

Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Workgroup
Policy/Advocacy Action Team
11.12.20 ♦ 12-1:00 pm
Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

Notes: Sharon Berman, New Mexico First

In Attendance:

- Katie Anderson
- Zak Barela
- Ellen Buelow
- Molly Callaghan
- Allison Griffin
- Bruce Hinrichs
- Derek Lin
- Judy Messal
- Carlos Navarro
- Karen Plawecki
- Roy Montibon
- Tsiporah Nephesh
- Victoria Quevedo
- Kurt Rager
- Erika Robers
- Rep. Melanie Stansbury
- Emily Wildau

I. Check In – what is your favorite comfort food side dish for the harvest holidays?

- a. Green chile cheese grits casserole
- b. Paella
- c. Red chile instead of gravy
- d. Stuffing
- e. Mashed potatoes
- f. Gravy
- g. Pumpkin bread and the desserts
- h. Fresh cranberry sauce with a little orange; canned cranberry sauce; any kind of cranberry
- i. Cooks.com to see what's new for Thanksgiving
- j. Collard greens and bacon
- k. Pecan pie – variation: chocolate chip pecan pie
- l. Chocolate chip pumpkin bread
- m. Sweet potatoes/Yams
- n. Whipping cream – not too sweet, with a little vanilla
- o. Maple roasted brussels sprouts with bacon and asiago
- p. Tamales – with calabacitas for Thanksgiving

II. Policy Updates

- a. Rep. Stansbury noted that everything is up in the air right now. Legislative council is state legislature's governing committee which is bicameral legislative which committee. There was variation among membership about what the upcoming legislative session should look like. Some think it should be completely virtual and some are looking into legal rules behind quorum. Also discussion. During special session it was extraordinarily hard to build consensus and work on bills. Advocacy orgs/lobbyist/interest groups not being on the premises also made it hard to work on things. Both houses and parties are caucusing.

- i. The guidance she has been given is proceed with working on bills to get them ready for the session, with the understanding that bills will be hard to move. There will be a desire to move legislation related to assistance.
- ii. We'll be prepared to do the food/ag bill. And will have separate piece embedded in the bill that is just about emergency relief. This is not set in stone. Glad that food & hunger remains a top priority for leadership, including the Governor. Mariana Padilla spoke to her tomorrow: they are committed to moving forward with whatever they can do administratively through executive power – ways to lift up work of executive branch to do that.
- iii. “And then the final piece that I'll just say on the budget is that the legislative Finance Committee, which is our bicameral Budget Committee, will be meeting they meet next week, but then they adopt the budget framework, the first week of December. And that meeting is really important because that's the place where the bicameral interim committee adopts kind of the baseline that then gets brought into the session as the basis of the budget. So we've been having ongoing discussions with the agencies and the finance staff about incorporating some emergency funding for the food banks and emergency food providers. And we have good news, which is the HST and Human Services department did submit a budget request \$5 million to the Department of Finance and the governor's office for inclusion in the budget and, if any of you work with those agencies or with the governor's office and feel comfortable advocating for that funding, it's really important that it gets incorporated into the budget framework, or else will be having to fight for after the fact. In this session, and it's going to be really hard to fight for money in the session because they're going to be cutting budgets left and right. So, I feel good that we got included in the initial round. But we got to make sure it kind of gets through every chapter of the budget formulation process.
- iv. And then just one final thing, but maybe Victoria or others might want to talk about this and there was an economic development and committee hearing this week, economic and rural development and several bills were presented, including the food finance one that they've been working on as well as Rebecca Dow presented her meat Inspection bill and both of those bills were endorsed by the committee and hopefully we'll roll into the regular session. So that's great. And then I know Lily will talk about the panel discussion that we're will be presenting next weekend and how in the education study committee.”
 1. Kurt asked who to approach to make sure the \$5 million gets passed. Rep. Stansbury encouraged everyone to contact their own legislator, give them a ring and let them know this is headed their way.
 2. NM First will send list to everyone with a few talking points by Monday.
 3. Lilly appreciated Rep. Stansbury juggling many things at once – while keeping up the amazing behind the scenes work. “I'm just a really good nagger,” replied the representative.

