

**COVID-19 Check-In Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday July 21, 2020**

**Participants: ~64 participants**

*Agenda*

**Schedule:** Tuesday – General Focus; Once per Week

**Updates:** Governor’s Office: Katie Rains

WFC: Trish Twomey

HAH: David Bobanick (Rebate status?)

DOH: Pama Joyner

**FA Updates:** TEFAP DHD Status July 2 – July 16; Food Purchasing Vendor Offering; FA Advisory Mtg. Next Steps on Client Intake (self-declaration vs documentation); Meeting Schedule for August? Processing; Food

**Q&A** – Questions, Group Discussions – Updates? Topics?

**Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am** – Food Security Coordination Team & 3 NGO’s

*Updates*

**Katie Rains:** Lack of volunteers, unsure on the status of National Guard beyond 7/31 although they’ve been requested to remain through the end of the year. Might not know until 7/30 if they’ll be demobilized. Some funding has been secured through the state for dislocated worker grants. Not specific to hunger relief, but hunger relief was included in the \$12M grant award. Starting conversations to help figure out staffing in a sustainable way, any feedback regarding staffing is welcomed. Email with questions and suggestions.

**Randy Treadwell:** Request letter has been submitted, but expect the National Guard to reduce support due to fire season and other missions. Continues to be on the forefront of discussions at the State EOC.

**Lewis Lujan:** Request made to extend through the end of the year. Don’t know when to expect an answer.

**Trish Twomey:** Reminder about the Washington State Food Security Survey, want information on how the COVID pandemic has been affecting food security around the state. Walgreens and United Healthcare want to provide free flu shots for clients at drive-up food banks down the I-5 corridor and the peninsula. Email Trish if interested: [trish@wafoodcoalition.org](mailto:trish@wafoodcoalition.org). Anti-hunger Nutrition Coalition membership call this Friday

2:30-3:30, link to zoom call in newsletter. Will be discussing what the senate is doing around the final COVID package.

**David Bobanick:** Received requests for \$52,200. Dairy Farmers of WA have sponsored the program as well, so the available amount has increased. Have sent several checks out so far.

**Pama Joyner DOH:** In the process of setting up a care coordination system focused on Yakima county reaching out to folks in quarantine to provide support. Working with local health dept. to provide outreach to those individuals. Providing groceries, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies and in the process of setting up with Walgreens the ability to purchase "care kits": masks, gloves, thermometer, ibuprofen, Lysol and hand soap. Delivering those to Yakima Co. as well as Benton & Franklin counties. Kroger providing food kits also for Benton & Franklin counties to be delivered by the health department staff and potentially handing them out at testing sites.

**Kim:** Can you give us a sense of numbers in terms of people in need of those services?

**Pama:** Have had upwards of 150 cases that have been handed to us for follow-up and contact tracing. About 30% are answering the phone and responding. Trying to get locals involved who know the community and hoping for a better response rate. The cases they're getting are provided to them by DOH who is responsible for the contact tracing.

**Kim Eads:**

- State capacity grant; In the process of assessing applications. Award winners will be announced tomorrow. Efforts appreciated!!
- Another round of CARES Stabilization funding \$3.2M. Amendments were sent Monday.
- Looking to the future, we're focusing on October and January "cliff points" we discussed at the last meeting. Director Sandison is focused on these cliffs (gaps), what will the next federal package look like? Food Assistance and other nutritional programs are part of those talks.
- Still no word from USDA on DHD. Taking the stance that we'll continue as if we were approved until we get a solid "no".
- Pilot programs; AMI group – second round of that pilot scheduled for mid-August. If anyone has available funding and a need for meal kits, they do

have meal kits available at cost. Caution about expiration dates. GF and vegan meal kits available. George Horvat 214-206-5708 [ghorvat@amigrp.com](mailto:ghorvat@amigrp.com)

- FAAC meeting; one of the topics was around the client intake processes, reducing barriers – self-declaration vs. documentation. A task force has been developed
- Can you put in the chat box any ideas for topics for our weekly meetings? Starting in August, we propose one meeting every-other week. Any thoughts on that, meeting ideas, etc? **Update:** WEEKLY Meetings!
- How can we maximize the foods that we do have that are coming in surplus? Looking at ways to maximize use of USDA apples and potatoes specifically. LDS church is unable to process for us at this point. Looking at commercial processors as well. Interested in looking at non-USDA foods and our own donations streams on how we can maximize that. Tying that into legislative and federal requests and how to make programs like that sustainable. Hoping for pilot test projects.

**James Scovel:**

- Important to continue moving food; especially apples, potatoes, oranges. Also important to accept the TEFAP redistributions. Those products can't sit in their warehouses and they need to move through so they can accept additional products.
- Just finished TMP orders for Oct-Dec.

**Comments:**

Claire Lane: Today is a day of national action in support of housing - and we all know food insecurity is tied to housing insecurity; right now, more than \*one quarter of a million\* WA households are at risk of eviction. Dept of Commerce has released \$100M in rent assistance to local governments to help meet need - but it's not enough yet. Our partners at WA Low Income Housing Alliance have an alert to urge Gov. Inslee to extend the eviction moratorium that expires on August 1. Sign on here to add your name: <https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/AugEvictionMoratoriumExtension/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=7687e9b5-cee4-43d9-a044-8c192210e7aa>  
This week, the senate is considering their next COVID package. Pushing for SNAP and housing assistance at the federal level. The state Eviction Moratorium ends Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. Push to extend that.

Emily: I am really nervous about not receiving prepacked boxes at the same time the Pandemic Unemployment is supposed to end

Kim: There is not a finite end date to that. Katie has been requesting input for needs for the future. Some need emergency boxes, some prefer cases. Those conversations are happening with the food security coordination team.

Josh Martinez FLL: Phasing out the production of boxes, but the products will still be available. Aware of certain client benefits ending and trying to prepare for that to ensure there will be no lapse in food availability. Please reach out with any questions.

Chris Hatch: What does "food available" after the 31st mean?

Kim: Through FLL existing system, multiple streams. There may be other organizations doing pre-boxing

Josh Martinez: for Food Lifeline, we haven't stopped any of the product orders that we placed for the emergency boxes. it will just not be pre-boxed.