

Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Workgroup
Policy and Advocacy Action Team
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, 9-3-20
Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin Vitela, NM First

Note Taker: Xavier Vallejo, NM First

Participants:

- Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Mag Strittmatter, Road Runner Food Bank
- Victoria Quevedo
- Pam Roy, NM Farm to Table
- Kathlyne Gish, Intern with Pam Roy
- Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot
- Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children
- Derek Lin, NM Voices for Children
- Tim Davis, NMCLP
- Kurt Rager, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry NM
- Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives
- Trista Teeter, FIFABQ
- Daniel Valverde, NM Appleseed
- Brent Van Dyke, NM Association of Conservation Districts
- Jonas Moya, NMCGA
- Judy Messal, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Yvonne, Dona Ana County Farmer & La Semilla Food Center
- Erika Robers, New Mexico First
- Sharon Berman, New Mexico First
- Rep. Melanie Stansbury

Check In:

- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** Good afternoon everyone. Let's check in and give each other updates. After that, we'll discuss some meetings we have scheduled and policy priorities.
- **Mag Strittmatter:** September is Hunger Action Month and we would appreciate any help marketing and getting people more engaged to address the hunger need of the state. Next Thursday, KOB will be doing a telethon for RRFB.
- **Victoria Quevedo:** So much going on. This is my first policy team call and I'm just grateful to be here.
- **Pam Roy:** We are ramping up our programs. I'd like to hand the spotlight to Kathleen Gish who is new to the policy team calls. She's a graduate student at Highlands University and she is working with us as an intern.
- **Kathleen Gish:** I'm excited to be a part of this work.
- **Sherry Hooper:** Proud to be a part of this group.
- **Kurt Rager:** I got a haircut and got a new chair for my desk.

- **Ellen Buelow:** A community garden was built at Presbyterian Church. I saw it yesterday and was so encouraged. They are overwhelmed with the amount of people coming through.
- **Emily Wildau:** NM Voices for Children will be releasing a fact sheet about the impacts of COVID. We are also getting ready for the new census data that comes out this month.
- **Derek Lin:** Emily covered the big stuff. Busy with grants, conferences, and publications.
- **Tim Davis:** Happy to be here.
- **Tsiporah Nephesh:** Working on developing the Anti-Donation Clause Workgroup.
- **Trista Teeter:** FIFABQ is focused on a statewide gleaning project.
- **Daniel Valverde:** We have been working with the USDA and they have granted national waivers to provide universally free meals across the state. All school districts will be giving out those free meals. This program will last through December.
- **Brent Van Dyke:** I'm currently working to try to mediate effects of drought. The drought is hitting New Mexico really hard. Looking at ways to think outside of the box to help New Mexico farmers and ranchers.
- **Jonas Moya:** Lately NMCGA has been working on projects related to meat processing, elk, and wolves.
- **Judy Messal:** I'm working with Carlos and Ellen on World Food Day.
- **Yvonne:** Victoria invited me here today. I'm a farmer and a food safety educator. This is my first meeting and I am here to learn.
- **Rep. Stansbury:** Good to see everyone. A fun update is that I got a haircut. Water conservation meetings have been held on a monthly basis and we are going to do some deep dives. If any of you are interested, please send me your email and I can add you to the distribution list. We're also working on conducting research and drafting the outline for the farm bill.

State Department Meeting Updates:

- Rep. Ferrary asked for people (Mag, Lilly, Lorenzo, etc.) to present policy priorities to the NM legislature. Scheduled early on the agenda at 9:30am and will be available in afternoon for public comment.
- Lots of fiscal restraints on the budget. The fiscal year of the state goes from July-June of the next year. There was an emergency legislative session. Legislature made not finetuned budgetary adjustments that will need to be adjusted in January. Oil industry was not damaged as much as anticipated, so budgetary crisis is bad, but not as bad as thought.
- Roadrunner finished the year with a record high of food distribution (14% increase from previous year). Continuing to source channels. The farm-food program is coming to an end and food banks will need to find other sources to access food sources.
- FEMA funds are needed, but FEMA is stretched thin between hurricanes, fire, and pulling away from pandemic aid. We are starting to see unemployment and homeless rates rise and we don't see this number decreasing any time soon.
- Proposal for double up food bucks is \$6.6M. Meeting scheduled to discuss the program next Tuesday. Thinking with the department of workforce solutions.
- There is a need for more staffing with UI. Maybe the FLC
- Putting together a meeting – Include Rep. Stansbury
- Distribution of food to young children to elders? Program to help schools purchase local grown foods.
- Need to do some nitty gritty stuff related to policy priorities. We need to start drafting 3-4 omnibus. Who is willing to sign up to be in a committee to deliberate.

- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** Pam, I know that you've already also been doing work with aging and long term services and with MDA around the farm to school and farm to senior centers work. Do you want to give an update to folks around that priority?
- **Pam Roy:** Like Lily said so back to back presentations in September with the Health and Human Services Committee and some focuses will be on getting our New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables onto school plates and into Senior Centers. Then bringing in the early childhood education nutrition programs as well. So, the idea is to tie together an a more comprehensive approach to everything from early childhood education through to our elders. We need to look at what are the things that we need to look at the are going to be necessary to either maintain or transition?
- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** So comprehensive work right. So at our last all group meeting, we went through all of the things that you had a consensus behind. One of the things that we need to do is begin drafting and organizing recommendations within the same policy domains. We need to do that, but we can't do that in a giant committee and so we need folks who are willing to sign up and say, hey, these are the areas we're willing to help draft. We need something more concrete, but we've got the big ideas.
- **Rep. Stansbury:** One recommendation I would make just to manage the process, was to see if a few of us – maybe three or four – could start putting together an outline. Then we'll asked people to help on the sections where they can help provide technical expertise. We will obviously circulate to the entire draft once it starts to get drafted and the reason why I say that is last year we worked on a grid bill and we had utilities lawyers helping us with like the PRC language and we had scientists helping us with the technical language on how to define the Grid.
- **Rep. Stansbury:** Especially for folks who are newer to the table, who we haven't had a chance to learn all of the different assets you bring please don't be shy about letting us know. We don't want to exclude anyone. The legislative process for us as legislators, is we request Legislative Council, which is a group of lawyers to help us with drafting bills. So, we don't have to have everything fully fleshed out but we do need to know the main topics.

Policy Priorities

- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** Through our Town Hall, we identified priorities and a lot of them are overlapping. The recommendations made through the food security and local food systems track were:
 - Increase partnerships with the health sector, including food Rx or fetus prescriptions.
 - Increasing public private partnerships and that goes to the antitrust work that support is heading up really looking at what school based health centers are already doing to and screening for food insecurity and then aligning public health strategies to address food insecurity.
 - There were several strategies that people recommended that accompany this and other was to reduce food waste and increase food rescue and distribution.
 - There was some thinking about tax incentives so that way people don't just do the right thing because it's the right thing sometimes, but there's some benefit to folks who helped make that happen.

- Increasing opportunities for New Mexico entrepreneurs community-based organizations, etc. to address the challenges. There's a lot that we've been talking about in terms of data and information that we need.
- There was some discussion about how do we address shortages in transportation and cold storage and communicate when food is available for gleaning or for rescue that gets public facing.
- Another one was strengthening local access. So really focusing on regenerative food production and value added processing.
- And finally, integrating local and indigenous modalities for health and wellness into health education curriculum.
- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** We need to maintain that cross sector representation.
- **Rep. Stansbury:** I wish we could meet in person, because I think it would make our work so much easier. But if we could try even as early as next week to find like an hour and a half, where the five of us – one from each sector – can begin to draft the outline, I think that would be ideal.
- **Lilly Irvin-Vitela:** And if folks are open to a socially distanced in person meeting, maybe we go out and have a picnic somewhere. I'll bring food and feed you, because you were talking about food. I'll work on an invitation. If you don't see it by the end of today, tomorrow feel free to nudge me.

Next Steps

- New Mexico First to share the list of Town Hall Policy Priorities.
- Next week, find 1.5 hours to begin drafting the Food and Ag Bill.