

Washington Food Coalition

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17th, 2020

Via GOTOMEETING

Present on the call/computer were: Paige Collins, Trish Twomey, Erik Larsen, Ken Trainor, Leon Brauner, Alan Hamilton, Tiane Shoemaker, Jeff Mathias, Michelle Douglas, Jenn Tennent, Kris Van Gasken, John Neill, Bob Mark, Kellie McNelly, Scott Kilpatrick, Anita Sailor, Jennifer Hardison, Ahndrea Blue, Dan Lancaster and Kevin Glackin-Coley, Kim Eads and Mallorie Shellmer

Guest: Debbie Niehenke (nominee from District 4)

Welcome and District updates - *KenTrainor, Chair*

Ken Trainor (District 5, Kittitas & Yakima) They are slammed, doing pre packed curbside pickup, struggling with finding volunteers.

Tiane Shoemaker (District 1, Ferry, Stevens & Pend Oreille) Each food bank is doing their own thing; letting clients in the lobby area with social distancing protocol in place --one client at a time; some are bagging or boxing food. With the increase in SNAP funds their numbers are down.

Bob Mark (District 2, Okanogan, Chelan & Douglas) Leavenworth doing curbside model and deliveries; warehouse operating out of Toyota Center at this time; giant increase in demand for food boxes (no update from Okanogan Counties.)

Scott Kilparick (District 3, Grant, Lincoln & Adam Counties) Social distancing, space issues with drive-thru model; found paper bags.

Paige Collins (District 4, Spokane and Whitman) Everything is going okay; making double the amount of home deliveries, 200 a week to five new towns.

John Neill (District 6, Benton/Franklin) Tri Cities is just swamped; Fields of Grace is waiting for crops-lots of farmers volunteering to let them pick; lots of new folks coming to food banks; loss of volunteers.

Jeff Mathias (District 7, Walla Walla, Garfield, Asotin & Columbia) Demand has gone through the roof; some pantries have closed so they are handling those too; National Guard is super helpful but does take lots of effort; disruptions in congregate meal service-they need to-go containers.

Eric Larsen (District 8-Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan and Island) Skagit County only has three food banks left operating on their own supplies; lack of volunteers and facilities; National Guard is helping out; mobile delivery is 'exploding'; tons of donations to purchase food but sellers are not stocked as well as usual; 1600-1800 boxes a week to their facility; TEFAP only lasts 1.5 days or so right now; they are going to help Food Lifeline out packing boxes too.

Dan Lanaster (District 9, King County) Drive thru models or pre-bagged or boxed for pantry service working well; 3,000+ families in one month and 360 are brand new; they expect that to continue; food levels are okay right now; need gloves-Trish says they are 'on the way' and should be out next week

Ahndrea Blue (District 10, Pierce County) EFN has been tremendously supportive; National Guard is helping; smaller pantries having trouble with PPP's and getting other help; most are doing curbside/alternative service; insurance companies are helping to vet drivers for deliveries.

Kellie McNelly (District 11, Lewis & Thurston) Lost some senior volunteers, doing home deliveries; pre-made boxes are working and food supplies are holding up so far.

Alan Hamilton (District 12, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Klickitat) Social media has been significant for finding volunteers and community engagement; new drive-thru sites, homeless in hotels, home delivery program isn't having trouble finding volunteers

Leon Brauner (District 13, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties) Sanitizing and social distancing; pre-made boxes and bags for drive-thru model; so far hasn't heard of a need for more food; Ocean Shores has had several groups set up home delivery for groceries and other items; curbside is working well for not needing so many volunteers; more donations are coming in including one man who donated stimulus check.

Chris Benson (District 14, Clallma, Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason) was not on the call.

Jenn Tennent (At-Large rep NWH) Working on statewide coordinated effort; Smartbuys is on hold; summer programs will be changed too; working on sourcing supplies-masks will be picked up today; NWH doing some pop-up food pantries.

Kris Van Gasken (At-Large Rep) Schools are doing amended meal programs (breakfast/lunch) and their food bank does the same; March numbers show 62% are brand new clients to their agency

Anita Sailor- (District 1) Schools doing food for children are donating it to N.E.W. Hunger

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from last meeting-motion by Alan Hamilton, seconded by Erik/Leon, all in favor (all) opposed (0) minutes are approved

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Hardison

- Rising Sun Accounting is our new bookkeeper, she reports this should be a much better arrangement and should be easier for all;
- WFC purchased Quickbooks online
- Jan/Feb/March financials-everything looked good to Jennifer
- There was a question regarding the two 'conference registration' categories. Jennier reported that they are basically one in the same.
- Ken appreciated 'net income', definitely in better shape this year
- WSDA Invoices will be sent to State soon, \$10,000 donation to respond to COVID -19 is expected soon.

Executive Director's Report - Trish

- MemberClicks conference was canceled-rescheduled for early November, fees will apply to November conference now; airline fee will be credited for November event.
- 8 new members in the last Quarter, down due to pandemic. Trish will start to follow up with lapsed programs.

- Lots of questions re: pandemic issues lead to daily newsletter-she's happy to print if we need them to distribute to members
- Changes in State deliverables due to pandemic-survey and spring training are on hold; keeping up on closures and changes, Julie Washburn is working on website updates with this information.
- In Jan/Feb attended many coalition meetings; met with new bookkeepers, purchased Quickbooks online; participating in tons of calls around the virus; visited Whitman County; participated in Hunger Action Day
- Applying for Congressional Hunger Fellow-to do work/research investigating how other coalitions are funded and structured around the country-due May 7th. U District Food Bank and Leon have offered financial support for the cost of the fellow.
- Regional Call with central counties was highly successful! More to come.

Committee Reports:

Special Events/Conference Committee-Kris Van Gasken

- The committee is trying to figure out what to do regarding whether or not to host a conference.
- So many questions-re: will we still be social distancing? Would we attend? A survey will be sent to all members on Monday to ask for feedback.
- EFN, Clark County, South King County stated they will still sponsor this conference.
- Jenn Tennent stated that NWH is canceling their June conference. NWH prepared to give sponsorship to the WFC Conference or to strategize with us around doing something together.
- Bob Mark -What would it look like for WFC financially if we do not have the conference? Kris Van Gasken responded that she did not think it would have a detrimental effect, since costs usually break-even; it works because of the sponsors. Trish also shared that if we do regional trainings we could ask for sponsors to help cover costs.

Advocacy Committee:

- Kevin emailed Trish an Advocacy Committee update-Lots of success for food issues at the State legislative level. Kevin has reached out to both the OSPI Child Nutrition office and Rep. Kilmer's staff to request an extension of the waiver on congregate eating for the Summer Meals program. Currently the waiver is in effect through the end of June but an extension through the summer would be ideal. *(Kevin was on he call but was muted)*

Ken stated that we needed to hold a vote to approve Jennifer Hardison as Treasurer. Alan Hamilton moved, Michelle Douglas seconded, vote was unanimous. None opposed.

Ken announced our next meeting has been set for **July 17th at the Multi-Service Center in Federal Way.**