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
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barb</td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>Johnston County Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Andrlik</td>
<td>Iowa State University Extension and Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Bergquist</td>
<td>Dietetic intern co-director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine</td>
<td>Collet</td>
<td>Feeding the Future Program director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda</td>
<td>Dobson</td>
<td>Bureau Chief Nutrition and Health Promotion</td>
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<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>Dross</td>
<td>Iowa Nutrition Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>Elzinga</td>
<td>Iowa Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Joens</td>
<td>Leadership Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>Lauer</td>
<td>Iowa Hunger Director</td>
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Midwest Dairy Council Food Insecurity Round Table-Iowa  Summary Report  1
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. The 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