



# MEALS PARTNERSHIP COALITION

"Meals Partnership Coalition works to ensure that safe and nutritious meals are available for people who would otherwise go hungry."

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Compass Center – 210 Alaskan Way South, Seattle, WA 98104

### In Attendance:

Felicia Yearwood – Seattle Commission for People with Disability  
Norm Hummel – Seattle's Union Gospel Mission  
Deb Cowen – Mercy Driven Ministries  
Joanna Hokett – Mercy Driven Ministries  
Kate Murphey - Hunger Intervention Program  
Andrew Kingsriter – El Centro de la Raza  
Rachel Butler – Food Lifeline  
Julie Greenberg – Food Lifeline  
Diane Carmel – Lifelong Aids Alliance  
Joyce Zeigen – NW HARVEST  
Matt Fox – ROOTS  
Shayne Kraemer – MPC

### Topics of Discussion:

#### ADA Regulations and Service Animals

- Please see attached documentation from discussion
- City uses expanded guidelines for service animals which recognize comfort animals that do not need documentation.
- HUD considers shelters to be housing under the fair housing act, so you may ask for documentation that a person needs an accommodation for a disability. The documentation has to state (1) the person has an impairment that limits a major life activity, (2) the person needs the accommodation, and (3) the accommodation is medically necessary. If they don't get it right on the first try, you should give them an opportunity to go back to their health care person and get another document.
- There was also a question asked about section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The question was whether obligations under section 504 pass from one agency that receives federal funds to the agencies to which it provides funds or goods. We placed a request with the [Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs](#), and we're waiting to hear back from them.
- For further information please contact the Seattle Office for Civil Rights at 206-684-4500 for clarification, or you may call HUD or the State or County civil rights organizations.

#### Food Policy Updates:

- Please see attached document outlining 2012 policy updates

#### Outdoor Meal Site Closure

- The City of Seattle, OMS providers, and community stakeholders have come together to form a task force to find a solution to the impending closure of the OMS.
- OMS closure has been delayed for 6 months as the task force looks for a solution.
- MPC and OSL will keep the community apprised of the discussion as it progresses.

### ***Partner Updates:***

#### **Food Lifeline – Rachel Butler:**

- FLL agency conference March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **NW Harvest – Joyce Zeigen:**

- NW Harvest's contract renewals are currently being sent to member agencies. February to May NW Harvest will accept new agencies, but may be limited due to limited resources. Please send any conference topic ideas to Joyce as soon as possible, and the 2012 conference will be at the Mercer Island Presbyterian.

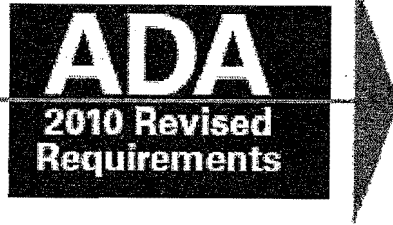
**Seattle Food Committee Update** – Joint SFC & MPC meeting will be on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:30 and will be in addition to MPC's regularly scheduled meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Seattle Human Services Coalition** – SHSC is currently working on preparing for the 2012 budget .

**Washington Food Committee** – WFC membership is on an individual basis and we ask that meal providers become involved in this organization to ensure that they have an equal voice in state decisions.

Next Meeting: March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Compass Housing Alliance.

U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
*Disability Rights Section*



## Service Animals

The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) on September 15, 2010, in the Federal Register. These requirements, or rules, clarify and refine issues that have arisen over the past 20 years and contain new, and updated, requirements, including the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards).

### Overview

This publication provides guidance on the term “service animal” and the service animal provisions in the Department’s new regulations.

- Beginning on March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under titles II and III of the ADA.
- A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.
- Generally, title II and title III entities must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.

### How “Service Animal” Is Defined

**Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.** Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

This definition does not affect or limit the broader definition of “assistance animal” under the Fair Housing Act or the broader definition of “service animal” under the Air Carrier Access Act.

Some State and local laws also define service animal more broadly than the ADA does. Information about such laws can be obtained from the State attorney general's office.

## **Where Service Animals Are Allowed**

**Under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go.** For example, in a hospital it would be inappropriate to exclude a service animal from areas such as patient rooms, clinics, cafeterias, or examination rooms. However, it may be appropriate to exclude a service animal from operating rooms or burn units where the animal's presence may compromise a sterile environment.

