



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Michael Wisehart  
DES 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

November 5, 2021

#### Attendees

Adrienne Udarbe, April Jones, Art Hernandez, Ashley St. Thomas, Brooke Lipsitz, Danielle McMahon, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Harvey Grady, Jayson Matthews, Jessica Gibbs, Jocelyn Beard, Marina Quiroz, Martha Franquemont, Mary Long, Mayra Gomez, Veronica De la Cruz

#### Meeting Minutes

Marina Quiroz, Hunger Relief Program Coordinator, Division of Aging & Adult Services

**Call to Order**

Jayson Matthews, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm by Jayson Matthews, Chair of Hunger Advisory Council. Each attendee identified his or herself over the virtual call.

**Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2021**

Jayson Matthews, Chair

Adrienne Udarbe motions to approve July 23, 2021 meeting minutes.

Harvey Grady seconds the motion.

All in favor: Adrienne Udarbe, April Jones, Ashley St. Thomas, Harvey Grady,  
Jayson Matthews

Opposed: NONE

Motion approved

## **Review Current State of Hunger Advisory Council**

Jayson Matthews, Chair

Chair opened the meeting with discussing the intended purpose of the HAC “to share strategic opportunities for the Hunger Advisory Council (HAC) that will guide future work and membership”.

The Chair requested that the Council provide feedback on how to improve the HAC and be more useful to the committee. Chair provided a brief overview of statutory roles and a recap of recent HAC history to reaffirm attendees of purpose and vision of the current state of the committee.

Council member Harvey Grady suggested that the HAC become more “proactive rather than reactive”, have an action plan that is beneficial to Arizonans, provide more information on current events surrounding hunger, and discussed the need for food pantries in rural counties-specifically the expansion of storage space for regular and cold food. The Chair acknowledged the Council member and thanked him for his feedback.

April Jones, DES employee, questioned whether the HAC provided added value to the DES agency and asked if the agency Hunger Team has a Strategic Plan and Action Plan. The Hunger Relief Program Manager Gloria Garcia-Hernandez responded that the HAC could add value to the Agency once the purpose of HAC is clearly defined and an Action Plan is established. The HRP Manager also stated that the statutes and bylaws are specific and suggested that the bylaws need to be revised. She also stated that per the contract between Arizona Food Bank Network and DES/DAAS, it states Arizona Food Bank Network “shall develop, update and implement annually, in collaboration with the Hunger Advisory Council, food bank network, State agencies and other organizations as appropriate, a Hunger Relief Plan to address hunger in Arizona. This plan shall include outcomes, goals, objectives, data collection methodology and implementation plans.”

## **Proposed New Strategic Direction for HAC**

Jayson Matthews, Chair

Chair discussed proposing a vision statement that would help drive the work of the HAC. He spoke about the opportunity to convene providers and the public to establish & strengthen collective voice on hunger issues, becoming citizen partners with state agency staff, identify challenges within the state’s hunger relief and hunger prevention system, propose improvements to the system and implement (if possible), make relevant policy

recommendations, and ensure resource alignment with SNAC & FAPAC.

Suggestions from various Council members are as follows:

- A data clearing house on hunger in a dashboard format
- Notification of future funding opportunities to support programs
- Using action plan to leverage federal funding
- Implementation of an Advisory Plan vs. Action Plan since there other committees with action plans in place
- Representation of the public in HAC
- Using HAC to provide a space and voice for those who utilize services that we are trying to improve.

### **New Agenda items: Review Bylaws & Member Recruitment**

Jayson Matthews, Chair

Chair provided brief overview of bylaws to reaffirm attendees of purpose and vision of committee. Discusses best practices regarding membership and future opportunities for recruitment. Council members were asked to submit suggestion by 11/23/21 for potential changes of the bylaws and provide information on who the committee should recruit to be a part of HAC. Council members were asked to submit any agenda items by 01/17/22.

### **Status Update on Federal and State Anti-Hunger Advocacy**

Ashley St. Thomas, Co-Chair

Co-Chair provided update on the work being done to advocate for various food programs

### **Call to the Public**

Art Hernandez provided commodity updates for TEFAP and CSFP programs.

### **Next Meeting**

**Friday, January 28, 2022, at 12:30 PM**

### **Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm**