



## FA Meeting, 5/7/2018

### Attendees:

**In person:** Sabrina Jones – NWH, Kim Eads – WSDA, Nichole Garden – WSDA, James Scovel – WSDA, Kyle Merslich – WSDA, Lisa White – WSDA, Terri Turner – MSC, Trish Twomey – WFC, Yvonne Pitrof – WFC.

**On the phone:** Alan Hamilton – Clark County Food Bank, Emily Kaleel- Clark County Food Bank, Marki Lockhart – Olympic Community Action Program, Ahndrea Blue – Eloise Cooking Pot, Kevin Glackin-Coley – St. Leo's Food Connection.

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

#### Updates:

**Sabrina Jones – NWH,** Northwest Harvest has a new database inventory system. This is a good improvement, but has caused a bit of chaos in the transition.

#### *Update on Vice-Chair position:*

Kim spoke with Jeff Mathias and he has graciously volunteered to step into the Vice-Chair role, starting today through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. At that time, Jeff will step into the Chair position. He is excited to be part of this committee and committed more deeply through this role. Jeff unfortunately could not be on the call today due to a grant deadline, and expressed his regrets.

#### **Yvonne Pitrof and Trish Twomey – WFC:**

We have board elections for even numbered districts, we are gathering nominations. Ballots will be mailed out and will need to be returned at the beginning of June.

The Fresh Results Awards 2018 are open for nomination.

We just had a board retreat, and will be having a follow up meeting to hash out action steps.

Planning for Conference is under way.

Bean recipes developed by Seattle University students will be available and uploaded as a resource on our website soon.

#### **WSDA:**

**Kim Eads – WSDA,** the Food Assistance programs team is not fully staffed at the moment, but should have someone on board in June. Regional Reps may change as the new hire is onboarded, so please do not hesitate to check in on who your rep is. Summer is a busy time getting compliance reviews done for TEFAP, CSFP and EFAP distributors/leads and subcontractors. There will be a USDA audit in August for TEFAP and CSFP. They will be randomly selecting contractors and subcontractors across the state, so make sure posters are up and subcontracts are all in place. Northwest Harvest will most certainly be included in that audit. Concerning the budgets, the TEFAP entitlement, not including bonus is at \$4.8 million. In 2014 there was a large designated increase in food, but each year since that has decreased as previously planned in the 2014 Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill is set to end in September 2018, and we will be seeing levels at their lowest point about then. For the first 3 quarters (on a calendar year – Jan-Dec), spending for food was at approximately \$1.5 million each quarter. This 4<sup>th</sup> quarter could amount to only about 20% of what you are used to seeing per quarter. We are trying to shift some things around to help and hoping for more bonus (update: we received notice that a large amount of bonus will be coming in the next 6 months) for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to help offset the reductions.

**James Scovel update:** Some things coming in: pears, corn, peas, and more. Bonus products coming in April-June include: red beans, grape juice, turkey breast, eggs, pears, fig pieces, Alaskan Pollack, pinto beans. July-Sept orders will include peaches, beans, corn....also flour (but there is a possibility that they will cancel), and they may cancel 2 trucks of peanut butter as there will be some available in bonus. These cancelations would free up needed funding for Oct-Dec. James will be using the food ordering group for feedback. Let him know if you want to be on that if you are not currently.

**Nicole Garden update:** Farm to Food Pantry 2017 report is now online. We've just launched our new Farm to Food Pantry Seal, and already 5 of the lead agencies have sign up to use it. Check out the blog on WSDA where there was a shout out regarding the new seal. Contact Nicole and she can send that out if you are

interested. There are 2 new partners for Farm to Food Pantry coming up OIC Yakima and the South King County Food Coalition.

***Budget and Legislative Updates:***

Federal budget actuals finally came through and there will be approximately \$200,000 that will need to be spent by September of 2018. Much of this is a one-time occurrence. WSDA actively sought and collected feedback from contractors for ideas on how best to spend this. Based on that feedback they are looking at possibilities for having a targeted emergency fund, use it to help with matching funds, and/or for equipment purchases. More info will be sent out to contractors for input.

This is a one-time increase, then will drop down to \$54million after.

The American Commodity Distribution Association is pushing a **\$100 million request for TEFAP operational funds**, which is higher than any previous request.

**CSFP is slated for elimination in 2019.** Has strong national advocacy support and WSDA would like to see this program continue and grow instead.

**State Agency Budget Request Process:**

WSDA's food assistance team held 2 Go To Meetings with contractors, on April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> to get feedback on legislative proposals to move forward in 2019-2021 biennial budget. This is part of WSDA's internal budget proposal development process, and will have to see what makes it into the final budget proposal package. There are over 15 requests with the agency currently.

Kim will send the revised food assistance program proposals (based on feedback) to Sabrina to send out.

*These proposals include:*

Funding for a general nutrition boost for EFAP, plus support for Farm to Food Pantry.

This is currently at \$1million.

There is also a proposal concerning a much needed upgrade to the food assistance programs internal database system. This is a proposal for \$250,000 to start, with an ongoing \$80,000 per year.

If these proposals move forward, there will be more detail coming.

The ultimate agency decision package goes to OFM, where everything will have to be tied to performance measures. This will require stories and will take a couple of months to develop.

May 9<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting with advocacy groups to go over these proposals and discuss.

Let Kim know if you have any questions, ideas of performance measures, or ideas for strengthening these proposals.

**2. Service Counts Subcommittee:**

Last year we were successful in amending the EFAP report to include optional reporting of backpack programs. In this process however, the question came up around capturing additional programs, beyond just backpacks.

Kyle created a draft survey – Service Counts: Best Practice Survey

Requests for any feedback – gave way to some conversation/discussion.

The timeframe to get information and make decisions that would impact/change the form is about 10 months at this point.

It was offered that these numbers could potentially impact agencies' funding allocations in certain counties depending on what formulas and methods of allocation they use.

Discussed options for getting people to complete the survey.

It was proposed that WFC includes an article on it in their member news and newsletter, and that the survey could be conducted during site reviews in a one-on-one format.

It was asked how many lead contractors are reporting backpack programs since the most recent form change. Kyle estimated that about 6-7 leads out of about 26 total are reporting backpack services currently.

**3. Next Full Committee Mtg – Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> – time and location to be determined.**

**4. Close**