

Katie Hobbs  
Governor

Angie Rodgers  
Director

## Mission Statement

The Council exists to help end hunger in Arizona by providing a forum for the development and advocacy of strategies to end hunger, with particular attention to empowering the disenfranchised in order to attain food security for everyone; and to promote cooperation and collaboration among all agencies and decision-makers (both public and private) to eliminate the causes of hunger and reduce hunger where it exists.

## DES Hunger Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2023

### Attendees

Art Hernandez, Ashley St. Thomas, Chariti Stern, Danielle McMahon, Deborah Moore, Erin Raczynski, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Harvey Grady, Carol Hurst, Jessie Gruner, Jennifer Snow-Vargas, Lisa Felicia Akorli, Laney Meeker, Laura Walsh, Madeline Richards, Marina Quiroz, Marlene Hernandez, Molly Bright, Ray Ostos, Tory Wilson, Veronica De la Cruz

### Meeting Minutes – meeting recording [01/27/23 HAC Meeting Recording](#)

Marina Quiroz, Hunger Relief Program Coordinator, Division of Community Assistance and Development

## **Call to Order**

Ashley St. Thomas, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 12:33pm by Ashley St. Thomas, Co-Chair of the Hunger Advisory Council. Each attendee was asked to identify his or herself over the virtual call.

## **Agenda Overview and Introductions**

Ashley St. Thomas, Co-Chair

## **Approval of Minutes – October 28, 2022**

Motion to approval – Jessie Gruner, Pinnacle Prevention

2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve – Tory Wilson, United Food Bank

Approved - ALL

**Report on USDA WIC Changes** - Marlene Hernandez (see attachments shared during meeting in your 1/27/23 calendar invite).

## **Policy Updates - Ashley St. Thomas**

- Announcement of Angie Rodgers, President/CEO departure from Arizona Food Bank Network. Rodgers is now the Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security. April Bradham has been named as the interim President/CEO of AZFBN.
- Summer EBT was made permanent and will be effective summer 2024.- Ashley St. Thomas
- Summer EBT 2023 will be similar to P-EBT 2022 but amount will change to \$120 - Karil Hurst

## **State Agency Updates**

### **ADHS - Erin Raczynski**

- Launched their state nutrition and physical activity action planning process.

### **DES/HRP - Laura Walsh, DCAD HRP**

- Commodity Senior Food Program - announcement discussing cost of living adjustments potentially affecting current CSFP clients eligibility for CSFP.
- CSFP For 2023, caseload increased to 25,776 to help serve more eligible clients.

- Provided updates on ARPA Grant & Reach and Resiliency Grant.

**DES/HRP** - Marina Quiroz, DCAD HRP and Jessie Gruner, Pinnacle Prevention

- Double Food Bucks Program - continue corner store expansion efforts
- Senior and WIC Farmer Market Nutrition Programs - opened for the season February 1st. FMNP programs will be utilizing some of the LFPA Grant to fund the statewide Match Program that will help our FMNP clients with receiving additional funds to purchase AZ grown fruits and vegetables.
- SNAP-Outreach  
Continuing efforts on expanding the SNAP Outreach program.  
Served over 1.6 million potential SNAP clients in FFY2022.  
57 current community partners

**Partner Food Bank Updates**

United Food Bank - Chariti Stern

- New CEO has been hired and will be named soon.
- UFB is assessing FY22 data and strategizing surrounding their finds
- Grocery rescue partnership has increased.
- Is looking forward to the increased caseload for CSFP to reach more seniors.

**Call to the public**

Please view video for context

**Adjourn Meeting**

Ashley St. Thomas – Co-Chair 2:07pm

**Next Meeting**

April 28, 2023 12:30 – 2:30pm