WFC Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023

Over Zoom

**In attendance**: Ahndrea Blue, Cecilia Chavez, Chris Benson, Lindsey Habenicht, Jennifer Hardison, **Treasurer**, Bob Mark, Kellie McNelly, VJ Meadows, Ariel Medeiros, **Secretary,** Erik Mora, Tiane Shoemaker, Andra Smith, **Chair,** Ken Trainor, Trish Twomey, *staff*; and Kris Van Gasken

WSDA Staff: Kim Eads, and Mallorie Shellmer

Guest: Dana Cordy

1. **Introductions:**

Executive Committee Update: Looked at the conference overview reports prepared by the Executive Director.

District Updates:

District 1: Excited to brand new year and positive changes. Concerned about the food supply chain for rural communities.

District 2: Second Harvest has restructured its distribution; Community Action Council in Wenatchee will be the regional distribution organization. Smaller pantries are nervous about how this change may affect them. Excited about the increased support for programs connecting farms with food pantries. Received a resiliency grant to purchase a refrigerator for their gleaning program.

District 3: No representation

District 4: Mobile farm stand going to 9 communities in Whitman County twice a month with produce from local farms. Worried about the crop yield if there is another heat bubble and not being able to get fresh produce.

District 5: Numbers have gone up and the supply is not increasing at the same rate.

District 6: Numbers are up, doesn’t have the food for the increase in people.

District 7: Picking food up from Pasco and being a regional distribution organization for pantries in the area. Blue Mountain Action Council will be increasing the number of shipments to pantries that they serve. Also is worried about the food supply chain.

District 8: No representation

District 9: Decrease in support from food banks. Can meet the quality of products even if they can’t meet the quantity of products. Has seen an increase in local partnerships with the decreased support of regional partnerships.

District 10: Excited about the diversity of food. Worried about having more people and less food.

District 11: Concerned about the rising cost of food and the shortage of food.

District 12: No representation

District 13: No representation

District 14: Excited for a new year, but worried about the food supply. The quality of what is being delivered is still good.

At-Large: Kris Van Gasken: Some legislative agenda items are about kids' programs.

1. **Approval of Minutes:**

***Ken Trainor motioned to approve the September 2022 minutes as presented. Cecilia Chavez seconded the motion, motion passed. Ahndrea abstained.***

1. **Treasurer’s Report** presented by Andra Smith

Andra shared that she, Jennifer and Trish met with the bookkeeper and company owner to figure out a simpler and easier to read financial statement. She shared the dashboard idea that Michelle shared with Trish. It was decided to try the dashboard and see how the board likes it. If approved we will move forward with presenting the dashboard each quarter to the board and send the detailed financial statements out each month to all board members after they have been reviewed by the Finance Committee. Andra will reach out to the members to create a finance committee to review the full detailed financial statements and the general board will view the dashboard.

***Kris Van Gasken motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Cecilia Chavez seconded the motion, motion passed.***

1. **Executive Director’s Report** presentedby Trish Twomey:

Trish reminded everyone that the two Conference reports (April and September) were sent out, as well as the monthly newsletter, and the quarterly newsletter. Bonnie with the Get Certified project recently learned that not all food banks need to have a CFPM certificate, only those that are repackaging potentially hazardous foods. Please check with your public health district.

1. **Committee Reports**
   1. **WSDA/FA Advisory update** by Kim Eads

**WSDA:**

See attached “WSDA Food Assistance Updates - January 262023 Final” and “WSDA\_FoodPolicyAgenda\_23\_Final” for more details.

TEFAP amount is going up from last year, however, the cost of food has also gone up. There is also TEFAP Operational funding.

Additional funding for food purchasing from WSDA Director Sandison.

There are legislative updates that focus on increasing funds or products.

Have EFAP spring meetings in April or May.

**Food Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting:**

We were excited to have record attendance for this meeting thank you to so many of you for being there. The majority of the meeting was focused on the report from Josh Martinez (See attached “1-17 FAAC presentation”) based on conversations with EFAP contractors, subcontractors, and other food stakeholders. Their thoughts,

suggestions, and observations were compiled into the included slide deck and the minutes reflect the robust discussion that was focused on improving the process for contracting, removing barriers for customers, and increasing access to the emergency food supply.

If anyone from this group was not able to attend and would like to join the Client Intake Subgroup that will be continuing this work, please let Trish know.

* 1. **Transition Committee** by Andra Smith

Changes to the bylaws were sent out for the board to review. The board will vote today on approving the newly drafted by-laws.

There was a question regarding section 4 and changing the structure of the executive committee. Prior bylaws had that the immediate past chair was on the executive committee. The new structure is chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and up to two others.

Board elections- this spring the board will elect new representatives in the odd numbered districts. We hope that even numbered district reps can stay on for one more year. We will also select three of the six Members at large this spring.

We need to update the board manual and the board roles and expectations of board members as well as clarify our nomination and election process. Nominations will begin in April of this year.

***Ahndrea Blue motioned to accept the bylaws as revised. Chris Benson seconded the motion, motion passed.***

* 1. **Conference Committee** by Kris Van Gasken

Kris reported that we had a record number of attendees at the September conference. Sponsorships exceeded expenses by $4,000. We will be using Whova again for the 2023 conference. The next conference is September 27-29 in Yakima.

* 1. **Advocacy Update** by Steven Curry

Last year the Washington Food Coalition Board adopted the entire 2022 legislative agenda by the Anti-hunger & Nutrition Coalition. The entire agenda was accomplished in 2022.

* $21.6 million to expand free meals
* $58 million for We Feed Washington
* $17.6 million for resiliency grants
* $1.5 million to expand senior farmers markets
* $560,000 to extend basic food and education training

There are two bills this year, see attached “AHNC Legislative Agenda” for more information on each bill.

First is *Healthy Free School Meals for All*, and the second is the *Basic Needs Act supports Hunger Free College Campuses*.

HB 1238: https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5339&Chamber=Senate&Year=2023

SB 5339: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1238&Year=2023&Initiative=false>

Asking for $6 million to expand the DOH’s SNAP Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program.

Asking to extend funds for food banks and community-based emergency food programs.

DHHS is estimating a loss of $93 million a month in food stamp benefits in Washington alone.

***Kris van Gasken motioned to adopt the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition’s 2023 legislative agenda. Chris Benson seconded the motion, motion passed.***

* 1. **Program Update** by Dana Cordy

Dana is the consultant for the Healthy Centered Food Banking work funded by a resiliency grant. The focus is supporting programs with nutrition policy development. SWAP implementation is another aspect of the grant.

Each program that works and completes their Nutrition policy with Dana will have a $600 stipend.

“The Ask”:

1. Talk to at least 1 food program in your district outside of Seattle, preferably a program that is BIPOC-led and/or BIPOC-serving or a program that has been traditionally left out of these support services and resources, let them know about the **Health Centered Food Banking project** to increase nutrition security. Have a conversation about why nutritious food is important to food-insecure communities and how a nutrition policy can help.

2. Offer an email introduction to: dana@wafoodcoalition.org and she’ll do the rest.

1. **Close**

The next meeting will be April 26, 2023, at 1 PM virtually.

