

Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy
General Action Team
5.21.20 * 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Lilly Irvin-Vitela, New Mexico First

Notes: Sharon Berman, New Mexico First

Federal Delegation- Congresswoman Deb Haaland; Molly Callaghan, Office of Congresswoman Haaland

Office of Governor Lujan Grisham- Patty Keane

State Departments- Antonio Corrales, Office of the State Auditor; Adrian Gallegos, Inspector General; Keegan King and Eldred Lesensee, Indian Affairs; Karmela Martinez, Income Support Division; Human Services; Amy Whitfield, CYFD

Legislators- Representative Joy Garret; Rep. Melanie Stansbury, NM Legislature

Food Providers- Brian Ammerman, Adelante; Anita Adalja, Agri-cultura Network; Lorenzo Alba, Jr., Casa de Peregrinos; Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot; Katie Anderson, Andrea Nash and Mag Strittmatter, Roadrunner Food Bank; Alice Perez, The Community Pantry- Gallup NM; Anna Rondon McKinley Mutual Aid (part of NM Justice Equity Institute), Michael Venticinque, NM Farmers' Marketing Association

Faith-based Organizations- Carlos Navarro and Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition

Philanthropy- Jackie Francke, First Nations Development Institute

Agriculture Stakeholders and Food Providers- Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council; Isabelle Jenniches, Healthy Soil Working Group; Tyler Eshelman, New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands; Zoey Fink, National Young Farmers Coalition

Advocacy Organizations- Raphael Nevins Healthy Futures; Brent Van Dyke, National Association of Conservation Districts; Daniel Valverde, NM Appleseed; Melanie Sanchez Eastwood, Jonas Moya and Wendy Wintermute, NM First; Tsiporah Nephesh, New Mexico Thrives; Derek Lin and Emily Wildau, NM Voices for Children

Academia- Bruce Hinrichs and Stephanie Rogus, NMSU

Volunteers- Jane Brathwaite, Thomas Givler and Barbara Leppala, Office of Rep. Melanie Stansbury

Other- Allison Griffin, Cullari Group; Ron Montibon, The Montibon Company

What happened in the last week that has made you feel hopeful?

- Stephanie noted that her project had been approved. She is in process for creating a Facebook page with English and Spanish versions of the survey
- Isabelle commented that people are gardening again and plant starts are sold out.



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

- Raphael said that the state has added EBT.
- Michael said NM Farmers' Marketing Association should be receiving seeds very soon and would distribute them. He added that he was excited to see more people growing food.
- Zoey said that in partnership MoGro, they sent out 250 bags to Zia Pueblo and the refugee community on Tuesday.

Updates

State Agencies

- Patty noted that online purchases for home delivery is now allowed and live. She said that SNAP beneficiaries previously had not able to use SNAP benefits for home delivery, and that now Amazon.com and Walmart were the two approved online vendors for New Mexico, allowing SNAP participants to purchase food online and have it delivered to their homes.
 - Patty added that all SNAP participants were getting the maximum SNAP allotment in May.
 - Regarding the summer meals program, Patty noted that the sites would shift from schools to other sponsor sites in some communities. She added that they were in the transition period now. Patty commented that PED and CYFD were working collaboratively with one another as well as with schools and summer food sponsors to ensure all NM communities are served.
 - The Meals2You program delivers food boxes to children at their homes.
 - **If you know of any gaps, let the Governor's Office and the state agencies know.**
 - NM WIC continues to serve - they modified services to be primarily online and curbside.
 - The Pandemic EBT allows for additional funds for any children who participate in the school lunch program. SNAP participants with children automatically get that benefit. People who do not currently participate in SNAP need to go through their child's school nutrition department to sign up.
- Karmela noted that the Pandemic EBT had been issued the past weekend and would retroactively cover mid-March through mid-June. It was being done through a phased approach. She added that the next group of people would be those individuals known to the system but not participating in SNAP, such as people receiving Medicaid. In the succeeding phase potential and newly eligible individuals could apply.
 - Karmela noted that parents wishing to apply should be directed to school administration, as PED was handling administration for Income Support. She added that Children were still eligible to receive grab and go lunches in addition to those benefits.
- Amy said that at Emergency Support Function 6, they were to continue to meet the crisis needs for food. As requests come in from county emergency managers and tribal emergency managers, they were ensuring food deliveries went out as soon as possible. Amy added that at ESF-6, they were working closely with tribal liaisons and the National Guard to get the food out.
 - Amy commented that there had been several instances where folks were responding to the same things at the same times, but that there needed to be coordination and communication. She added that they really appreciated when "folks can let us know any kind of contributions or donations, or work that they're doing in communities, so that we can make sure that we either partner together or do those at the same time, so that we don't tax the community..." Lilly acknowledged that good intentions and non-coordinated response can tax communities.



- Pam asked how to ensure senior centers stay open, or if there was a need to advocate for resources to keep them open. Amy replied that she had not heard about senior centers closing for reasons other than social distancing. Patty noted that since Aging and Long Term Services was not on the call, that she **could follow up with this group next week.**
 - Pam clarified that the question was about the centers being able to serve clients, even if they were closed. Lilly noted that they had reached out to ALTS a few weeks before and discovered that, at that time, they were mainly distributing food if family members called to coordinate it. Patty replied those programs were still active. She added that senior centers were funded to do congregate and home-delivered meals, and that the home delivered meals were still happening as before. She added that the congregate meals had shifted to grab and go.
- Pam asked whether PED was doing their program through federal funding and noted that she had heard the waiver program would end June 30. She added that the funds were federal and were tied to educational activities. Patty replied that PED was operating the seamless summer option, which would result in it looking the same. She added that the waivers had been extended to allow them to serve as they had been. She said she was not sure if there would be an extension on the educational waiver and said **they would look into it and would ask CYFD.**
 - Sherry commented that the Food Depot would serve from a van as a grab and go meal, with all necessary components included for the meal. She added that kids would need to line up 6 feet apart and would come to the table to pick up their bag. She said they would serve neighborhoods rather than sites, and added that there was no educational or activity component at their sites, which would include mobile home communities, low-income apartments, etc. The summer food program was provided through CYFD. Patty asked about capability of freezing meals. Sherry said that, through private funding, they were also going to provide meals to children's guardians, parents, grandparents who bring them to the site. She added that they didn't yet have the ability to freeze meals, but it was on their fundraising list.

Special and Regular Legislative Session Updates

- Rep. Ferrary said that the special session of the NM Legislature would be meeting starting on June 18th.
 - Rep. Ferrary said they would like to have a printed version of the policy priorities one-pager this Policy Workgroup had put together for legislators. She wondered how best to make arrangements so it could be on legislators' desks when they first check in for the special session. **NM First will print and mail to legislators, ASAP.**
 - Rep. Stansbury confirmed that the Governor had announced publicly that day that the special session will begin on June 18. She added that the content of the session remains to be seen, although it seemed likely that there would be a rejiggering of the FY20 and FY 21 budgets.
 - Rep. Stansbury commented that there would probably be consideration of a limited number of relief measures, depending on what the government and leadership think is doable. She acknowledged Lilly and the group for sending out the policy priority one-pager and added she would be on a call the next day with the LFC and would share the document with committee members. Rep. Stansbury reckoned they would focus on unpacking the budget to figure out how to pay for everything including feeding families. She added that they would do their best to balance everything through



macro-adjustments to the budget and predicted that January would see significant restructuring of the budget.

- Rep. Stansbury reminded the group that if there was a desire to pre-file legislation or tee anything up for the next session, it needed to be done by November.
- There was discussion about the optimal way to get the policy priorities one-pager to members of the legislature. Carlos thought it would be good to send a hard copy in addition to a digital one that already gone out to legislatures, the administration and cabinet secretaries. Lilly said **she would follow up with Carlos and Ellen**. Rep. Stansbury emphasized the need for plans that took public health issues into account, as it seemed unlikely the public would be allowed in the Roundhouse. She thought mailers would be the way to go.
 - Rep. Ferrary said the digital version was hard to enlarge and print out. Lilly replied that they would **convert it to a digital format that would make enlarging easier and that they would mail the hard copy using gloves**.

Food Banks and Pantries

- Sherry noted that they were continuing to do drive-through distributions, in addition to their partner agencies, 80 of whom had closed around the state. Food banks responded by setting up special distributions, which were going well. She added that Roadrunner had received the first set of produce/protein/dairy boxes through CFAP. They had received 1200 produce boxes that week and were expecting another 1200 boxes. They would get dairy boxes the following week.
- Lorenzo said that Casa de Peregrinos was trying to get food out to southern part of the county. Most requests were coming in from the rural communities in that area. He said requests were up 35%, were limited on staff and would look into working with brokers to pick up food from Roadrunner for those communities. Lorenzo said they were averaging 80-90 pounds of food per basket, which included great food from the food bank, vendors and local area farms. He added that in addition to the mobile pantries' distribution, they could use more help getting food out to the rural communities. He added that they were able to hire three people and were not accepting more volunteers. The city and county had been incredible, he said. Casa de Peregrinos received \$125,000 CDGB funding. Lorenzo added that donations kept coming in. He predicted that if the situation became prolonged, that they would need help with transportation. Lorenzo added that they a contract with a refrigeration storage broker who will inventory the food, and that they were working on bringing home-grown beef to Las Cruces. Lorenzo's email address is lo.alba.jr@gmail.com.
 - Karmela said she would **be happy to forward information to her staff in that area who were asking for more volunteer opportunities**. Her email is karmela.martinez@state.nm.us
- Bruce noted the second of two meetings for Beef Producers (“Navigating COVID for NM Beef Producers”) would be coming up on May 28, from 6-8:00 pm. Those interested can register at <https://nmbeef.nmsu.edu/>. He added that the agenda included Rep. Small's update from the federal ag committee, a monsoon update from the State Climatologist, and industry updates as well.



- Mag said they were excited about the CFAP boxes, which are the farm to family boxes provided by USDA. She noted that they had added an additional mobile in Socorro due to a temporary closing, and that they have had to add six mobiles due to agencies closures.
- Sherry asked if anyone on the call could help her understand how the FDIPR program worked and who to contact about it. Karmela replied that they had been working closely with them, and shared contact info for Gavino Archuleta: gavino.archuleta@state.nm.us.

Updates from the Faith Community

- Carlos said they were in the process of trying to provide as many resources as possible. He added that they were compiling a list of what different faith groups are doing in the current crisis to help alleviate. He noted that they would print it on a blog site and send it out via email, to be sure faith communities are in the loop. Ellen added that the [Interfaith Hunger Coalition](#) webpage had information about a workshop they would conduct via Zoom to inform faith communities of this process. They asked that people with information regarding activities on the part of faith communities or faith-based organizations share that info with the Coalition by sending an e-mail to nminterfaithhungercoalition@gmail.com.

Update on Food, Hunger, Water Ag Action Teams

- Lilly noted that NM First has been keeping notes for the action teams on the [COVID-19 website](#). She noted that the work was conducted with a big tent philosophy and that folks were always welcome in to be part of the problem-solving whether they had not yet participated or had not participated in a while. She asked that people extend an invitation to those who were interested.
 - Lilly added that even with the incredible generosity to NM's emergency food sector, during recovery it would need to be sustained. She added that this could be an ongoing activity the group could focus on. She emphasized the importance of sharing lessons learned regarding nitty-gritty coordination. She noted that communication would be essential and asked that folks wanting to get the message out make sure to share them with her, and she would make sure the messages would be amplified.
 - Lilly shared lessons learned with the group:
 - When all hands are on deck, we don't let each other fall through the cracks. However, an important learning was that that work could create capacity challenges and community stressors.
 - The system had become more efficient in terms of beneficial response and coordination between public and private.
 - A hard lesson was that not all of New Mexico's communities were impacted in the same way.
 - The ability to look at funding requests on a rapid cycle and get resources out where they need to go with the maximum flexibility has meant a lot to communities.
 - There has been a commitment from philanthropy to look at these issues with an equity lens.
 - Rep. Stansbury said that when she heard at an earlier meeting that Food Banks were doing better in NM than in other states, it felt great to know we were doing something right. Lilly replied that it has been incredible what producers have been able to do to get significant food to communities in a responsive and nimble way – and that it was beautiful and good food. She added that in the ag survey NM First conducted, it was noticeable how many people mentioned increased collaboration via formal and informal networks.



