



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Thomas Betlach
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

May 15, 2020

MINUTES

In Attendance-Via Phone: Dr. Tamera Zivic, April Jones, Brooke Lipsitz, Alicia Kenney, Danielle McMahon, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Mary Long, Tim Amlaw, Ray Ostos, Jayson Matthews, Ashley St. Thomas, Alicia Kenney, Harvey Grady, April Jones, Laura Walsh, Arturo Hernandez, Mayra Gomez, and Robin DeWeese,

Meeting Minutes

Mayra Gomez, Hunger Relief Coordinator, Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS).

Call to Order/Introductions: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm by Jayson Matthews, Chair of Hunger Advisory Council. Each attendee identified themselves over the phone.

HAC Agenda: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

Chair reminds committee members in attendance that we must follow listed agenda items in order to comply with the Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements.

HAC Meeting Minutes: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

Chair reminds committee members the Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2020 were attached to May 15, 2020 meeting invite.

Laura Walsh motion to approve February 7, 2020 meeting minutes.

Alicia Kenny second the motion.

All in favor: Dr. Tamera Zivic, April Jones, Brooke Lipsitz, Alicia Kenney, Danielle McMahon, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Mary Long, Tim Amlaw, Ray Ostos, Jayson Matthews,

Ashley St. Thomas, Alicia Kenney, Harvey Grady, April Jones, Laura Walsh, Arturo Hernandez, Mayra Gomez, and Robin DeWeese,

Opposed: NONE
Motion approved

Coordination Program Updates: Mayra Gomez, Department of Economic Security

The Hunger Relief Coordinator, provides updates on all programs that currently fall under Coordination contracts. The updates included updates for the SNAP-O program, Double Up Food Bucks Program, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Friends of the Farm Pilot Program. There were no questions surrounding the reported updates.

Commodities: Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, (reports on behalf of Art Hernandez)
Department of Economic Security

Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) trade mitigation overview is provided. Comparisons are made between 2019 and 2020 by quarter dollar amounts and truck loads. Projected truck loads and dollar amounts are provided for the year 2020.

Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Senior Food Program (CSFP): Laura Walsh, Department of Economic Security

The amount of food boxes distributed, served households, served individuals, meals congregate meals for TEFAP for the third quarter of 2020 was reported. The number of food boxes distributed for the third quarter of 2020 was reported for CSFP. A 2019/2020 number comparison will be shared with the HAC members in the next few days.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased inquiries surrounding community service programs. Maintaining the end user in mind community service programs are currently undergoing web content enhancements. The web content will eventually include various community services under DES. A direct link that includes various community program under DES is provided.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

The chair and representative provide an update to the COVID-19 response from his represented agency. Funds have been raised to agency partners to assist in the pandemic response.

The chair invites organizational updates from all HAC members.

The representative from Arizona Food Bank Network reports that the organization is offering grants to assist smaller organizations in their pandemic response.

Representative from Verde Valley has raised funds to respond to emergency food provider protective equipment.

The St. Vincent De Paul representative raises concerns as to how the organization will continue to respond once families are no longer served as they have been during the pandemic.

Wildfire reminds entire committee that Wildfire does contract with LIHEAP and is willing to share the program information for any member that may find the information resourceful for the vulnerable populations they serve.

The Mesa Community College representative reports their food pantries are currently closed due to school closures. Students have been redirected to other services through their websites. One of the most visited resources within the website has been food services.

The Arizona Food Bank Network offers advocacy to Mesa Community College for their student challenges.

DES representative, April Jones shares the governor's Enrichment Center Program announcement that prioritizes childcare to grocery store and food bank employees.

The chair and representative of Valley of the Sun United Way invites the committee to brainstorm on a response for behavioral health that assist the employees that serve the vulnerable communities.

DES representative, Gloria Garcia Hernandez, informs that many services have been enhanced in order to respond to the vulnerable communities that connect with food services.

Hunger Action Plan update: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

The chair informs that there are no updates to discuss. The chair proposes future strategic conversations to respond to emergency services that surround current and future pandemics. Various HAC members elect to continue future discussions within a sub-committee.

Call to the Public: Advocacy Updates: Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun United Way

Ashley St. Thomas with Arizona Food Bank Network, request numbers of SNAP participants served. Gloria Garcia-Hernandez informs she will try to obtain someone from the Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility (DBME) to attend the HAC meetings.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 21, 2020, at 12:30 PM, DES 1789 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ. DAAS Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm