

**Food & Hunger Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy General Action Team**  
**April 23, 2020 ♦ 12:00 – 1:30 pm**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Facilitator:** Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

**Notes:** Sharon Berman, New Mexico First

**Participants:** (please verify spelling and affiliation. If you did not receive an invitation directly from New Mexico First, please share your contact information by emailing Sharon Berman, [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org) so you can be added to the list.)

Governor Lujan Grisham's Office- Patty Keane

State Departments- Sec. Lynn Trujillo, Department of Indian Affairs; Antonio Corrales, State Auditor's Office

Legislators- Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Rep. Joanne Ferrary, Rep. Rebecca Dow

Food Providers- Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot; Katie Anderson, Roadrunner Food Bank; Christina Morris Northwest Region DOH/Food Hub; Lorenzo Alba, Casa de Peregrinos; Mike Kivitz, Adelante; Tracy Enright, Feeding Santa Fe and The Food Depot; Shauna Frost, Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque

Faith-based Organizations- Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition

Philanthropy/Funders- JoAnn Melchor and Valerie Rangel, New Mexico Foundation; Jackie Francke, First Nations Development Institute

Agriculture Stakeholders and Food Providers- Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council; Mary Meghan Snyder, La Semilla Food Center

Policy/Advocacy Organizations- Jonas Moya, Melanie Sanchez Eastwood and Wendy Wintermute, New Mexico First; Tsiporah Nephesh, New Mexico Thrives; Susan Wilger, Southwest Center for Health Innovation

Academia- Diana Gonzales-Pacheco from UNM; Stephanie Rogus, NMSU

Volunteers- Jane Braithwaite with Rep. Melanie Stansbury.

Other- Sue Olson, Deborah

### **Welcome and Brief Overview**

Rep. Stansbury: We started to convene these meetings last year to address structural issues about food and hunger policy issues. After the session we were taking a little respite until the emergency food and water crisis exploded. And now we're in the thick of it daily, and we convened this sub-workgroup to keep the conversation and communication going. Daily and weekly, it's becoming clearer that we do need to start to coalesce for the special session and federal aid packages.

### **Updates**

Patty Keane: Briefly, the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is the big office coordinating emergency efforts across the state – from food, testing, recovery. All things are funneled through EOC. The biggest takeaway for this group is that we want to really encourage and move traffic through the EOC so there is a coordinated emergency center. That happens by first going through the county emergency manager, who will in turn look at addressing it



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Please contact Sharon Berman at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org) if we missed or misunderstood anything in these notes.

locally, and will communicate it with the EOC. Jeremy Toulouse is the lead for ESF-6 (emergency systems function 6). There are different numbers. ESF-6 is specific to food, shelter and non-medical supplies. He is in charge of all of that for the state. ESF-6 is typically led by Human Services. CYFD's Sec. Blalock is helping too. Go to the emergency manger first. Everybody's county website that their manager listed with their emergency. [Note: for a list of the Emergency Response Manager Contact Information, [click here](#). More resources available on the Food, Hunger, Water Agriculture Policy Action Team [website](#)]

- Lilly: is it still best practice to copy you and Jeremy on those requests?
- Patty: Yes. Also, Adrian Gallegos is specifically leading the food response at the EOC.
- Lilly: if folks are having a hard time and want a quick list, we've linked to the EOC page on our website as well. Do folks have questions?
- Rep. Stansbury: I would recommend that if folks are helping support an emergency request from a tribe or tribal organization, to make sure to loop in Indian Affairs, Poqueen Rivera in the Governor's Office and the EOC tribal liaison.
- Rep. Stansbury: What if people need help with policy, should they go to you, Patty? I can follow up with you offline.
- Patty Keane: Yes. my contact info is [patty.keane@state.nm.us](mailto:patty.keane@state.nm.us), 505-470-2528/505-470-2528.

Sherry: Work on the food side is going quite well. Food is coming in. We had a food order canceled today. Some food banks still need volunteer support. If people in outlying areas could volunteer time at food pantries and kitchen, they should give us a call and we can help connect them. Right now in Santa Fe we are doing well, But we anticipate seeing a decrease in volunteers. Because of the word you've put out, volunteers came like magic. Thank you. Things in Espanola and with partner agencies are going well. Generous support by policy department in Santa Fe, solid presence at our distributions. Had a gun pulled in food line at Capital HS – we're no longer doing distribution there. We're looking at a mall for a potential distribution. Espanola's distribution is happening at the OK Casino parking lot, since it's closed. Pueblo police are there helping direct traffic. We're communicating more and more frequently with the EOC. Patty has been a great resource for us. We're doing educating to EOC staff about our network and how food banks work. We've been on a call regarding federal funds that might be available to food providers in NM. A couple foundations have reached out to us to help access the federal dollars. We're looking with EOC about accessing FEMA funds. We're looking at paying extra staff, extra leased trucks, and extra storage.

Lawrence: Thank God for the food bank is still able to give food to us, because that's It's been our primary source of food for our pantry. We are buying food from some vendors, as well. We're getting big donations in as well as food. Our problem right now is trying to get food over to the rural communities of our county. That's been a big issue for us. We're trying to work something out with Roadrunner, as we speak, where maybe we can go pick up food and bring out some of the pre-packaged boxes. We've increased the amount of food going to the mobile food pantries in those communities. We have 13 rural mobile food pantries. The senior pantries are going well.

- The policies on how we do things have changed and we're just doing drive up for everything. Nobody's getting out of their cars.
- At our main pantry, our numbers have increased slightly. We had a lot of clients that hadn't been here like 2 or 3 years, and all of a sudden they're back. We have something like 180 new clients in the last six, seven week weeks. That's just at the Las Cruces pantry.



- The amount of food that's going out the door is huge. Every food basket, is about 85, 90 pounds of food going out to the families that are coming to Las Cruces.
- We got a big beef donation from a local grower. He gives us some nice grass fed beef, 2500 pounds that we're able to pass out. We're going purchase another 4000- 5000 pounds of that beef in the next couple of weeks.
- Our food rescue numbers are beginning to go back up with the grocery stores now that everybody's not hoarding the food so much. I've been going to visit with the stores on a regular basis – three times a week – just to see what's going on with them, see how their staff's holding up and see if there's anything we can do to make the food rescue process easier for them as well.
- The numbers haven't increased as much as I thought they would, but we're ready. Where we've seen the most increases have been in the rural communities where more people are coming for the food and that's where we need to try to figure out a way to get more food to those areas.
- In Las Cruces, we're holding up fine. We've got a good core group of volunteers. We have had to hire a couple of more people to help us out here in the pantry. It was inevitable that that would happen. We're probably going to end up having to hire one more, just so that we can keep up with what's going on.
- We have been trying to keep in touch with as many of the legislators as possible, to them know what's going on a regular basis and trying to connect them also with the food bank. We need to help them with logistics so they can get more help to us. That's such an important aspect of what we do in NM because there's such a large geographical area to cover.
- We're handling this as well as possible. All our staff and volunteers were tested yesterday. The Department of Health came in, and everyone was tested. They were so gracious to come and do that here.
- A lot of food is going out to families in Las Cruces. We're very grateful to the food bank, for all the hard work they're putting in.

Rep. Stansbury [via chat]: To our food banks and food pantries--we are hearing from the EOC folks that there may be some flexibility in the use of state and federal funds to reimburse for food purchases and paying staff if needed.

Lilly – Mag spoke up at the last meeting about their budget last month compared to the total annual budget for last year. So that's an option.

- Lawrence: Here in Las Cruces, we've able to get more CDBG funding through the city, which is our fiscal agent. I think every municipality got a certain amount of money. We're able to access some of that money to pay for payroll and food equipment that we may need during this time. If you haven't reached out to your municipality about funding, you might want to do so now. That's helped us to offset some costs. The rebate that we got back from the food bank from the Feeding America Funding that they received is a big help. We've gotten a lot of help from the city and county, and the federal fund with the CDBG will be a tremendous help. I think there's also an emergency food and shelter process that's going to come out, so if you haven't reached out to your folks there, find out what's going at your locations.

Lilly: To recap, philanthropy has really stepped up. State government has as well, and there may be additional resources through EOC. Also, don't forget those very local resources and block grants dollars.



Mike: Storehouse, which is NM's largest food pantry (not food bank), we're open two days a week now. We have to have security there because we've had a few scary things. We've got an interesting mix of customers now, people who are normally working who have been out of work for a couple of weeks. We actually have some professional security there now. Storehouse is a subsidiary of Adelante, and Adelante has over 500 employees, so we can't get any of the forgivable loans. But we do get donations. Roadrunner's been a great support for us.

- In Dona Ana county, we provide meals for seniors outside of Las Cruces. We have a contract with AAA to do that, and are delivering more meals than we used to. We.
- And then at the congregates senior sites, seniors are coming by not getting out of their car, just picking food up. That's going real well.
- In Albuquerque we have Desert Harvest. We pick up food that has been prepared but not served, and we bring that to other nonprofits, Storehouse being one of them.
- Grocery stores are doing pickup 7 days a week. Restaurants used to give us an awful lot of food, and obviously they aren't there anymore.
- Lilly: We heard Casa Peregrinos built good relationships with local food sources, and specifically mentioned beef. Representative Dow was also curious – not just about beef, but also poultry and pork. Have you been able to access local food?
- M. Kivitz – We've been able to give out lot of good food and vegetables. Federal food becomes more problematic with food boxes. You've got to collect information from people. You have to use non-federal food if you're going to do that.

Katie: We've seen the same sort of thing as Sherry with volunteers, both in the warehouse and packing boxes, 3,000 or 4,000 a week. In terms of food, we're seeing challenges in the supply chain. For instance, an order put out in early March still hasn't arrived. A truckload of tuna was quoted at \$100,000. Macaroni and cheese is the same cost per pound as hand sanitizer. I've never seen anything like it at my time at the food bank. We're doing 3 large commodity mobiles per week around the city. We've done one in Deming and one is starting in Alamogordo tomorrow. We did one in Los Lunas last week. We're trying hard to determine the gaps and get there as quickly as possible. We are primarily using USDA TFAP food.

- In terms of closures in our direct service area, I know Mag said about 20% a few weeks ago. We're vacillating now between a 16-18% closure rate. It varies. Mountainair had some challenges last week and we've been working with the mayor and have a good plan in place.
- In the warehouse we've hired a lot of new temps and temp drivers. It's going well. Roadrunner worked with local beef producer recently. We brought in some beef. We have continued to take local produce in when we can.

Lorenzo [via chat]: NMDA Sec. Witte called me this morning and is getting us a list of local growers that we could reach out to for purchases and/or donations.

Lilly: I'm seeing a comment about food sourcing from Casa de Peregrinas. Also a shout out to farmers markets, we have some resources there and they are masterful about connecting.



Sherry: I just reached out to Michael because he mentioned he had access to pinto beans and posole. We have special promotion going in with a ranch – they will process hog if someone else purchases the meat. It keeps people engaged and community helping in different ways. I also want to recognize Katie publicly for her new position at Roadrunner.

- Katie: I've moved into the position of chiefs Programs Officer. I'm excited.

Rep. Stansbury: There is flexibility under the law for emergency funds, where the state may be able to pay for labor and food and et reimbursement from the feds. If anyone has unmet needs, definitely talk to the E-6 people. Speak to Jeremy or Demesia because they may be able to help. For the 16-18 providers in the Roadrunner service area, if there's a way we can help them address their concerns, please let us know.

- Katie: Many of those are St. Vincent de Paul societies under the Diocese. There have been a couple sites that have reached out to the Diocese to say they're going to open. We've been encouraging them if they are comfortable communicating with their representatives with the Diocese, if they're interested in re-opening, we will support them however we can.
- The community initiatives team I get to work with every day has been on the phone constantly with all the sites, making sure that folks have what they need so they don't close. One of the things that have been wonderful in terms of the number of closures we've had in comparison with the other Feeding American Food Banks across the country, NM food pantries have really risen to the challenge in a big way. We've seen other states with 50, 60, 70% closure rates. The groups in NM has stepped up in a big way.
- Rep. Stansbury: If for some reason church policy is they can't reopen, maybe EOC can help figure out alternative pickup sites.

Lilly – Secretary Trujillo just joined the call. Are there some highlights that you would like to share, Secretary?

Sec. Trujillo: Thank you for inviting me to this call. I wanted to share a couple of things. We're able to procure some food that will go out to parts of the Navajo nation, and to others including Jicarilla, Mescalero and some of the Pueblos. There will also be some water distributions sent out to the Navajo Nation. They might have gone out today, or tomorrow, and we're gearing up for another round of water distributions out to the Nation.

- I've also been trying to coordinate efforts to hold a virtual meeting with all pueblo governors regarding the All Pueblo Relief Fund through the Cultural Center, providing resources to the 19 pueblos. So I'm going to be in touch with Beverlee.
- One of the things we're trying to get a better handle on is equitable distribution. We're trying to capture outside contributions from outside the state. We are trying to get a good idea of what the snapshot looks like, including the great work you and others are doing. We're seeing a lot of requests come through the EOC and the Tribal Liaison desk.
- We're trying to make sure it's sustainable going forward in light of restrictions tribal leaders are putting in place, where we're seeing lockdowns because of the spread of COVID in their communities. Wanting to make sure all our efforts are sustainable. So I look forward to continued partnership. If anyone has questions, I'm happy to try to answer them.

Lynn Trujillo [via chat]:



- One area of unmet need in some tribal communities are hygiene, cleaning supplies, telecommunications.
- Again, just want to thank everyone for your incredible work and support. Our tribal communities thank you. Please feel free to reach out to me via email [lynn.trujillo@state.nm.us](mailto:lynn.trujillo@state.nm.us) or work cell (505) 490-1447.

Rep. Dow [via chat]: Are the school sites staying open?

- Katy Anderson [via chat]: For Roadrunner, many of the school sites are still open. We are working hard to provide pre-packed boxes to make distribution simpler for school sites.
- Lilly: NMmost.org has been keeping a real time list of school sites. They have a coordinating calls each week with Applesseed and others who are doing that work. **I can follow up with an email directly to you, Representative Dow. Information is changing rapidly.**

Lilly: There are a few things that we're trying to do to help folks stay connected and coordinated. I wanted to talk a little bit about communication. There are some press releases going out, and we're trying to trying to collate them. You may have heard that New Mexico Foundation has launched funding. That is bringing in national as well as state funding for all tribes, and they have a long-term history of responding to rural and frontier communities as well. That information is available. Melanie Sanchez Eastwood, I wonder if you'd like to give a brief tour of the new website.

Melanie Sanchez Eastwood: I am sharing my screen now for those of you connecting via computer. You can go to [nmfirst.org](http://nmfirst.org) and click on the banner page, which will take you to the website. The overview page basically explains what we're all doing. The Teams Page has the conference call information for the meetings, as well as a roster of people. If you want to connect, it's a Google Doc so you can update it. Each of the specialized teams has more details available by clicking. They also have rosters and meeting notes which will be updated regularly. Each team has resources. For instance, the Communications Action Team has press releases in the resource section. If you have press releases, please send them to me at [melanie@nmfirst.org](mailto:melanie@nmfirst.org). On the main page, there are also tabs for resources, funding and communication. The Resources page has all types of community resources. At the top you'll see Emergency Response Mangers with a link to that document provided by the Thornburg Foundation. The next tab is the funding tab, and it has funders in NM who are helping out with these efforts. If you scroll down you can see the latest grant advisories. If you come across a grant advisory you'd like me to post, please send it to me. I'm updating the website daily, so please feel free to send me anything..

- Lilly: We're keeping the funding focused on food, hunger, water, and ag. NMAG and the Grant Plant are keeping a comprehensive list of folks doing fundraising in other spaces.
- Melanie; I'd love for it to be a community website. Please send [me](#) resources you'd like posted, and I'm updating it daily and please come use the resources.
- Lilly: We're adding people as they ask us to any of the action team calls and to this larger team call. Anybody is welcome. If you add your name and contact info to [the list](#), it's a great way to be sure you're looped into the areas that are of the most interest to you.

Valerie: We have two funds via the New Mexico Foundation website. [www.nmcf.org](http://www.nmcf.org). We have the Vecino Neighbor helping Neighbor fund. It could be state, tribal, meeting the needs of the community. We also have the



Native American Relief Fund. One is helping tribal communities in addition to what the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is doing, and the other is for community needing help

Rep. Stansbury: Thank you to the New Mexico Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation and partners for helping get dollars on the ground. You rallied and coalesced in a short amount of time. To anyone who's interested working in the funder space or coordinate across it, we've been having weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30. There are multiple entities doing emergency grantmaking right now. Most of them are doing rolling, easy to use applications. People are making multiple requests. We're trying to wrap around it making sure there is no duplication and no one is falling between the cracks. If anyone gets a request you don't know how to meet, please get in touch with me or Lilly. The funds have been set up b/c we've been trying to weave a fabric together. It's an Emergency Response Network – it's the state, tribal governments, local municipalities, food banks, and then other funders to help support all of that. There should not be any unmet need in the state. Whatever needs to get done, let's get it done. If you have any requests, please send them our way.

- I think that everyone seems to be coming to this effort with a mind that whatever needs to get done on whatever timescale, let's just do it. It doesn't matter who picks up the reins, let's just get it done. So if you do have any requests that come in, please send them our way so we can help trouble shoot.
- And I'll add to that the private sector. For example, yesterday I got a request from a tribal official looking to help get a hotspot to a rural area. We were able to connect with telecommunication companies to explore options.
- We've been doing a hard push to fundraise for the Native American Rights Fund nationally. I've had conversations with news outlets. I hope news outlets will cover that. It hasn't been covered much in New Mexico.

Rep Ferrary: I'm mostly interested in what's going on with providing the southern part of NM and talking to Casa Peregrinos so we'll be pushing to get more funds also. So that either Roadrunner can supply more boxes and to be more instrumental. **I will talk to them more.** But also maybe there are funders down here that we can get to support Native American areas and also expand to Southern NM.

