



Food Assistance Advisory Committee

June 29, 2018

Present: Terri Turner, MSC, Ken Trainor, Sunrise Outreach Center, Kelly Brown, North Helpline, Sabrina Jones, Northwest Harvest, Kim Eads, James Scovel, Lisa White & Nicole Garden from WSDA, Jeff Mathias, Blue Mountain Action Council, Kris Van Gasken, Des Moines Area Food Bank and Yvonne Pitrof and Trish Twomey, Washington Food Coalition.

I. Welcome and Introductions –

- Sabrina reported that Northwest Harvest has found a new home for its food bank after a two-and-a-half-year search. The new location is in the SODO (south of downtown) area of Seattle.
- Kelly Brown, North Helpline, reported that she is hiring a food bank manager for one of her programs.
- Terri Turner, Multi Service Center, mentioned she needs to reapply for United Way funding. Current funding will run through December 2018.
- Kris Van Gasken, Des Moines Area Food Bank, is busy with summer meals.
- Ken Trainor, Sunrise Outreach Center, will be the incoming Chair of the WFC. Ken reported that his service numbers are lower in the summer since many customers can't get to the food bank because of work. He has now opened up an additional day and one evening to accommodate these customers. Ken shared that a large hotel has been converted into farm workers housing in Yakima. It was also reported that Skagit County programs are also opening additional hours to accommodate working clients.
- This will be Sabrina's last meeting as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Jeff Mathias, Blue Mountain Action Council, has agreed to take on the position of Chair. Angela Burton who was scheduled to be chair had to decline the position. The committee is looking for a Vice Chair.
- Jeff Mathias shared that his Farm to Food Pantry Program is moving along well. He has hired a new person at the food bank allowing him to be more involved and present at meetings.

II. Washington Food Coalition Update – Trish Twomey

Trish shared information on the coalition's upcoming conference, *Making Waves!* September 12-14th in Yakima. Keynote speakers will be Clare Cady with Temple University and Co-Founder of the College and University Food Bank Alliance and Jeff Klein, Executive Director of Sound Outreach in Tacoma. More details on the conference on the coalition's web page, www.wafoodcoalition.org.

The coalition just wrapped up elections for their even numbered districts and will have several new representatives present at today's board meeting.



Bean recipes developed and adapted by SPU students are being sent out to members in this month's newsletter. Since there are a lot of dry beans in the system we thought these beans would be helpful to individuals using food banks.

The Fresh Results nominations process is closed and the WFC Board of Directors voted on the winners. This award acknowledges a program, project and one outstanding farmer that exemplifies a commitment to farm fresh food and connecting that goodness to the most vulnerable among us.

III. **WSDA Update – Kim Eads, James Scovel and Nichole Garden**

- A. **Staffing** – WSDA welcomes a new staff person, Jessica Hernandez. Jessica will be a Program Coordinator/Regional Representative for northwest and western WA counties including Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. Temporarily, she will also be working with San Juan, Whatcom, Island and Snohomish counties. She will also be working more closely with all tribes starting in the next several months. Jessica previously served as the Executive Director of the Port Angeles Food Bank.
- B. **County Factsheets** – 2017 County factsheets are now available on the WSDA website. These factsheets are a snapshot of WSDA supported food providers and are based on EFAP closeout data, SNAP data, ACS, OFM and contractor estimates.
- C. **EFAP Close-out Reports** – EFAP funding must be spent by June 30th and Closeout reports are due to WSDA by August 15th.
- D. **USDA Audit** – WSDA will be going through an audit this August(13-17th) of their federal programs, TEFAP & CSFP. They will also be doing compliance reviews at both the contractor and subcontractor level, but they will not know in advance who USDA will choose to visit. So WSDA is encouraging programs to review program requirements at the contractor and subcontractor level for all programs including EFAP, as many leads will be conducting site visits/reviews this summer. Yvonne reminded folks about the self-assessment tool on the WFC's website. They will be conducting a compliance review with Northwest Harvest as they are performing state-level warehousing and transportation service on behalf of WSDA.
- E. **USDA TEFAP Food Update** – WSDA is excited to report that they will be receiving a large increase of bonus TEFAP products starting in July 2018- through May 2019. Twenty-five additional bonus truckloads have been ordered for July to September 2018, and 92 truckloads have been ordered for October to May 2019. Products include split peas, tomato sauce, peaches, baby red potatoes, strawberry cups, frozen blueberries, dried cherries/dates, frozen pork chops (lots of pork, but no chicken), cheese (5# -Meal Programs) and a lot of dried legumes.



This equates to 4.5 million pounds of food. For more details, please see the statewide snapshot – Truckloads of Food located:

<https://agr.wa.gov/FoodProg/FoodOrderInfo.aspx>

- F. **Farm to Food Pantry Initiative** – Nicole shared more about the initiative. Fourteen leads are participating in 18 counties. She will post their names on WSDA’s website. A seal has been developed for the initiative for farmer, farmers market and programs involved with the initiative to use. There is a seal usage agreement that partners need to sign and have in place before they can receive posters and other promotional materials for the initiative. Posters were mailed out. They have also developed other promotional items – tattoos and magnets, as well as recipe cards for lentils and other products. All of these will be available at the WFC conference. Nicole did a survey for language needs and found Russian and Ukrainian to be the top languages needed so they can translate My Pantry posters, recipe cards and the WA Grown posters. An initiative fact sheet is coming soon.
- G. **2019- 2021 Legislative Proposals** – WSDA is in the process of deciding which legislative proposals will be moving forward. The two proposals that Food Assistance put forward include 1. Database development for a cohesive system that incorporates all of their programs, and 2. Nutritious Foods (Capacity/Quality /Farm to Food Pantry). Their Database proposal has been “yellow-lighted” but staff needs to provide additional information for the RFI and come up with a realistic dollar figure to include the cost of adding this to the state system.
- H. **Farm Bill** – Kim shared that the Senate version of the Farm Bill passed yesterday now in conference committee.
- I. **WSDA Strategic Plan** – Kim shared an updated draft of their Strategic Plan. She explained that the plan is always a work in progress and includes many tasks under each goal. She will send out the plan when it has been finalized but this year’s goals included:
1. Ensure emergency food providers have sufficient capacity to provide optimal services, effective client access, and nutritious foods.
 2. Engage and develop partnerships and resources that support our work, a shared vision, and the people and communities we serve (SNAP Ed, Food Waste Recovery (DOH, DOL), FINI Grant, Agriculture, etc.).
 3. Provide tools to contractors and subcontractors that are meaningful and necessary for successful program compliance and strategic emergency food system improvements (How to make “food providers” job’s easier, reduce time spent on reporting, streamlining procedural manuals, trainings, etc.).
 4. Ensure FA staff have the resources, training and tools necessary for core program services and to provide exemplary service that is responsive to the needs of our customers, clients, and partners in the agricultural and the



emergency food system communities (database, training plans, updated desk manuals etc.).

5. New – Food Assistance fully complies with federal and state regulations (reviews, audits, contracting etc.)

IV. **Finalize Additional Services Survey** - Kyle made some adjustments to the survey that the committee has been working on for the past few months. This survey will give food pantries an opportunity to share what services they provide. Some edits were suggested: definitions be provided for terms on the survey such as *Full Service* and *Supplemental*, take out “*Program Name*” at the top of each section and perhaps pilot the survey with one EFAP lead. Kim will ask Kyle and James where they think the survey could be piloted and also suggested that these questions could be asked by a contractor while doing site visits. Clarity is needed on who fills out a survey if an agency has multiple programs. WSDA will also need to develop a longer term plan and timeline to implement across the state. It was suggested that the roll out of the survey could be in January 2019. WSDA will make recommendations and get feedback from the group on a roll-out plan. More conversations about this at the next FA meeting. Everyone expressed their thanks to Kyle for all this work on this survey. Thanks Kyle!

V. **FA Advisory Committee FY19 Goals** – The committee reviewed their accomplishments for the past year which included:

- ✓ Back Pack Task Force – added service numbers to monthly EFAP report
- ✓ Development of Service Survey
- ✓ FAQ’s for EFAP and TEFAP
- ✓ Insurance savings

Goals for FY 19-20:

- Implementation of Service Survey
- Develop a Civil Rights training – U-Tube video, updating content
- Implement recommendations from USDA audit (Civil rights training could be included)
- Develop and implement trainings – EFAP and other topics

VI. **Additional Items** –

- a. Kim shared ideas that she and her staff came up with for their session at the WFC conference and wanted to get feedback from the group which one they preferred.
 - i. Increasing nutritious food (pantries)- Strategies to connect with farmers; materials, seal



- ii. Listening session for Biennial EFAP meetings – training module and cover basic responsibilities of leads and subcontractors.
- iii. DOH/Ecology – Waste Recovery and Food Rescue; Perhaps 2 sessions – one to show movie – *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste*. The other to have speakers from Dept. of Health and Department of Ecology. WFC staff shared that they have a session on food waste planned for their conference and plan to show the Wasted! Movie. Kim will connect with Kellie McNelly, who is planning this session, to see how we can work Kim's ideas into the session.

Special thanks to Sabrina Jones for chairing the committee these past two years.