- a. Here is the link for the LFC:
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LFC/Committee_Information
- b. Victoria thought their presentation went really well [what was it, where, with whom]. NM Produce for Senior Meals, NM Grown for school programs, Double Up Food Bucks, and more. Soil health as well. She said she had watched the entire session but didn't understand the process at the end when they were doing the vote at the end. She also said that her current senator is Papan, who will be leaving with the senator-elect. How to reach out, what the proper protocol to speak with new senator (Hamblen)
 - i. All of the currently sitting legislators are active legislators until the first day of the session. Many of them still sit on LFC. Anything involving the budget, please continue to contact the sitting legislators. It is totally appropriate and good to reach out to newly elected legislators. There are all kinds of amazing folks who are interested in these issues. She has been discussing with Rep. Ferrary how to loop them into the hunger caucus.
 1. New Senators-elect Brenda McKenna, Martin Hickey, Joshua Sanchez, Siah Correa Hemphill, Katy Duhigg, Carrie Hamblen, Crystal Diamond, Greg Schmedes
New State representatives-elect: Meredith Dixon, T. Ryan Lane, Brittney Barreras, Stefani Lord, Luis Terrazas, Roger Montoya, Kristina Ortez
 - ii. Re committee process – they differ. Some run very formal process, others less formal. **Rep. Stansbury will ask Mo Maestas whether the bills presented by La Semilla were endorsed.**
 - iii. Victoria asked what the process of this group regarding endorsing and supporting bills that were not part of the omnibus. Rep. Stansbury said she thought the last time we did a very informal process of compiling everything into a fact sheet, and the endorsement was whether or not you wanted your organization's name to be on the fact sheet. "I don't think there was anything that was found to be too controversial to include on the fact sheet."
 - iv. Lilly said we had a broad consensus when we were reviewing everything during the summer. What was most controversial were the root causes of hunger, such as poverty. There is broader support now –it has evolved. Consistently, when something came up around ag resilience and hunger, there were many of us there to speak up in support. Regarding the Healthy Food Finance Initiative, if La Semilla has guidance for what shared advocacy support would look like, let the group know.
- c. Lilly reminded group of another opportunity coming up – for public comment. The LESC will be meeting on December 18 from 10:15 – 11:15. We have the opportunity for 3 speakers. We'll have Rep. Stansbury kicking it off, setting up overall context. The food banks association will choose someone to present, someone working on government procurement of local product, Double Up Food Bucks, who from Food & Ag Policy Workgroup will present. That is in the works. NM First will be coordinating presentations, making sure information gets to staff so we can make a clear case. If folks won't be away for the holidays and would like to participate via public comment. Another possibility is to send your comments to staff if you can't attend the hearing.



- i. Lilly added – big tent, people coming and going. Rep. Stansbury taking input on the food & ag bill draft outline. Take a look at it and see, whether as an organization, whether you can endorse it or not.
- ii. We'll do iterations of communication and will continue to welcome people who wish to be added.
- iii. She asked Rep. Stansbury what she needed in terms of clarification in the outline.
 1. If we do end up in a session where we're severely constrained and can only move emergency items – please flag policy priorities in the food and ag bill MISSED A LITTLE PART HERE. There's something – we work with HSD on this program Send her a note with any info you know.
 2. Lilly – one example. re. sharing cold storage and jurisdiction around that at senior centers and schools – always looking for an angle on that.
 3. What is your take Rep Stansbury – how broad and expansive – how comprehensive – how to make sure we're focusing on hunger. Are there things that have come up that are very clearly related to hunger? E.g. Healthy food financing, double up food bucks, procurement of local for senior centers and schools. Other things that aren't so clear include such points as healthy soil. How to think about things that are related but not as directly connected to hunger.
 - a. Rep. Stansbury – the main thing is that if things already exist and don't need statutory change, they don't need to be in a bill. They can be in a fact sheet. Legislation involves Frameworks governance and legal authorities. She will be doing research to see where we need statutory language.
 - b. Legislative council meeting Monday at 1 via webcast. This may be the meeting when they decide what the meeting will look like.

III. Next Steps

- a. Please send any info you would like shared to NM First (sharon@nmfirst.org) and they'll distribute it.
- b. The Draft Food & Ag Bill Outline is here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11MSwm3Hfd-3n3U7wlbniCT5ehoSCbE42s4198WKYeJg/edit> . Remember to NOT remove anything, but if you want to add info, please do and try to add the date, your name and your contact info.

