

**Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy
Communication Action Team
6.15.20 ♦ 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Meeting Notes**

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

Notes: Sharon Berman, New Mexico First

In Attendance:

- Tsiporah Nephesh
- Sherry Hopper
- Sonya Warwick
- Steve Burstein
- Sherry Hooper

1. **Updates.** Prompt: 1) Do you have updates, 2) what are you hearing, and 3) what are your plans are during the session?
 - a. NM First updates:
 - i. We got communication out along with our [policy priorities doc](#), have heard back from recipients. Have continued to hear special session won't be listening to nuanced proposals but instead will ask every agency cabinet secretary to make cuts from what was approved in Feb. Policy priorities were not only for special but are also for regular session as well as interim meetings in the fall. This is part of conversation.
 - ii. Action step people can take: Call legislators. We need systematic approach to ending food and water insecurity. They can share policy one-pager (have link handy to insert into chat)
 - iii. Big ask during special session is for new money - \$12.5 million for food banks so they can simply meet the need as calculated from March/April. We know there will be even more demand.
 - iv. Process and democratic processes. Sent letter out in May. Heard from a few legislators. In partnership with Ethics Coalition, sent letter to legislators and also sent to the press. Still don't have clarity about how people will be able to do public comment. Reps. Stansbury, Ferrary, Anderson and Garrett and Nibert are all committed to an open, transparent, inclusive process. We also heard from Nibert. (his response was to invite us to intervene in lawsuit before supreme court Writ of Mandamus.) Rep. Thompson also replied (Wants to keep roundhouse closed for health reasons. "Everything will be online." Lilly wrote back asking for specifics about call-in info and how we can help.) Rep. Garrett asked if NMF could help educate folks. Lilly said yes. There was supposed to be a press release this weekend but didn't see it in the journals. We helped Rep. Garrett connect with NMPBS.
 - v. Letter was picked up by Los Alamos Post Daily ([Los Alamos Daily Post](#)). When we sent letter in May we had specific recs around timelines to communicate to the public. So the only change in the letter is that specific timely requests were revised (example: reasonable notice vs. originally asking for 24 hours' notice no longer being requested, given the length of session).
 1. Sonya and Tsiporah have not seen or heard any details about the special session. Tsiporah noted that there are technology issues and others. What they are saying in



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Please contact Sharon Berman at sharon@nmfirst.org if we missed or misunderstood anything in these notes.

terms of cuts is there not going to cut basic needs. And they would not cut funding to capital funding for Navajo nation. Sherry wonders what those projects are. Sherry was unhappy that it's taken a pandemic to address issues like this. Planning projects are funded. Tsiporah heard that a funding pipeline has taken over 50 years.

- vi. Lilly will be listening to committee hearings and if there are opportunities for public comment, she will address the group's priorities.
 1. Tsiporah finished the report impact on nonprofits. Covid -19. She is done with it and will send it to folks. It was sent to the governor and Alicia Keys. Trying to find out what is on the Governor's call.
 2. Anything we can do to amplify the message on the need to complete the Census! NM First will amplify the message. Only 50 percent have participated.

2. **Opportunities to Collaborate.** Prompt: Funding opportunities, joint funding opportunities, federal action items consistent with agreed-upon policy agenda, stories, send them to us so we can share on website, newsletter and with our network.

- Sonya - Hunger stories – 2-5 sentences on each plate. Sonya is going to send group samples of the plates. sonya@rrfb.org or 505.269.4775
- Tsiporah noted that there is a federal effort to include above the line donations. Bill to pay nonprofits to give them some funding. Still early stages. Feel good story: a friend of hers grows tomatoes. Grew 60+ varies that she is donating. Also taking pumpkins and melons. Her friends donate some. Tsiporah is going to give some tomatoes to the Navajo nation.

3. **Messaging and mutual support:** Prompt: Why is it important that we continue to message together and offer mutual support?

- a. NMF Reminder: if food banks and/or NMSU is on call: if they need us to be part of meetings with DFA/CYFD, ask us and we can support. Let us know. We can bring voice, show how important it is to stakeholders. Re. NMSU, we want to strengthen infrastructure for systems. If they'd like us to be part of conversations with HED, NMDA, let us know. It's something that broad stakeholder group is committed to. Supporting the business – not just for a particular interest group.
 - i. Doing program with kids and social distancing. They are going to have kids' meals, chicken salads. Not going to be the same but the kids will be fed and have some books to read.
 - ii. Tsiporah noted that we amplify each other's messages.

4. Next Steps/Logistics

- a. Collecting each other's twitter and communicate that way during the special session.
- b. Action Team to go to once a month regular, meeting as needed between. **The group is going to meet once a month now on the 2nd Monday of each month, 3:30 – 4:30 pm.**

