

**Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Workgroup**  
**Policy and Advocacy Action Team**  
**10.29.20 ♦ 12-1:00 pm**  
**Meeting Notes**

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

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

In Attendance:

- Katy Anderson, Roadrunner Food Bank, chief programs officer
- Jane Braithwaite, Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury
- Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Molly Callaghan, Office of Congresswoman Deb Haaland
- Bryan Crawford-Garrett, Thornburg Foundation
- Gerry Fairbrother, Fairbrother Policy Studies, LLC
- Representative Joanne Ferrary
- Bruce Hinrichs, NMSU Extension
- Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot
- Derek Lin, NM Voices for Children
- Christina Morris, NMDOH
- Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives and
- Jason New, NMDA
- Karen Plawecki, NMSU
- Victoria Quevedo, La Semilla Food Center
- Kurt Rager, Lutheran Advocacy Ministries NM
- Erika Robers, NM First
- Sophia Rose, NM Out-of-School Time Network
- Pam Roy, Farm to Table NM and NM Food and Ag Policy Council
- Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children

**1. Icebreaker: What's one way you think about balancing your organizational needs and mission with working in coalition?**

Rep Ferrary: keep the work of the coalition in front of those that need to hear it.

Carlos: we participate in this effort to remain mindful of what is going on. Bread for the world – state coordinator. Make sure we make connection with people from both parties.

Ellen: we'll have a meeting/presentation with director of APS food and services on November 9 at 6 pm MT.

Gerry: we just wrote a report – anti waste value. Use what we have and make the best of it.

Sherry: It's challenging, because we have to trust each other that we won't jeopardize the work of other organizations. The food banks are working every day to respond to a need. Sometimes that can be viewed as not thinking outside the box or considering broader things such as changes that need to happen. While we're working on policy, we need to be able to meet the immediate needs of New Mexicans. Lilly: inherent tension in urgency and mid and long term solutions, and long-term trust, which takes time to build over time.

Katy: Focusing on shared values and allowing that to lead the conversation helps balance organizational needs and mission

Emily: if we didn't work in coalition, it would be hard for us to meet our organizational needs and mission.

Derek: Because we're working at 30,000 foot level most of the time we're not necessarily connected with what's going on the ground. The coalitions we work in are critical for us to take the pulse of what's happening in our communities. Sharing experiences and insights helps with this balance.

Bruce: our whole mission is to help provide education so folks can better their lives. In coalition, not only do we find partnerships to meet those goals, but oftentimes we can help people meet their needs, which is on mission for us.

Bryan: what a coalition can bring that an org can't do on its own. Seeing the value both within one's org and what coalitions can achieve, do and think about that go beyond the scope of any one organization.

Tsiporah: When working with coalition I focus on what coalition is trying to achieve. I trust that if there were anything that would violate principles beliefs values of the org, my alarm bells would go off and that would be a check on that activity. Otherwise I jump in and see what can happen in coalition with collaboration.

Kurt: Our organization could not do what we do without be in collaboration with other organizations. I rely so much on expertise of the coalition members, such as policy experts. There is a balance between participating in collation that match the advocacy priorities vs. my engagement in congregations throughout NM and connecting their advocacy and faith throughout NM.

Molly: Our office collaborates a lot and works in coalition a lot with other delegation members and meetings like this. I don't know what we would do without collaboration. It informs policy and legislation for NM.

Christina: I work in health promotion which believes in shifting power to community. In the NW region we believe strongly in equity and equity principles that believe in community leadership, engagement, alliances and leading. It can be challenging to take off your hat and say, I'm speaking from my community now. In coalition you have trust and are part of the team and are no longer just representing the DOH.

Victoria: We wouldn't be doing any of this work without coalition, without our neighbors telling us they want gardens and to grow their own food. It's not possible for one organization to do all the work. Our 10thanniversary event is tonight. It brings to light all these amazing relationships and coalitions we've built over the work. I also want to lift up our families and friends in Philadelphia and D.C. as they defend their communities against police violence.

Erika: That's one of our central tenets at NM First. It's what we're about. As a newbie on this team, I'm getting used to thinking about making sure that we're adhering to our Town Hall recommendations that were created from a consensus process. How powerful it is when we work in coalition.

Sophia: Newer meals vista working with nm out of time school network. We're always interested in coalition building and new partnerships. There shouldn't be any competition when it comes to feeding kids and dealing with exacerbated problems in feeding New Mexico.

Jason: Our mission is to promote a fair marketplace, food protection, marketing economic development, conservations of our resources, cooperation between public and private sectors. All of our state constituents, coalition building is crucial. Helps you retain the balance, know what's going on locally and nationally. Keeps the ability to listen, learn and keep connected. It keeps us more effective and efficient, keep perspective.

Karen: NMSU Extension's mission is to meet the needs of our communities in our counties. Building coalitions is absolutely essential.



## 2. Food and Ag Bill Outline

- a. The online document can be found [here](#)

### • TITLE 1

- Bruce – the governor’s office created centers of excellence. Housed at NMSU. That unit is a cross-disciplinary groups who look at range – from value-added to food systems as a whole. It has a bunch of critical pieces of developing and helping develop value added and other pieces. “I would like to throw it out there as something to support.”
  - Lilly added – it’s something we worked on in the regular appropriations session – Senator Campos led it. The idea of being at the edge of leading and implementing the centers of excellence is something we’ve supported historically.