- Rep. Stansbury: Yes, there are multiple funders funding statewide. If you hear of tribal or nontribal communities needing help, send them our way.
- Lilly: Please also send funders in Southern NM our way and we'll get them looped in.

Lilly: Again, the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association is helping connect emergency food response folks as well as governments to local food supply, and sometimes even external food supply through their value chain coordination. They're also doing it in a way that is respectful of business and sustainability needs of local agriculture, and so are providing some modest support where they're leveraging philanthropic dollars to cover those costs. There have been issues around people being able to feed and water their livestock. Resources are not always readily available to rural and frontier communities. There are concerns about sustaining local food systems. Given where we're at in the growing season, that's a real challenge. There have also been concerns about seed supplies. Lots of CSAs are emerging.

- I'd like to make a shout out to Patty Keane for helping interpret the public health directives around physical distancing so folks in ag business can understand their role as essential workers. We've shared that guidance from Patty. Anyone on the call from local food producers? Is anyone on the call wanting to share resources and updates from the philanthropic sector? While First Nations is a national organization,



they have released \$680,000. They are not taking any administrative costs of the top. They have a rapid cycle, it's not a laborious process. The approach that NM Foundation, United way and First Nations have adopted is really impressive. Last call for highlights on funding.

WENDY: SHARE New Mexico is a community information website. We want to make sure it's used and useful for you. One of the resources on our website is an online grantmaking platform. It's simple, efficient, easy and fast to use. Normally our funders pay a subscription to use the platform, but NM First has offered use of the platform free to any funder that needs a quick response on their covid funding. If you're interested, please contact me [wendy@nmfirst.org](mailto:wendy@nmfirst.org). I have a quick description of what the platform is and how you can use it. The online grantmaking platform is at <https://sharenm.org/nm-grants>. For information contact [Wendy@nmfirst.org](mailto:Wendy@nmfirst.org).

Lilly: I wanted to spend a little time talking about policy, to help folks understand the context were in, anticipate special session. Rep Ferrary, is there anything you might say for folks to consider as we're looking at changes in our economy, questions about last session and urgencies to address in the upcoming session?

Rep. Stansbury [via chat]: I have to hop on another call. If anyone needs anything at all--please drop a line! [Melanie.Stansbury@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Melanie.Stansbury@nmlegis.gov) or text/call any time (505) 750-7079. Thank you so much for everything you do!!!!

Rep. Ferrary: It's really tricky what we're going to be looking at. I have not been in the process of talking to LFC. Speaker Egolf has mentioned that we look good for now, but what kinds of things we're having to cut back so we can have a solvent budget in the future. I will catch up with Rep. Stansbury about that later, to see what our hunger caucus can support.

Lilly: would anyone like to share information about relief efforts?

Stephanie Rogus, NMSU: I've been a part of this group since its inception. I put a message in the chat about looking at food access and food security in NM. I've looked at the press releases re. covid 19. I've been in touch with research group out of VT. They have a questionnaire in their state and I'd like to do that here. Does anyone on this call have thoughts? I would like to get the survey distributed as widely as possible in NM. In Vermont they advertised on social media, did press releases, to get a sense of how this has impacted NM as a state. Does anyone have any thoughts or insight about how we might get this survey distributed?

- My contact info is: [srogus@nmsu.edu](mailto:srogus@nmsu.edu); [stephanie.rogus@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.rogus@gmail.com)

Lilly: Some of the ways we can help is sharing through our NM First/SHARE NM contact list, NM Press association and NM Broadcasters Association. If you have a press release cool, or if you need help building that release, you can contact me. Is anyone on the call willing to help Stephanie with her research efforts.

Stephanie: I plan to do it as quickly as possible to see what's going on right now. I would share results with this group, if you could get this out. If someone could review to make sure it's appropriate for NM. I'll also reach out to Patty about her recommendations.



Sherry: This just came in – I wanted to share. One of our mobile food pantries is closing down in Roy. Some of the people at the mobile food pantry tested positive. This is what we anticipated happening.

Lilly: Next steps: while volunteer needs may be good one day, they may fluctuate another. While folks have rallied support around philanthropy both institutional and private, to Sherry's point, let's make sure we get protective equipment and education out about how to distribute food and water safely. Please fill out the contact sheet for the general action team or any team you'd like to be involved in (see below).

- I'm going to follow up with Rep. Ferrary.
- There's a follow up between Roadrunner, Casa Peregrinos and Rep. Stansbury.
- If there are things that come up between where we can help, please let us know.

*Action Team Contact Sheets – please update or add your information:*

[General Action Team](#)

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Please contact Sharon Berman at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org) if we missed or misunderstood anything in these notes.