



health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.

2014 TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Alaska Food Festival and Conference

November 7, 2014

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DDA
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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





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



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

