**Food Assistance advisory Committee Meeting**

July 19, 2019 • 9:30am-11:00am

Location: NWH SODO Community Market, 1915 4th Avenue South, Seattle, WA

GoTo Meeting option (recorded)

**In attendance**: Rosemary Rankins (Food Lifeline), Josh Martinez (Food Lifeline), Trish Twomey (Washington Food Coalition), Caila Nickerson (Chicken Soup Brigade/LLAA), Jeff Mathias (Blue Mountain Action Council), Kim Eads (WSDA), Alan Hamilton (Clark County Food Bank), Lisa White (WSDA), Emily Kaleel/Heidi Cobun (Clark County Food Bank), James Scovel (WSDA), Kyle Merslich (WSDA), Peny Archer (Moses Lake Food Bank), Sabrina Jones (Northwest Harvest), Kris Van Gasken (Des Moines Area Food Bank), Katie Rains (WSDA), Nichole Garden (WSDA)

**Welcome and Intros**: Jeff welcomed the Committee and presented the ice breaker, “How long was your commute today?”

**Approval of Minutes**: Peny A. made motion to approve, Sabrina J. seconded the motion. All approved.

**Review Work in Progress & Status**:

* The Service Counts Taskforce and Volunteer and Food In-Kind rates were covered at the April 19, 2019 meeting.
* Civil Rights Taskforce
	+ There has been one meeting and there are six members. If you’re interested in joining, Katie.
	+ There is currently no director for the Western Region of the USDA Civil Rights Department and the WSDA Food Assistance has not received an answer to how much latitude to make interpretations.
	+ Idea for something comparable to the video for food handlers.
	+ The next meeting will be August 13, 2019.
* Subcontractors’ Resources Taskforce
	+ There has been one meeting, and Katie will get out the notes soon.
	+ The next call is scheduled for July 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm and will be conducted via GoToMeeting.
	+ The purpose of this taskforce is to help subcontractors have resources to do their work.

**WSDA**

Kim Eads, Program Manager – WSDA Update

* If you would like any additional information about the points shared today, please email Kim.
* All EFAP reports are due on July 20; EFAP-tribal Closeout Report is due on August 1, 2019 and all Non-Tribal are due August 15. Equipment Inventory reports are due with closeout reports.
* It is anticipated that TEFAP will decrease in 2020, but this will actually be a return to normal levels dues to the increase in 2019.
* TMP will go through March.
* They are making progress with audit findings. Reviews are happening to look ahead at what changes that need to be made by October 1.
	+ Contractors who operate sites/sponsor-sites may not need a formal subcontract. Subcontractors that operate other programs (mobile food pantry) will not need a separate subcontract. This could have implications for EFAP voting.
	+ WSDA staff are reviewing contractors and subcontractors. They are not taking a punitive approach due to the transition period.
* Since it is a new biennium and processes are fresh on the minds of contractors and subcontractors, WSDA will cover these details at the WFC conference.
	+ There will be a conference session on the [WSDA’s new website](https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access).
		- Redo any bookmarks you may have set in your browser for the previous WSDA site.
		- [Contact Nichole or Lisa](https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/contact-us) if you have any questions.
		- There will be a survey on usability.
* WSDA has provided FA Advisory Committee members with their strategic plan. This is a living document and they invite input.

James Scovel, Food Assistance Specialist – Update on TMP/TEFAP Foods

* Big picture: 311 trucks will be coming October through December, which is about half of what we would normally receive in a year.
	+ A few highlights include: 33 trucks of oranges, 12 trucks of apples, 3 trucks of plums, 9 trucks of grapes, and 12 trucks of pork patties. See WSDA Updates attachment for more details.
* WSDA tried to do the fresh and frozen product before the end of December.
* There was a question regarding inspections and failed inspections.
	+ Inspections are not led by the WSDA.
	+ James has asked the USDA for guidance about this.
	+ Grape inspections will be done before they leave the warehouse. All other fresh product will need inspections.
* Frozen eggs will be in the same cartons as before and are great for everything except for baking.
* Kim noted for TEFAP contractors that the WSDA was not receiving all shipments in a timely manner, so they are going to direct shipments for now through January 1, 2020.
	+ Individuals doing receiving will need to register through WBSCM.

**Legislative Updates**

[HB 1114](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1114&Year=2019&initiative=)

* Food waste bill - passed
* Includes Department of Ecology, WSDA, and Department of Health
* Five stakeholder groups will convene separately from October 2019 to October 2020. The first will meet at the WFC conference and every month after. Invitations will be sent in August.

Farm to Food Pantry

* Food Assistance submitted a proposal to make this permanent, and the decision is in the hands of WSDA leadership.
* Advisory Committee members and WFC will be informed when they can provide input.

**Discussion Topics**

Food Procurement/Healthy Food (Kris Van Gasken)

* Kris brought forth that the South King County Food Coalition is looking at low-sodium and nutrition to drive procurement, rather than economic priorities.
* The EFAP contract places and emphasis on the price of goods for procurement.
* Kim will look at the WAC and see what guidance it gives, and revisions can occur as they are able. Update since meeting: There is nothing in the WAC so there is flexibility should changes be needed.
	+ Interested organizations: Des Moines Area Food Bank, Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, Blue Mountain Action Council, WSDA, and Chicken Soup Brigade

United Way Funding (Ken Trainor)

* There is a nationwide refocus from reactive funding to prevention.
* Each county United Way is independent and decides when to implement changes.
* No county can say how much funding it will redirect.
* Des Moines Area Food Bank was cut back to 40% of what they were receiving from United Way of King County.

[Retails Food Code Changes](https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/FoodWorkerandIndustry/FoodSafetyRules/FoodCodeRuleRevision)

* There are changes for organizations that received donated food.
* Changes are listed in the WFC newsletter and [website](https://www.wafoodcoalition.org/).
* Department of Health is now accepting comments.
* Food Lifeline has a group looking at these changes.
* Health departments are saying different things about requiring food handler cards.

**Anything else for the Good of the order?**

* The call quality of the meeting was one the clearest for both people on the phone and in the room participating.
* The next meeting will be in the morning on September 23, 2019.

**Meeting CLOSED at 10:49 am**