- Lilly noted that on the advocacy front, the cross sector approach has been super powerful for hunger, food and water relief efforts, and building a healthier food system in which ag can play a role.
- Pam invited everyone to the upcoming NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council meeting taking place on Wednesday, May 27, 10-12 noon. To sign up, go to <https://nmfapc.com/meetings/>. She said they were grateful for all of the collaboration, including collaborating on priority letters to the special session. She added that she and Lilly had reached out to partners who were part of the omnibus budget and made sure their organizational letters had similar or identical highlights. **She noted that they could share them out collectively, with guidance from Representatives Ferrary and Stansbury.**
 - Pam noted that the Farm Bill has many resources, and that there were a lot of programs that are in RFP phases. She added that food was in the Farm Bill that wasn't for emergency funding. In addition, Pam noted that there are bills in addition to the Heroes Bill that will affect NM. She finished by saying they want to continue to build trust over time, looking at the big picture and thinking, and come to unified agreement on what to focus on in the regular session.
- Stephanie spoke about the survey she had adapted for NM from surveys conducted elsewhere. NMSU has approved it and Stephanie had had it translated into Spanish. She noted that the survey was only available online due to COVID. She asked that everyone take the survey, which contained detailed questions and would take approximately 20 minutes to complete. She asked that Action Team members share the survey on their websites, social media and listservs, and added that she would **be reaching out to help facilitate the survey**. Stephanie's email is srogus@nmsu.edu.
- Emily noted that NM Voices for Children was happy to sign on to the letter the group put out, and they were currently working on suggestions for the Special Session such as the SNAP benefits.

Food Systems

- Roy said that they were working on variety of things, one of which was a survey of people in Los Ranchos. He added that they had discovered that farmers' consistent need was related to grants. He added that there were many grant opportunities during COVID, yet a common statement they heard was "I know how to farm, I know how to do a lot of things, but I'm not a grant writer." Roy observed that NM is a philanthropic desert. He added that they were trying to connect college students with expert grant writers in an effort create a new generation of future grant writers who will in turn train the next generation. They thought there was potential for it to be an independent project with the schools. **Roy said he hoped to be able to update the group on the next call.**
 - Lilly reminded Roy that Roanhorse Consulting has been doing a lot of thinking about how to strengthen philanthropy in general and in Native communities.
- Tyler said that the New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands had been responding to a need they had heard that grants were super complicated to digest, understand and access. They had heard that sometimes there wasn't enough time to respond. They are translating and interpreting grant language, and giving 1-2 page overviews to give a glimpse into different opportunities and help people find resources that match their needs. Tyler added that they are also including mental health resources for farmers, ranchers and producers via newsletters. In addition, they were furnishing guides on food safety. He said they hold a weekly call and were also consolidating information in an open source format. **"We can get you plugged in on our weekly calls."** Tyler's email is coordinator@nmcewl.org.



- Lilly noted that the [Native American Relief Fund](#) had already raised almost \$1 million in the last two months. The first round of grantmaking was done with input from the Native American Advisory Committee, and funds were distributed to federally recognized tribes and pueblos in NM. The next round of funding will be to Native-led and Native-serving organizations. Lilly invited folks to check out the [NM Foundation website](#). She added that their [Vecino Fund](#) is open to anyone – rural, frontier, urban –doing work on food and water access. Lilly gave a shoutout to Albuquerque Community Foundation and United Way of Central New Mexico, who are jointly offering the [ACF/UWCNM Emergency Action Fund](#). She added that in ordinary times, there would be a specific geographic eligibility requirements, but that during COVID, was open to requests from across the state.

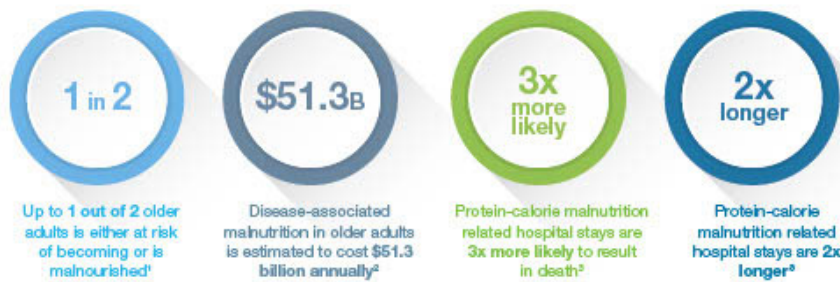
Appendix: Resources Shared by Group Members

[National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update](#) calls for a range of strategies to be implemented, both in community and healthcare settings, including telehealth services. Many of these recommendations are relevant to New Mexico, of course, and may be useful to your organization and the collaborative work you are engaged in to address food access and malnutrition in the state. (see next two pages for the one page document.)

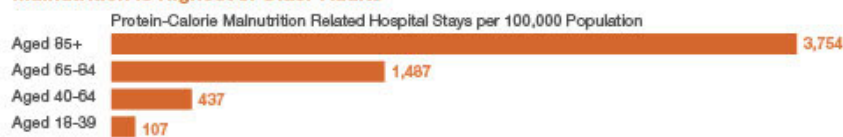


National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update

Malnutrition Is a Critical Public Health Issue



Malnutrition is Highest in Older Adults³



Malnutrition is intensified by the disparities and social isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ Additionally, nutrition status is a relevant factor influencing the outcomes of patients with COVID-19.⁵

Collaboration Among Stakeholders in Public and Private Sectors is Needed Because Many Factors Contribute to Malnutrition in Older Adults



References

¹Kaiser MJ, Daver JL, Harshbarger C, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2010;58(11):1754-1758.
²Greider JT, Leibkum MT, Wu Y, et al. *JPEN*. 2014;38(9):Suppl(2):77-30.
³Garett ML, Dalley MK, Oweiss FL. Non-maternal and Non-paternal Inpatient Stays in the United States Involving Malnutrition, 2015. U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/stays/ICD9MalnutritionInpatientStays_2015.pdf. Published August 20, 2016.
⁴Defeat Malnutrition Today. COVID-19 and Older Adult Malnutrition. <https://www.defeatmalnutritiontoday.com/covid-19>.
⁵Laviano A, Koverech A, Zanetti M. *Nutrition*. 2020;110:10494. doi:10.1016/j.nut.2020.10494.

The *National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update* advances integrated solutions across acute care, post-acute care, and community settings with four primary goals:

- 1 Improve quality of malnutrition care practices
- 2 Improve access to high quality malnutrition care and nutrition services
- 3 Generate clinical research on the quality of malnutrition care
- 4 Advance public health efforts to improve the quality of malnutrition care

Take steps to

- Implement policies
- Strengthen best practices
- Support quality care standards and measures

across the continuum of care, including through telehealth services.

Learn More

www.defeatmalnutrition.today

Download Here

www.defeatmalnutrition.today/blueprint



National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update

Goals and Strategies of the National Blueprint

Goal 1	Improve Quality of Malnutrition Care Practices
Strategies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Science-Based National, State, and Local Goals for Quality Malnutrition Care 2. Identify Quality Gaps in Malnutrition Care 3. Establish and Adopt Quality Malnutrition Care Standards 4. Ensure High-Quality Transitions of Care 	
Goal 2	Improve Access to High-Quality Malnutrition Care and Nutrition Services
Strategies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate Quality Malnutrition Care in Payment and Delivery Models and Quality Incentive Programs 2. Reduce Barriers to Quality Malnutrition Care 3. Strengthen Nutrition Professional Workforce 	
Goal 3	Generate Clinical Research on Malnutrition Quality of Care
Strategies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate Effectiveness and Impact of Best Practices on Patient Outcomes and Clinical Practice 2. Identify and Fill Research Gaps by Conducting and Disseminating Relevant Research 3. Track Clinically Relevant Nutritional Health Data 	
Goal 4	Advance Public Health Efforts to Improve Malnutrition Quality of Care
Strategies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train Healthcare Providers, Social Services, and Administrators on Quality Malnutrition Care 2. Educate Older Adults and Caregivers on Malnutrition Impact, Prevention, Treatment and Available Resources 3. Educate and Raise Visibility with National, State, and Local Policymakers 4. Integrate Malnutrition Care Goals in National, State, and Local Population Health Management Strategies 5. Allocate Education and Financial Resources to HHS and USDA-administered Food and Nutrition Programs 	

The **National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update** was developed by the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition, Avalere Health, and the Malnutrition Quality Collaborative with support provided by Abbott.