

REGIONAL AGENCIES CONFERENCE

4/21/2017

Mission – Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope
Vision – Food Security with Dignity



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RURAL HUNGER INITIATIVE

Mission – Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope
Vision – Food Security with Dignity

MANAGE THROUGH THE VISTA'S

- Determine a plan that improves our capacity and access in Rural Eastern Oklahoma.
- Utilize Vista's in this effort.
- Lead a research effort that identifies need and resources in NEO.
- Develop with the Vista's a comprehensive plan by county.
- Ensure that the Vista's are knowledgeable about SNAP benefits so they can teach as they go.

WHAT IS RURAL HUNGER IN EASTERN OKLAHOMA

- The percentage of rural hunger in our counties varies from 14.5% to 21%+
- Populations outside of Tulsa county are generally sparse and agricultural in nature.
- Food Deserts exist throughout.
 - Biggest need is in the South Eastern counties and North Eastern counties
 - Driving distances to grocery or free food distribution center can vary widely.



OBJECTIVES

- Collect data via surveys on hunger issues in our counties
 - Original goal was 400+ surveys – over 1,200 were completed
 - Data and surveys are completed and data has been evaluated (some data from the survey)
 - **81% - provide quality fresh fruits & vegetables**
 - **36% Additional Mobile Pantries**
 - 76% have health issues (suggests need for better nutrition).
 - 90% utilize a food pantry
 - 51% need food assistance every month
 - 37% of clients have no grocery store within 5 miles
 - Transportation is more (59% report some issue here) of an obstacle than distance.
 - 60% not enough SNAP
 - 72% of clients receive some sort of Government assistance – SNAP, WIC, or Social Security Disability
 - Etc.
 - A comprehensive plan to improve food access in each county for individuals living in rural areas of Eastern Oklahoma is in the development stage.
 - Mobile Pantries appear to be the lead improvement factor at this point.



WHAT COULD THE ANSWER BE?

- Improving processes that already exist today that would increase food access, capacity and reduce food insecurity.
- Determine how we better utilize our Mobile Pantry program.
- Utilize larger trucks for mobile pantry so that multiple drops can be made on one run.
- Expand through our 450 agencies a **grow your own to eat program.**
- Educate on how to cook with inexpensive good for you products.
 - Cooking matters expansion – or at least expanded education for our agencies.



WHERE ARE WE TODAY

- We have tested and are expanding the Monthly Mobile Pantry process.
 - 4 pallet drops of mostly fresh
 - Requires fewer volunteers
 - Must be completely run by the drop site sponsor and volunteer group
 - The truck and driver deliver drop and go.
 - Once a month for 75-100 recipients
- Today we are in Osage with 2 routes.
 - A total of 5 drops.
- Also Cherokee with one route of 3 drops.
- Our Osage county experience for it's first quarter saw an 18% improvement over the same time prior year in our mpin score from Feeding America.

PRIORITIES FOR MMP FROM MPIN SCORES

- Counties with low mpin scores:
 - Cherokee – 44.47% - FI @17.70%
 - Choctaw – 51.57% - FI @ 20.10%
 - McCurtian – 45.78% - FI @ 21.00%
 - Nowata – 56.04% - FI @ 16.30%
 - Osage - 48.15% FI – 16.50%

WHERE ARE WE GOING

- The CFBEO will review the delivery efficiency in our 24 counties.
- As we look at food distribution from an efficiency perspective.
 - Capital \$'s will be needed to move from a 12 pallet truck to a full semi capable of 24 pallets
 - Allows for 6, 4 pallets drops or 4, 6 pallets drop monthly to schedules locations.
- We will prioritize our growth in this process according to data from the state and Feeding America and our experiences in the MMP's that we have operating today.

VETERANS OUTREACH UPDATE

ANSWERING THE CALL!

Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope

Food Security with Dignity

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UNIQUE ISSUE

Should you want to become more active in veteran issues
- Veterans feel more comfortable around other veterans.

Identification of a veteran in our/your organization
is critical to our connecting in a useful way.

I am a Navy veteran of the Vietnam Era and served
aboard the George C. Marshall SSBN 654 a fleet ballistic
missile boat.

My active involvement as Coffee Bunker Board President
and a Mentor on Veterans Treatment Court is **taking
the broad view** and has added credibility to our new
outreach at the CFBEO.



BEGINNING AT THE COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA

4/21/2017

- In September of 2015
 - The Board determined that the Food Bank needed to “**answer the call**” to address food insecurity in the veteran world
 -
 - I was brought onto the staff as Rural Hunger and Veterans Outreach Manager.
 - I had been a board member for over 5 years.



BARRIERS TO VETERAN FOOD SECURITY

- Poverty, Unemployment, Homelessness,
Health – physical and mental

Food availability can only improve the four areas listed above.

- Some data:

- Oklahoma show that **18% of the families that utilize our states pantries have a veteran living in them.**
- Oklahoma – 340,000 veterans. 5,000 active military utilize SNAP and **26,300 Veterans are on SNAP.**



OBJECTIVES THAT WILL MOVE TOWARDS RESULTS

- Before we can move forward effectively we must -
 - Be an advocate for Veterans.
 - Honor their service.
 - We are getting the message out that the CFBEO and the local agencies are active in veterans issues in general.
 - Determine the community agencies in Tulsa or your area where we can be the most effective for veterans.
 - Ensure that the **collective impact** benefit all.



THE SEARCH FOR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS.

- Network with as many agencies as possible.
 - **Community Service Council**
 - **Veterans Treatment Court**
 - **The Coffee Bunker**
 - **D.A.V. (13 in our service area)**
 - **BRRX4Vets**
 - **Mayors Advisory Council for Veterans**
 - **Volunteers of America**
 - **Tulsa Vet Center**
 - **Governor's Veteran Services Symposium June 13, 2016 OKC**
- **What Veteran Agencies are in your area?**



WHAT IS NEEDED

- The biggest missing is data
 - For some reason Oklahoma - one of the states with a huge military and veteran population does not have good statistics on either.
 - The CFBEO is considering the addition of the following type questions to your client application for food.
 - Have you served?
 - Are you active military?
 - Has someone in your household served?
 - Is someone in your household active military?
 - **Let's be a leader in capturing this vital information.**

FINALLY.....

- They were willing to do what was asked of them to protect our freedom!

- Are we willing now to-

- **ANSWER THE
CALL?**