### TITLE 2

- Ag and food infrastructure – anything else related that anyone is working on? Additional investments to respond to pandemic needs?
  - Derek noted that the state level general assistance fund relieves financial and material hardship families are facing. Immigrants are left out of a lot of relief. NM Voices for Children is hoping the fund could bridge that gap and supply emergency cash assistance to immigrant families in need.
  - Sherry said the food bank association’s legislative agenda has been approved. It is a continuation of agenda from last legislative session. They continue to stand opposed to reinstatement of the food tax as it has a significant impact on low income New Mexicans. They remain opposed to taxing nonprofits’ purchases. They emphasize “Do No Harm” and are encouraging legislators and cabinet secretaries to not cut services that are helping people most impacted by pandemic. (Example: ISD could process applications in a timely manner.) Reports from two workgroups, gleaning and school food waste are either complete or soon on the way. Gleaning report complete and will go to legislators this or next week. The school food waste report is almost done and should go to legislators next week. Sen. Rodriguez may pick up points from those reports and enter into legislation. The board stand ready to approve and support those legislations.
  - Pam noted regarding the nutrition programs across agencies, they will run separate appropriation requests, and make sure they are holding strong on the K-12 funding in the PED. “Representative Dow will introduce a very simple appropriation to begin a program in early childhood food and nutrition programs.” Pam added that Sen Stefanics and Rep Gail Armstrong would be reintroducing the New Mexico Grown Foods for senior meal program.
    - Regarding the omnibus food and farm bill initiative, Pam said she had put a one liner “that basically says, support these programs.” She noted that while Rep. Stansbury had said a while back not to remove anything, that the food procurement program information she had dropped into the outline a while back was no longer needed and should be extracted.
  - Sophia – At a recent regional conference, they disseminated info about new waivers.

### TITLE 3

- Economic well-being and other forms of material hardship need to be taken into account as they are interconnected and related to food insecurity
- How we compensate farmworkers impacts and leads into food security issues, and food financing. Victoria said that they were moving the healthy food financing initiative along. They have a few co-sponsors. They are continuing to learn from The Center on Law and Poverty on farmworkers wages She added that there is a statistic that is not correct in the shared article which states the average wage is \$14-18/hour. “There needs to be more



education around abuse, wage theft and to get a true average of what folks are bringing back from their workday.”

- Rep. Ferrary noted that farmworkers have to wait hours and have to be on buses as early as 3 am. “They don’t get paid for that time especially if they are working by the basket. It’s pennies on the dollar that they get paid. We need to fight for that.”
- Derek said that regarding root causes, they were pushing for legislation that will eliminate fines and fees from the children’s code, specifically when a child goes to trial. It maintains the school to prison pipeline and keeps children in the criminal justice system. “When families are paying for fines and fees they’re unable to afford adequate nutrition and education.”
- Lessons learned from COVID could also be applied to regular times. Do you have specific suggestions related to operationalizing a more people-centered approach? One area was regarding meal distribution. Example: rather than folks having to come in each day per meal, people come in and receive several meals at once.
  - Rapid cycle efforts that philanthropy has effected – could it be used elsewhere? Mariana Padilla of the Governor’s Office had told Lilly recently that they were opening up eligibility, opening up a one-stop shop, in order to introduce efficiencies to make life easier for folks.
  - Please talk to your networks and let us know if there are any suggestions about how to apply COVID-era lessons learned to regular times. Send ideas/examples to Sharon at [sharon@nmfirst.org](mailto:sharon@nmfirst.org).

#### TITLE IV – Appropriations

- Lots of thinking, lots of working together. Some still in discussion and some open ended.
- One strategy Rep. Stansbury offered would be asking for one-time COVID-specific emergency funding as a lump sum. Anything in our omnibus bill would be eligible to compete for those funds. Lilly noted that this went back to the conversation at the top of the meeting regarding balancing coalition and organizational/agency needs. “It’s a known challenge when money is set aside and is competitive.” She wondered if those on the call had thoughts, ideas, reactions or suggestions about how to hold our commitment around equity along with a commitment to a cross-sector approach, while getting the resources where they need to go.
  - Rep. Ferrary noted that the next legislative session would hopefully be her fifth. She said that trying to make it so there is one big bill passed will be good in a way. However, she added, we have to secure the funding within each of the different agencies we have programs working with and through. That’s the tricky part of all this. “They are baking the cake now and we need to get that funding secured.”
- Pam wondered if it made sense to have some sort of framework with the bill that sets criteria and provides clarity about how funds might be administered, facilitated, and defines the term “equitably.” She added that many groups didn’t have the time to join this discussion. She wondered what kind of capacity the group had to reach out to other groups and ask what equity means to them.
  - Lilly acknowledged that although we have standing meetings and over 400 folks invited on a regular basis, people have capacity issues. She charged the group to reach out to their networks as their homework before the next meeting. “You all are welcome to share this and communicate with NM First about it.” Rep. Stansbury’s bill outline is accessible [here](#).

The next meeting of the Policy & Advocacy Action Team will be November 12 at 12:00 pm.

