

**Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Workgroup**  
**General Action Team**  
**10.8.20 ♦ 12:00 – 1:30 pm**  
**Meeting Notes**

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

**Note Taker:** Sharon Berman, New Mexico First & Xavier Vallejo, New Mexico First

**In Attendance:**

- Andrew Baker, Health Action NM
- Jane Braithwaite, Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury
- Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Molly Callaghan, Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland
- Lacey Daniell-Miller, Save the Children Action Network
- Tyler Eschelman, NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands
- Representative Joanne Ferrary
- Bruce Hinrichs, NMSU Cooperative Extension Services
- Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot and NM Association of Food Banks
- Allison Griffin, Cullari Communications Global and Abbott Nutrition
- Kyle Jim, Dine Introspective
- Karen Plawecki, NMSU Extension
- Derek Lin, New Mexico Voices for Children
- Denise Miller, NM Farmers' Marketing Association
- Christina Morris, NM DOH
- Andrea Nash, Roadrunner Food Bank
- Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives
- Jason New, NMDA
- Anna Rondon, NM Social Justice Equity Institute
- Victoria Quevedo, La Semilla Food Center
- Rep. Melanie Stansbury
- Trista Teeter, Food is Free Albuquerque
- Michael Venticinque, NM Farmers' Marketing Association
- Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children
- Xavier Vallejo, NM First

**Check-In**

**Announcement: Malnutrition Awareness Week**

- Cullari Communications Global and Abbott Nutrition shared a Malnutrition Week tool kit, which NM First forwarded to Food, Hunger, Ag stakeholders in the listserv. If you did not receive the tool kit and you would like access to materials for Malnutrition Week, please contact Sharon at NM First at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org).

**Debrief Interim Legislative Health and Human Services Meeting**

- Well received panel. Logistically learned that committee will be endorsing legislation in final meeting on November 12. The legislation will need to be turned in for review a week in advance. Not sure if the deadline will be met to receive endorsement, but legislation is being worked on. Rep. Ferrary said there would be time to present in December. Invite everyone. Plan to do as a caucus group.
- Reps. Stansbury, Ferrary, and Allison are working on an Op. Ed. to seed the public discourse about why the need for food and water in the state is so great and why it is important to address with legislation. This will be released in newspapers in the next week.
- Rep Stansbury said we need a fully formed draft in order to be heard. However, it will be a priority regardless as it will be significant body of work.
- Economic Rural Development Committee Meeting is on October 19. Could be a source of support from the legislator. NMF to reach out to the committee to coordinate speaking time.
- Mag Strittmatter, Lorenzo, Helga Garza, Kristen Aguilar, Lilly Irvin-Vitela, and Rep. Stansbury were all able to speak on the panel with policymakers.

#### **Discuss next steps on outline for Food and Farm Bill – Outstanding Research Needs**

- In need of additional content. Working on fine-tuning the outline. Once that is fleshed out, we will open file with legislative council. Link to the document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11MSwm3Hfd-3n3U7wlbniCT5ehoSCbE42s4198WKYeJg/edit>
- Rep. Stansbury is outlining the bill. Once bill is fleshed out, the bill will be brought to the table in front of stakeholders to plug in details. We have identified problems and background information, but some of the presented solutions are missing. If you have ideas about how to address specific problems, put your comments in the bill outline or email your ideas to Rep. Stansbury at [melaniestansbury@yahoo.com](mailto:melaniestansbury@yahoo.com).
- The needs addressed in the bill are so big, they are hard to estimate. We will need to anticipate the need for a lot of flexibility to accommodate the need for the legislature to adopt a concrete fiscal amount. Giving ourselves optimal flexibility on rolling and competitive basis may be the most fiscally sound approach. Rep. Stansbury will speak to secretary of HSD to understand the budget and how the pieces fit together. You might be able to make changes around the margins but affecting the macro budget is hard. That's why doing framework now, incorporating all the elements now, is so important.
- She added there is confusion around whether we do one bill. Trust the process. We will see what ideas are ripe and ready to move this session, which ones to incorporate in a single bill and which ones have their own track. Which ones will be prioritized and which ones will now. Developing a multi-stakeholder bill may contain information that not everyone will agree on. If we need, we can always take off sections of the bill to be passed as their own bills to gain better support. This group is committed to advancing all the ideas in whatever way possible. Most important to make sure we have a bill that will be signed.
- NM Statutes <https://codes.findlaw.com/nm/>



- We have each been asked to look at the outline and give specific feedback. Not only outlining the problems, but also possible legislative solutions. How you and your organization fit into that, do you have any clarifying questions to ask in order that you do your part?
  - Can bills also be separate?
    - Yes, bills can be stand alone as well as mixed and matched in combinations. If you already have policy bills you've been working on, that already have sponsors, it's fine and good for them to have standalone identities. Sometimes bills sweep bills into one if it is not logrolling.
  - It wasn't clear whether we need to add procurement to the statute. Is this the time to move on it or not? Do we do a procurement in a section of the bill, and what does it look like? The more nimble and clean, the better. Let the agencies interpret the laws as the constitution intended. No need to be prescriptive, but: should we do this, and how?
  - What would be most helpful?
    - We need to emphasize the translational part. See if there is need to put into statute the beef/meat inspection and processing ideas. What is solution in the near term?
  - What are missing pieces that are not working?
    - Send additional thoughts to Rep Stansbury.
  - The constitution provides a basis to write rules of the road for why and how government does what it does. Hunger has not been something included in the constitution that state agencies were given authority to deal with. It is addressed in other pieces of programs. We are trying to give state mandate to our agencies to address food system and security issues, to create more robust legal and statutory framework so our state agencies can deal with these issues.
  - NM Farmer's Marketing Association finished a report that has a good summary of the Double up Food Bucks program over the last 10 years as well as projections for the next 4 years with the new state investment they hope to attain. The report contains the numbers and good information. Denise will forward the final version, and NM First will share on its listserv.
- RRFB is concerned about future supply. There is an aluminum shortage that is becoming more prevalent. We are also anticipating a pandemic spike to occur after the holidays.
- Food Depot had another round of the Farmers Feed Families Food Boxes. Those boxes include 2 bags of cooked meat, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Those boxes will be coming to Food Depot until the end of October. After that USDA has no funding, until another relief bill is passed.
- Food is Free ABQ reported a slow season. People hesitant to let strangers on their land during the pandemic.



- Producers in Bernalillo and Torrance counties who suffered losses caused by recent drought may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.
  - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index>
- Jewish Federation of NM asked Interfaith Hunger Coalition to do a presentation. They wanted to donate and asked to whom to donate. They recommended the food banks. Some of the information they presented came from this gathering. That's one example of how this coalition can have an impact.
- NM Farmer's Marketing Association creates a Double Up Food Bucks report, If anyone would like a copy of the report, please contact [dmiller@farmersmarketsnm.org](mailto:dmiller@farmersmarketsnm.org). The report has info showing data and impact over last 10 years, plus what we need to expand the program over the next four years. We will have a specific ask for \$500K annual funds.
- NM First, hosting an Ag Resilience Workshop, tomorrow at 9:00 AM. The orientation will be going over the history of resilience in ag. Inviting members/new members to participate, ask questions, share resources. Also, a fall speakers' series kicking off next week. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday next week will all be having meetings and brief presentations. If you would like the zoom link, please contact [erika@nmfirst.org](mailto:erika@nmfirst.org)
- All are welcome. Part of intent between speakers, is we know our ability to work together across multiple coalitions has strengthened our understanding of each other's work. "Progress goes at the speed of trust."

#### Close and Next Steps

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