

**Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy
Communication Action Team
9.15.20 ♦ 3:30-4:30 pm
Meeting Notes**

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

Note Taker: Xavier Vallejo, New Mexico First

Participants:

- Erika Robers, New Mexico First
- Sharon Berman, New Mexico First
- Wendy Wintermute, New Mexico First
- Sonya Warwick, Road Runner Food Bank
- Tsiporah Nephesh, New Mexico Thrives
- Sherry Hooper, Food Depot

Check-In

Legislative Communication

- SHARE NM has created a list of resources and organizations that can easily be navigated by stakeholders. Specific use of the search engine function on the SHARE NM website will provide resources specific to Food & Ag stakeholders.
- New Mexico First will be sending out personalized emails to state legislators, sharing the resources gathered by the SHARE NM program and promoting Hunger Action Month to raise awareness in September.
- Not all legislators will read the emails, but sending the emails out will be important as a way to raise awareness of the issues related to Food & Ag in the state before introducing the Food & Ag Bill with Rep. Stansbury.
- We need to begin to think about specific legislators to support this work from both sides of the aisle. We specifically need to find Republican legislators to champion the bill. What can be done to bring on Republican Senators?
- Dates, times, RSVP information for the upcoming food bank legislative webinar:
 - RSVP via www.rrfb.org/RSVP
 - Monday, October 5, 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm
 - Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am to 9:45 am
 - Friday, October 23, 9:00 am to 9:45 am

Media Communication

- Road Runner Food Bank, the Food Depot, and other food banks have experienced shortages in volunteers, due to COVID-19. Many of the regular volunteers are retired people and those people are most at risk if infected.
- Food banks have taken safety precautions to ensure the safety of their volunteers. Food banks need young people to volunteer. Hunger Action Month should be utilized as an opportunity to push for Food Bank Volunteers.

- New Mexico First to spread the word on this via social media platforms and the weekly newsletter.
- Additional volunteer assistance could be used with food assistance calls. These are used to check in on various communities throughout Albuquerque to check in about food security and offer support to access resources available.
- These volunteers will be able to work remotely for increased safety and could be a way to reengage the older populations that are less likely to volunteer, due to the increased risks of health complications associated with COVID-19.
- Toolkit link for Hunger Action Month: https://rffb-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/sonya_rffb_org/Ej_fB0ijzyBBkzBVlrstNgOB1s3svZJz-exgliWMKPnEmg?e=cf0iQM
- Virtual Volunteer Opportunity listed as our "Help Center." Typically, this is done at the food bank, we are now doing public benefits apps and food assistance virtual (with the right tech, etc). Here is the link for additional details: <https://www.rffb.org/give/give-time/help-center/>

Stakeholder Communication

- Regarding stakeholder communication notes, morning of notes and reminders have been approved and noted to be very helpful.
- Due to the upcoming election, all legislative communication will be conducted not only with elected officials, but also opposing candidates, to anticipate the electoral outcomes and garner as much support as possible.
- Road Runner Food Bank will be doing some advocacy at the federal level.

Next Steps

- All organizations to promote Hunger Action Month on social media.
- New Mexico First to share resources with legislators through SHARE NM.