



**Iowa Food Insecurity Advisory Round Table
Round Table Summary Report**

Friday, May 9, 2014, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Food Bank of Iowa, 2220 E. 17th Street, Des Moines, IA 50316-2114

Host

Erin Thole, MS, RD, LD, Midwest Dairy Council

Round Table objectives

Start a conversation about food insecurity, with an emphasis on food quality.

Raise awareness about Iowa’s situation when it comes to food insecurity.

Understand what organizations are doing now, and what opportunities lie ahead.

Panelists order and topics

Amy A’Hearn, Food Service Director, Saydel, Iowa, Community School District: Anecdotal stories from school breakfast, backpack programs

Jill Lange, WIC Director, Iowa Department of Public Health: WIC and prescriptive food packages

Cory Berkenes, Director, Iowa Food Bank Association: Changes, goals and backpack buddies

Lindsey Haley, Communications Program Coordinator, Iowa Soybean Association/Iowa Food and Family: Iowa farmers’ work with consumers

Charles Bruner, Director, Child and Family Policy Center: Organization activities, policy context

Moderator

Kala Shipley, RD, Iowa Department of Public Health

Participants

Barb	Allen	Johnston County Volunteer	Food Pantry
Michael	Anderson	4-H Youth Development	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Bob	Andrlik	Director	Table 2 table
Erin	Bergquist	Dietetic intern co-director	Iowa State University
Elaine	Collet	Feeding the Future Program director	Boys and Girls Club of Iowa
Brenda	Dobson	Bureau Chief Nutrition and Health Promotion	Iowa Department of Public Health
Stephanie	Dross	Iowa Nutrition Network	Iowa Department of Education
Luke	Elzinga	Communications Manager	Eat Greater Des Moines
Amy	Joens	Leadership Team	Food Access and Health Work Group
Stephen	Lauer	Iowa Hunger Director	World Food Prize

Aubrey	Martinez	Director	Eat Greater Des Moines
Carey	Miller	Executive Director	Food Bank of Iowa
Susan	Phol	Advocacy Committee Co-Chair	Iowa Department of Public Health
Barbra	Prather	Director	Northeast Iowa Food Bank
Ann	Robinson	Member	Foodcorps
Carrie	Scheidel	Team Nutrition	Iowa Department of Education
Diana	Sickles	Director	The Coalition in Support of Hungry Children
Peggy	Sparrgrove	Dairy Farmer	Board Member

A grade for the State of Iowa, when it comes to addressing food insecurity.

The grades ranged from B+ to F.

The participants agreed that efforts in the state were commendable, but legislators should receive the lowest grade, followed by the general public and organizations.

The participants cited lack of understanding and lack of marketing/promotion as the reason the public and elected officials remained uninformed. They also said efforts in the state are disjointed, without an understanding of what organization is working on what specific cause. Often assistance recipients are uninformed or confused about the services available.

What are the challenges that face organizations like those here today with addressing or battling food insecurity?

Funding was the most prevalent challenge that organizations face when it comes to addressing food insecurity in Iowa. Also mentioned:

- Infrastructure: lack of transportation, refrigeration; pantry hours
- Manpower
- Lack of awareness in all communities
- Stigmas/perceptions attached to hunger
- Public education
- Donor education
- Nutrition education
- Political climate/policy constraints; need common sense policies
- Common messaging
- Attracting media interest
- Increased awareness and increased need mean more resources needed
- Costs of quality food
- Access/identification of stakeholders for collaboration
- Lack of formal collaboration, common goals
- Popular food culture
- Gap population, income qualifications

Where are there opportunities?

- Networking among organizations
- Leveraging existing relationships
- Creating awareness
- Summer feeding programs (now less than 10% of children)

- Backpack programs
- School breakfast
- Seniors, using mobile food sites
- Food rescue efforts
- Subsidizing healthy foods
- Collective voice to affect policy change
- Benefits Bank (Ohio program)

Who is addressing these?

- Community centers, groups
- Child & Family Policy Center
- Religious organizations
- Individuals
- Non-profit organizations
- Iowa Food Bank Association
- Iowa Food Systems Council
- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Health Department
- Iowa State University Extension
- Eat Great Des Moines
- Regional Food Systems Working Group

And who should be?

- Businesses through corporate responsibility
- Technology experts
- Legislature
- Local community leaders
- Public-private partnerships
- Churches
- Hospitals
- After school programs
- YMCA, YWCA
- Advocacy groups

What can we (as individuals, as organizations, as alliances) do to move forward in fighting the battle that is food insecurity?

In the next 2-4 months:

- Share outcomes of Midwest Dairy Round Table with other Midwest organizations
- Identify the organizations involved in food insecurity issues, map them
- Connect potential partners through collaboration, not necessarily more meetings
- Conduct “gap analysis;” use World Food Prize Hunger directory
- Share best practices
- Build alliances to support summer feeding programs

- Education to help communities understand long-term impact
- Unified messaging
- Build stories from those who are food insecure; share with organizations, public, and policy makers; put a local face on the issue

Next 1-3 years

- School food rescue: Use SNAP benefits to pay for adult meals at summer feeding programs
- Continuing the conversation, meeting more often
- Push for good public policy

How do we get it done?

- Continue the conversation started here (at Midwest Dairy Food Insecurity Round Table)
- Collaborate, not compete
- Start today
- Create long-term partnerships