

# DRAFT

## Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Communication Action Team 8.14.20 ♦ 9-10:00 am Meeting Notes

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

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

In Attendance:

- Sherry Hooper
- Tsiporah Nephesh
- Erika Robers
- Sonya Warwick
- Wendy Wintermute

### Recap of Policy Workgroup Activities

Lilly reminded the group that at the beginning of the entire group effort, the larger group met, did a lot of brainstorming, out of which smaller workgroups developed. The Food Bank Association linked up NM First - those efforts were initially not prioritized. However, after the pandemic developed, there was more of a focus on emergency food response.

There was middle ground – issue areas domains were:

- Root causes of food insecurity/poverty
- Emergency response around food/water
- Local food systems
- Agricultural resilience

### Pandemic Policy Priorities

Lilly noted that the July 16 meeting produced 12 pages of notes, which were distilled to around 4 pages. At the 8.13 general group meeting the group got through the bulk of it, but weren't able to address the food and agriculture resilience points. We'll address at the 8.20 policy and advocacy meeting.

- Lilly reckoned we may end up with 4-5 pieces of legislation, as many of the points are complementary/harmonious.

### Funding and Philanthropy Action Team

The next meeting of the Funding and Philanthropy Action Team is August 25 at 3:30. Lilly wondered if the food banks would consider attending the meeting to share the reality of the situation, and added that she had heard requests would be considered on a case by case basis even if applicants have been funded before.

Some points to consider covering in such a presentation:

- Our work pre-pandemic for rural, Tribal and frontier communities.
- Here is how you can help us address urgent needs that have not yet been fully addressed in the pandemic.
- Make an ask for resources that will allow you to do what you all have been doing.



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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.

- Important to be aware of the requirements of each funder (e.g., First Nations Institute will only fund Native-led work, or work done on Native land).

We have relief work to do. Native American Relief Fund have done two cycles of funding and are fundraising again. They exhausted their funding. The Albuquerque Community Foundation and UWCNM have been funding all over the state. Rodney said early on that not many were asking for food. “Who ends up on the know writing all the grants?”

Sonya noted that continuity work needed to be done, so distributions could continue to happen as the pandemic eventually ends, and services can happen where people actually are. The infrastructure doesn’t exist and makes doing distribution other than mobile setup very difficult. Sherry agreed. She added that paperwork was necessary and some communities don’t want to deal with it. “If we could do it differently, we would. But we can’t.”

Sherry noted that the cold storage issue was very real. Little things are happening, such as getting a cold storage setup in Questa.

Lilly acknowledged that Tribal government changes, and changes quickly. She wondered if uses both/and strategy could bear fruit. It isn’t necessary to always work with the government. There are things government can and can’t do. There is a lot that happens, especially with relief efforts, at the grass-roots level. If you can collaborate with the grass-roots efforts. If you could coordinate a kind of hub, where people receive distributions from food banks, and then continue with distributions from there.

Focus on what you’ve been doing in rural and tribal areas. Another strategy – will keep asking local philanthropy. And then thinking, who nationally to reach out to. National family foundations may be an option. Where else can we be looking and how can our coalition help?

Sonya – distributions that we do have to be community-owned. The trust element is critical. When the community owns the distributions (set up, break down, etc.) there is more buy in from the community. Sherry agreed. The mobile food pantry has allowed them to go into rural and frontier and Tribal communities. The Tribal communities are accessing help via the mobile distributions. Example: Santa Clara Pueblo reached out. The Food Depot set up a huge distribution in Espanola and were able to help not only Santa Clara Pueblo, but may others as well. She noted that they take care of the paperwork when USDA is the funder. They take care of very safe processes. Other Pueblos and Tribal communities are accessing help. Even if they had rejected mobile pantries entering their land, they are still able to get help.

- Lilly wondered, in the last 6 months, here’s where we’ve been in rural/frontier communities. Here’s the ethnic/racial breakdown. If you have back of envelope data to give them a sense. Any special initiatives that are targeted, either in Tribal or rural/frontier communities, in addition to regular programs, may be helpful.
  - Valerie Rangel put together a report and did some mapping around needs around cold storage, as well as intersectional needs such as food, healthcare, etc.
  - Let’s tap into where the energy is. Prepare 30-45 minute presentation
- Efforts we know are currently underway:
  - Stephanie Rogus at NMSU doing study with ag producers



- Sarita Cargas – wrapping up study on student hunger – results developing
- Erin Ortigosa and ESHIP/Future Cities doing a study
- Gabe Sanchez doing study on hunger funded by Thornburg

Focus on opportunities to push case around state hunger

September is Hunger Month. Sonya will send out information next week re. activities and ideas that can be shared. Concept is taking an action to support hunger in some way. Tweeting, social media post, taking time to learn more about hunger, volunteering, giving.

Lilly – hunger at NM First. Could we send out communication to legislators – here is some action you can take. We'll also push our SHARE NM directory – here's how to find local resources. Lilly asked Wendy to do a data pull. She noted that the communications could be customized for the legislators.

Realistically middle of September.

Last newsletter of town hall week of on Sept. 2

**Lilly says she'll follow up Dr. Smoker and Jerry.**

Goal: all of the faith communities part of the Interfaith hunger Coalition to get it in their newsletters and their emails. The more targeted the ask, the more likely that. Donate button directly to the food bank association? Guide NM First.

**Sonya and Sherry will get together and discuss.**

Lilly acknowledged food banks are leaders in dealing with hunger. NM First can put out message: this isn't a special interest request. Our 400+ group, consisting of people from around the state, including Tribes and Pueblos, is deeply committed to systemic solutions around food and hunger. At the top of the list is appropriately funding food banks.

Tsiporah offered to relay info to ABQ Volunteers and CNMPE.

Working group starting. Proposing comfortable amendment to the anti-donation clause. Want to tweak so money can go to good things and nonprofits to help our communities. Article 9, section 14, subsection 8 says funding to go to healthy indigent and sick. It has prohibited funding to programs like Tax Help NM. Tsiporah has been collecting stories about where that has been a barrier. Amendment may not be needed- rather, it could be an exception. Other legislators on board: Rep. Natalie Figueroa, Rep. Rebecca Dow signed on. Tsiporah is courting Senator Sander Rue as they need balanced representation. There will be bill to tap into permanent fund for early childhood and possibly K-12 education. Along with that there will be bill for special election so money can be used for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. Special or constitutional amendment could go with special election, so it can be applicable before 2022. Tsiporah noted that as soon as they have a balanced bipartisan thing, she will send out doodle poll.

- Sherry noted that the anti-donation clause prevents important partnerships
- Concrete examples of where that has prohibited good work



- Sherry says, it not only prohibits but delays funds for many years. It can take a year or a year and a half to access the funds.
- Tsiporah noted that the anti-donation clause was written in 1915.
- Sherry said she would send examples to Tsiporah.
  - Sherry said she would speak with Tony McCarty at Angels Santa Fe, and would get that info to Tsiporah.
- Sonya said she would also get information to Tsiporah.

**Next steps:**

- Sonya share communication resources we can use in a variety of ways. NM first will use it in newsletter and direct communication to legislators. Actions you can take, and resources around food & hunger
  - If there is launch party – learning session. Sonya said they would take it under consideration.
- Meeting
  - Could it make sense to do a dry run-through
  - Sonya said she would set up time for Mag and Sherry to run through it
- Looking outside NM for funding. Coalition could help. Write letters of support, ask for contacts/referrals
- Keep eyes open. Where are opportunities with interim communities. Lifting up the food banks and sister organizations looking for support in food and hunger relief. Want to help bring in coalition support.
- Get stories to Tsiporah by end of August.

