer rate is accepted.

- **In-Kind FOOD value** – reminder, this rate is only for internal use for reporting to EFAP. Price per pound value of in-kind food donations is up to \$1.75 (due to 4.8% increase) pursuant to Consumer Price Index (CPI) values presented by Kyle.

Ken Trainor motioned that the committee would recommend to the WFC board to accept \$1.75 as the in-kind food donation value. Ahndrea Blue seconded. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

- **Civil Rights Training Resources**

Katie Rains announced a task force to help create civil rights tools. Not limited to FAAC, open to volunteers, they are invited to work with us on the task force.

- **Potential post-audit trainings and resources for agencies**

Katie Rains announced post-audit trainings – starting task force to develop procedures manual for subcontractors.

- **Committee makeup and recruitment**

Yvonne – introducing the conversation and making sure we are looking at how the FAA committee is made up, do we have the right people at the table, and are there voices we need to seek out. Yvonne going to work on it and send it on to committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30