



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**

**August 21, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance-Via Phone:** Dr. Tamera Zivic, Brooke Lipsitz, Alicia Kenney, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Ray Ostos, Jayson Matthews, Ashley St. Thomas, Alicia Kenney, Harvey Grady, Laura Walsh, Arturo Hernandez, Mayra Gomez, Elyse Guidas, Stephanie Martinez, Tasha Williams, Angie Rodgers, Natalie Shepp and David Schwake.

**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 12:34 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 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 May 15, 2020 were attached to May 15, 2020 meeting invite.

**Dr. Tamera Zivic motion to approve May 15, 2020 meeting minutes.**

**Harvey Grady second the motion.**

**All in favor:** Dr. Tamera Zivic, Brooke Lipsitz, Alicia Kenney, Gloria Garcia-Hernandez, Ray Ostos, Jayson Matthews, Ashley St. Thomas, Alicia Kenney, Harvey Grady, Laura Walsh,

Arturo Hernandez, Mayra Gomez, Elyse Guidas, Stephanie Martinez, Tasha Williams, Angie Rodgers, Natalie Shepp and David Schwake.

**Opposed: NONE**  
**Motion approved**

**Coordination Program Updates: Mayra Gomez, Department of Economic Security**

The Hunger Relief Coordinator, provides updates on all SNAP participation and the 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 fourth quarter of 2020 was reported. The number of food boxes distributed for the fourth quarter of 2020 was reported for CSFP.

CSFP monthly numbers have declined since March. Decline reported through Food Bank data indicates decline has been due to summer months, seniors staying at home due to pandemic as well as change in service model.

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

The chair thanks the updates on the COVID-19 response from the DES and the HAC members. The chair requests any additional updated to the COVID-19 response.

Harvey Grady, representative from the Verde Valley updates the food policy related to the Verde Valley. Jayson suggest food policy as an agenda item for the next HAC meeting.

The chair invites any additional DES COVID-19 updates. There are no further updates to report from DES staff members.

Stephanie Martinez, ADHS representative, ask if Hunger Relief program has begun "COVID Recovery" phase. Gloria Garcia-Hernandez states the phase has not begun.

Jayson Matthews, Valley of the Sun representative suggest next HAC meeting can include “COVID Recovery” presentation from Stephanie Martinez from ADHS.

**Federal Policy Update: Ashley St. Thomas, Arizona Food Bank Network**

The Co-Chair provides updates that includes COVID-19 relief package was decided prior to congress recess. The package includes various hunger resources for families and negotiations are ongoing. The House passed the Agriculture Appropriations bill. The National Guard has assisted with food box distributions. This will continue until the end of the calendar year. The network will assist with voting dates, locations, and information.

**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**

David Schwake thanks all the volunteers that have assisted. David recognizes Ashely St. Thomas and Art Hernandez for all their assistance at their food distributions sites.

Jayson request any agenda items we may need for the next HAC meeting.

Harvey Grady, shares data that highlights the strengths and weaknesses of food distribution. Gloria suggest inviting the Regional Food Banks to the next HAC meeting that can assist in Harvey’s request.

Jayson reviews agenda items for next HAC meeting. The items include:

- Food Policy Update
- COVID-19 planning discussion

**Next Meeting:** Friday, November 13, 2020, at 12:30 PM, Virtual Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm**