Alaska Food Festival and Conference
November 7, 2014
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• Contract: Department of Health and Social Services, Obesity Prevention and Control Program

• Strategic planning
• Public involvement
• Non-Profit Assistance
• Government Assistance
• Public Relations
• Transition Planning

Alaska Food Policy Council
Public Involvement

- Democratic outreach process
- Stakeholder outreach
- Collaborate with the local community
- Provide information to the public
- Receive feedback from the public/stakeholders
- Focus participation on decision making/goals
- Include a “Call to Action” and close the loop

Alaska Food Policy Council
Background

4 Town Hall meetings

- Nome (January 31)
- Juneau (February 2)
- Fairbanks (April 14)
- Bethel (April 16)
Goals

1. Increase awareness about Alaska food issues among the general population
2. Increase involvement in local food issues by community members
3. Gain a perspective of local food issues to inform the AFPC and policy makers (new Strategic Plan)
4. Recruit new members for the AFPC
Process

• Planning: Town Hall Committee teleconferences, including local stakeholders
• Promotion: social media, PSA’s, local newspapers, Alaska food network, flyer, press release
• Food: finding healthy, local food proved to be very difficult in all locations
Agenda

- Overview on AFPC (Governing Board member)
- 3 open-ended questions used to gather public input: Like, Dislike, Vision
- Post-it notes for answers, categorized into sectors of the food system
- Small group discussion around local issues of sectors of the food system and potential solution
- Final comments
Nome

- Mini-convention Center
- 50 in attendance
- Some local food, also pizza and salad
- Themes specific to Nome: concern about contamination of water, air, and soil and the effect/impact on wild food sources; desire for regulations to help increase subsistence/wild/local foods in local institutions (reindeer issue in particular)
Juneau

- Juneau-Douglas High School
- 104 in attendance
- Food from bakery and Rainbow Foods
- Themes specific to Juneau: many restaurants serve local food; regulations of fisheries and subsistence should support local consumption and encourage selling of harvests locally
Fairbanks

- Pioneer Park Exhibit Hall
- 55 in attendance
- Food from Fred Meyer and Great Harvest
- Themes specific to Fairbanks: pride in the 50 farms of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (however few young farmers);

community need for local storage and processing facilities.
Bethel

- Longhouse/Solo Café
- 10 in attendance
- Solo Café catered food
- Themes specific to Bethel: pride in Meyers’ Farm; debate over local fishing regulations
Overall Themes

What is LIKED about the local/Alaska food system?
- Abundance of subsistence (all locations)
- Gardening/growing produce (all locations)
- Farmers markets (Juneau and Fairbanks)
- Food bank (Juneau and Bethel)

What is DISLIKED about the local/Alaska food system?
- Short growing season/harsh climate (all locations)
- Quality and availability of produce (all locations)
- Cost of food (all locations)
- Food security and transportation dependence (all locations)
- Loss of traditional food knowledge (Nome and Bethel)
Strategic Planning

Upcoming Town Halls in January (STAY TUNED!):
- Homer
- Palmer
- Anchorage