



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Michael Traylor  
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**

**November 17, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Joseph Weber, Jutta Ulrich, Jesse Davenport, Linda Yee, Ashley St. Thomas, Betsy Long, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Lindsay Talbot, Angie Rodgers, April Bradham (phone), Teresa Plaskett

**Absent**

Harvey Grady, Ruth Wooten, David Martinez, Chariti Stern, Brandi Smith, Brian Spicker, Karen Yearwood, Angelica Garcia, Sharma Torrens, Luke Emerson

**Meeting Minutes**

Teresa Plaskett

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 12:50 pm by Angie Rodgers, Chair of Hunger Advisory Council. Each attendee identified themselves and signed the sign in sheet.

**Presentations**

Review of Open Meeting Laws. Joseph Wefer discussed the following:

Current membership has exceeded time served on council. Current memberships stands at approximately 17 members. We will need to update and finalize membership and request new applications for council member. If anyone is interested in being on the council, will need to complete a new application. The question was asked by Joseph Wefer how does the council want to do training? Angie Rodgers suggest training be online, this way we can accommodate

anyone who is not in the local area. Going forward the second Friday of each month, agenda items are due. Meeting minutes will be approved at next meeting. Encourage attendees to bring guests to meeting

Discussion and overview by Angie Rodgers on St. Johns Food Summit. The AZDA in conjunction with many partners is holding four workshops in the next year in counties with food access issues.

This first summit was held on Monday, November 13, 2017 in Apache County (St. Johns) which has major food access issues. Addressed Navajo Nation, State, County, USDA, Food Banks, Agriculture and Gardner's, in attendance at summit. Discussions were had on how locals can feed themselves, how to obtain grants for gardening and additional funding, donors and charitable relief. Programs such as TEFAP are underutilized. Another workshop is being planned in Mohave County in the next few months.

### **Program Updates**

- **SNAP (Joseph Wefer)** – All SNAP statistics are posted on the DES public website. DBME is working on formalizing churning data collection and reporting. Currently, SNAP participation is facing a downward trend. A one-year review difference is 30,000— participation rate not at 100%. Linda Yee asks if the statistics are by month. Mr. Wefer explained statistics are monthly, and there are currently 410,957 households, of those households, 431, 178 were children with a total of 1,000,009 million participants. He further explains what we need is less churning to stabilize the program.
- **TEFAP and CSFP (Gloria Garcia-Hernandez)** – In 2017, participation increased in TEFAP by 100,042 participants which brings the total to 289, 796. A total of 1, 300,000 food boxes have been given away. There has been a decrease of 542,000 individual participation. There has been a lot of feedback regarding CSFP. Currently, 101% individuals have been served in the state. We have currently overserved monthly cases by 126. Right now, we are working on issues with CSFP. In some instances, has been very difficult to get things done. DES is working with client on Link2Feed, a client tracking data management system that will replace HANDS. Training will take place December 14-21, 2017. Will roll out to regional foodbanks. Ashley St. Thomas asked when the roll out will occur? Ms. Garcia-Hernandez stated the new system is scheduled to go live on February 1, 2018.
- **WIC (Linda Yee)** – WIC clinic in Avondale is now closed. 94% of the state are now using the new eWIC cards. Apache, Navajo, Coconino and Yavapai counties will be rolling out use of eWIC cards the last week of November. By March 2018, all participants will be on the eWIC program. Receiving good feedback bringing clients on program. Some issues and concerns currently being looked at are the redemption of food items has dropped and watching how people buy food. National studies are taking place to see what is and isn't being purchased. The transition to the new program has been smooth. Some obstacles are some food items are not available for purchase in stores. The 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue

WIC clinic is closing. The clinic currently serves 5k-7k people. Will have to vacate building by the end of December 2017. WIC is seeing drops in certain populations, not sure if individuals are pregnant or not. Currently only 80% of participants return to program and eligibility is for one-year. WIC is working on way to simplify process, In Colorado (and the only state to do so), the WIC and SNAP programs are integrated. Arizona is in a preliminary discussion to see how we could implement a program like Colorado's.

**School Meals and Summer Food (Lindsay Talbot)** – USDA awarded a 2017 Team Nutrition Grant to the Health and Nutrition Division of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The \$494,000 grant will support the implementation of multilevel interventions to improve elementary student nutrition knowledge and attitudes in alignment with the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The grant will be administered from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020. ADE will use the Team Nutrition Grant to award up to five sub grants to Arizona local education agencies. 504 local education agencies are currently approved to operate under School Nutrition Programs. Program. Jesse Davenport asked if the summer food numbers are available. Angie Rodgers stated the numbers are delayed. Lindsay will get summer food program numbers from previous summer.

### **Roundtable**

Angie Rodgers –

- Finalizing legislative plans.
- Playbook will be completed by January 2018. Asking for \$1,000,000 line item for hunger relief in rural communities.

Ashely St. Thomas –

- Overview of the budget cuts and tax cuts happening in Washington, D.C. and how this can affect hunger programs.
- Vote passed through Senate, roll call vote after Thanksgiving
- Will be sending out an advocacy alert on Monday.

**Next Meeting: December 15, 2017 (tentative)**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm**