



Washington Food Coalition

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WFC FAP COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

February 21st, 2013 • 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Location – Natural Resources Building

1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Room 259

In Attendance: Julie Washburn, Robert Coit, JoAnn Rushton, Bonnie Baker, Susan Eichrodt, Earl Hall, Lisa Hall, Connie Nelson, Barbara Talkington, Kim Eads, Joseph Bippert, Kellie McNelly, Isaac McKenzie-Sullivan, Tiffani Kaech, Anna Constant, Becky Elias, Karen Ullman, James Scovel, Mary Soderquist, Kris Van Gasken, Barb Houston-Shimizu, Kirk Robinson, Scott Hallett, Hector Castro

Welcome & Review Past Year Outcomes (*Robert Coit*)

- Discussion of structure of committee moving forward
- Review of parking lot issues will happen at next FAP Meeting
- Post meeting information and agendas on website
 - Also include membership lists
- Workgroup structures
 - Distribution workgroup will continue on as acting
 - Structures workgroup will continue in a finite manner until work is completed
 - Meal Program Inclusion workgroup will cease to exist currently, with the intent to continue the work with appropriate leadership in place in the future

Workgroup updates

- Meal Program Inclusion Work Group (*Robert Coit*)
 - Remains a goal to include MPs in EFAP
 - Lacks formal leadership at the moment
 - Decision: this work group is no longer active
 - Discussion will be brought to the WFC Board to work on general inclusion of meal programs
- Food Assistance Programs Structure Work Group (*Earl Hall*)
 - First step was reviewing definitions and terminology
 - Final Terminology Adopted was shared
 - Process took a lot of work
 - See *final terminology document*
 - Susan emphasized that this is solely contract language
 - Work left to be done:
 - Item B: Policies and Procedures for the 3 programs, make consistent, update terminology. WSDA staff hopes to get these completed in time to send out with contracts. Drafts will be sent to Work Group.
 - Item D: Recommendations regarding single reporting tool across programs, identify required data and look to streamline reporting
 - Item E: Recommendations to increase awareness and participation across target populations, including tribes, rural areas, areas of high unemployment and unmet needs

- Action item: take 'item E' off of this work group's task and move it on to WFC Board of Directors' work
 - New combined contract status (*Susan Eichrodt*)
 - Draft combined contract will be sent out to workgroup within a week or two
 - There has not been time to work on combined subcontract templates, so separate old subcontracts will be used with updated terminology and any policy/procedural changes included
 - Contract will be effective July 1st for all 3 programs
 - Some forms will be transferred to Excel files that will add up dollars automatically in EFAP application packet
 - Re-evaluating EFAP, TEFAP, CSFP contractor selection process
- Food Distribution System Work Group (*Robert Coit*)
 - Other states distribution systems (*James Scovel*)
 - The purpose of examining is to see how we could/should improve our system
 - Spoke to 7 states so far: Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas
 - Next on list is Florida and New York
 - *See Distribution System Comparison Grid*
 - Anna Constant volunteered to join the committee
 - Most people on committee also give input on ordering decisions
 - *See Order and Systems group lists*
 - Kris Van Gasken volunteered to be added on the order list

WSDA Updates (*Kim Eads & staff*)

- General Updates
 - Shared historical document on client levels and federal food ordering budgets
 - Bonus product is growing (which is good!), bonus is at 5.3 million to date and anticipated to increase while entitlement runs a steady 4.6 million per year. Entitlement food is a known amount in the federal budget while Bonus is unpredictable and not listed in the federal budget but it is critical to the health of the emergency food system.
 - EFAP: slight decrease in client levels
 - TEFAP Client trends: first quarter of federal year showed client numbers high in Oct-Nov and a crash in Dec
 - First quarter of federal year showed continued increase since 2012 (114,000 per month vs. 120,000)
 - EFAP trends: number of returning clients are down for the first time. Returning client numbers continue their downward trend.
 - *See Quarterly Client Visits EFAP 2003-2013*
 - State budget: no inside information on state budget known yet. Gregoire included an increase of about \$5 million in her budget with revenue; no increase in the budget without revenue
 - Federal budget: should know more March 1st and March 28th
 - There is movement nationally to increase TEFAP operational funding (result unknown)
 - All entitlement funds must be spent by September 30th. Currently whatever is unspent is lost. New movement going on that would allow for funds to be rolled over into the following year.
 - CSFP: received a reduction in caseload; expansion request was denied. 2 areas had sub-par numbers so they absorbed the caseload reduction.

- Current information that is being seen does not mention taking children off of CSFP, but that could change.
- Streamlining efforts
 - Looking at moving to a regional WSDA staffing model
 - Designating one person per region that manages all food programs
- Messaging efforts for this year
 - WSDA is interested in input for messaging
 - Social media has been increased lately
- New website walk-through with input
 - Will be launched soon and feedback is greatly desired

New projects

- Specific agency events/opportunities to increase food donations and farmer participation (*Kirk Robinson*)
 - New project that creates a competition between Washington and Oregon for food donations
 - Focus begins with dairy commission counterparts
 - June (National Dairy Month) will be the time to officially kick it off
 - Plan is to bring in other commissions as well
- Value of donated food standard
 - Pursue this via email
- Harvest Against Hunger Summit follow up projects (*Karen Ullman*)
 - See *HAH Summit Project List*
 - Robert proposes to bring the projects to WFC Board and get confirmation on how they would like to have them pursued

Possible agenda items for next meeting

- Food System Round Table update
- Develop communication plan
- Invest more time in working through the HAH projects (lots of time needed for this)
- Coordinate a succession plan; explore co-chair possibility
- WSDA Donation project update (lots of time needed for this)

Next meeting time: either in April with WFC meeting or in May during NWH Meeting