



Food Assistance Advisory Committee Mtg. 9/12/2018:

In attendance: Jeff Mathias, MBAC; Kyle Merslich, WSDA; Ahndrea Blue, Making A Difference Foundation; Ken Trainor, Sunrise Outreach; Mike Compton, Community Action Council of Thurston, Lewis and Mason; Scott Kilpatrick, Community Services of Moses Lake; Terri Turner, MSC; Jessica Hernandez, WSDA; Nicole Garden, WSDA; Kim Eads, WSDA; James Scovel, WSDA; Alan Hamilton, Clark County Food Bank; Yvonne Pitrof, WFC.

On the phone: Peny Archer, Community Services of Moses Lake

Jeff Mathias called the meeting to order.

Welcome and introductions/updates around the room.

Jeff will be tabling at the WFC booth and talking with conference attendees in hopes of recruiting more committee members.

We need a Vice-Chair and Secretary

Ahndrea Blue agreed to step into the Vice-Chair role.

Reviewed minutes from the last meeting (June).

Ken moved to accept. Ahndrea seconded. **Minutes Accepted.**

WFC Update: Looking forward to a great few days ahead with conference.

WSDA Update:

Kim Eads:

The **USDA audit is done.** This was on the federal programs, TEFAP and CSFP).

First of all – THANK YOU to all of you.

Findings:

WSDA has traditionally offered considerable flexibility between counties on how things are done. USDA evidently does not fully support how that has been happening, and is mandating that practices need to be standardized. Some practices have been happening that probably should not have been allowed. The burden of this is on WSDA, not the individual agencies. That being said, we will need to institute some changes.

WSDA will be scheduling a mandatory Go To Meeting after conference and go over every section of what we need to do.

WSDA is also looking at one of the largest years ever for the commodity program.

- Entitlement commodities will be the same.
- Bonus commodities are tied to market supports. These will be similar or a little less than the past.
- Trade negotiations bonus product – TEFAP will receive the bulk of this (\$1.2billion nationally this year).

This will result in more food than ever and lots of fresh and frozen product.

James will have more info on that.

There will be 4 phases, Dec-Mar, Apr-June, with lots of potatoes, apples, cheese rice, ...

There will NOT be more funding for the operating costs of handling all this additional food.

Federal budget delays compound the issue.

There are advocates (Feeding America/FRAC) who are pushing for \$100million for TEFAP in the Farm Bill.

It is important to remember the food safety issue here. We need to be turning this food over, fast.

With the amount and type of fresh food coming in, we'll need to look at this very creatively to move it all in a timely manner.

Alan Hamilton noted: there are current inefficiencies among all food banks typically. It would be great if we could look at that. He expressed appreciation for WSDA's practice of flexibility, and described WSDA as having always been enjoyable to work with.

Concerning Legislative proposals for the 2019 Legislative session:

The request for funding to update the Food Assistance database technology has been postponed. They sent out an RFI to pinpoint the dollar figure that this would take to accomplish, and the estimate was astronomical. As a result, this request was pulled at this time. There is a chance that we will relook at this for the supplemental budget.

On the EFAP request, Food Assistance anticipated word from above soon.

NWH sent a letter of support. The image among many is that the economy is "better"

WSDA Food Assistance has also been working with DOH. DOH has a request in for a FINI extension. They were aware of our request as well.

We've been asked about looking at Farm to Food Pantry as smaller, more specific ask.

If anyone has any ideas or input, Kim would be happy to forward proposals/feedback to director.

Food Assistance will be bringing a new person onto the team on November 1st.

FYI – Evidently, we cannot copy the "Justice for All" poster. (Learned from the USDA audit).

James Scovel:

2018/2019 we will be seeing a huge impact from a large influx of fresh milk and frozen chicken.

The Food Order Group will have a conference call(s), and the topic of how to move all this food will happen at the mandatory Go To Meeting coming up after conference.

Fresh milk will be coming twice a month and needs to be moved really quickly. It will be in 2%, 1% and whole, half gallons. 65 trucks of milk will take a lot of work to get out.

Turkey roasts are coming in October – 10 trucks (a lot). Chicken will be coming in November, whole or in 5# bags, some trays (not 10# bags).

Goals of Service Counts data collection (survey):

The survey is developed along with a couple of letters to introduce the survey.

We will be asked WFC board members to reach out to programs in their respective districts to complete the survey.

Since we want to be able to report results in January and make recommendations, we should look at the survey being completed by November 30th.

Committee Goals:

Question – Will there be any items from the audit findings/solutions coming to this committee?

Kim Eads – we will know in a couple of weeks.

We could potentially look at a training document to support the audit.

- ***We should annually review the diversity of this committee.***
- ***Review in-kind rates for volunteer hours and food donations.***
- ***Civil Rights training revisions/formats***

Future Meetings:

Maybe a quick meeting before the Feb 1st WFC Board meeting?

April 26th

July 19th

Adjourn.