## **Service Animals Must Be Under Control**

**Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices.** In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

## **Inquiries, Exclusions, Charges, and Other Specific Rules Related to Service Animals**

- When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.
- Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. When a person who is allergic to dog dander and a person who uses a service animal must spend time in the same room or facility, for example, in a school classroom or at a homeless shelter, they both should be accommodated by assigning them, if possible, to different locations within the room or different rooms in the facility.
- A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.
- Establishments that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas even if state or local health codes prohibit animals on the premises.
- People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be isolated from other patrons, treated less favorably than other patrons, or charged fees that are not charged to other patrons without animals. In addition, if a business requires a deposit or fee to be paid by patrons with pets, it must waive the charge for service animals.
- If a business such as a hotel normally charges guests for damage that they cause, a customer with a disability may also be charged for damage caused by himself or his service animal.
- Staff are not required to provide care or food for a service animal.

## Miniature Horses

**In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's revised ADA regulations have a new, separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.** (Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.) Entities covered by the ADA must modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable. The regulations set out four assessment factors to assist entities in determining whether miniature horses can be accommodated in their facility. The assessment factors are (1) whether the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) whether the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight; and (4) whether the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

**For more information about the ADA, please visit our website or call our toll-free number.**

### ADA Website

[www.ADA.gov](http://www.ADA.gov)

To receive e-mail notifications when new ADA information is available, visit the ADA Website's home page and click the [link](#) near the top of the middle column.

### ADA Information Line

800-514-0301 (Voice) and 800-514-0383 (TTY)

24 hours a day to order publications by mail.

M-W, F 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Th 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

to speak with an ADA Specialist. All calls are confidential.

For persons with disabilities, this publication is available in alternate formats.

Duplication of this document is encouraged. July 2011

### PDF Version of this Document

[Return to ADA Home Page](#)

last updated: July 12, 2011

Meals Partnership Coalition  
February 9, 2012

#### Washington State and Seattle Definition of **Disabled**:

- ▶ A person with a sensory, mental or physical condition that is medically cognizable or diagnosable;
- ▶ A person that has a record or history of a disability.
- ▶ A person that is perceived to have a disability.

Includes disabilities that are temporary or permanent, common or uncommon, mitigated or unmitigated.

#### City Definition:

"**Service animal**" means an animal that provides medically necessary support for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

This would include therapeutic, or comfort care animals.

#### **Additional Resources**

Access Board: [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)

Job Accommodation Network: [www.askjan.org](http://www.askjan.org)

ASL Interpreter Network: [www.aslnetwork.com](http://www.aslnetwork.com)

Seattle Office for Civil Rights [www.seattle.gov/civilrights](http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights) 206-684-4500

## News from Olympia - 2012

### Food Assistance Programs Advisory Committee – Meal Inclusion Workgroup

The Meal Program Inclusion Workgroup's state lead representative is Joe Bippert, and the WFC representative lead is myself (Shayne). The current committee members in attendance at the workgroup following the regular FAP Committee were as follows: Kris Van Gasken, Scott Hallett, Trish Twomey (on phone), Kellie McNelly, Bonnie Baker, Earl Hall (on phone), Tiffani Kaech (on phone), and Shayne Kraemer.

At the workgroup we discussed first steps and our next scheduled teleconference meeting which will be on February 17th at 3:00 PM. For homework each member of the workgroup will work to create:

- A definition of a meal program
  - What qualifies as emergency provision (suggested use of TEFAP guidelines)
- A proposal/recommendation for defining how a funding track is combined with food banks, or a new separate track for meal programs (ideas and strategies).
- In order for us to compile the information into one document for distribution before the scheduled meeting date we ask that work group members please send in their suggestions by February 15th. Please let me know if you can compile the data for us.
- We are looking for 3 more meal providers to be workgroup representatives to ensure statewide representation. We need a meal provider from Eastern Washington, Western Washington (suggested outside of King County), and a rural meal provider.

### Harvest Against Hunger Area Summit

This Area Summit brought together farmers, food banks, and meal providers to look at new ways of partnership to bring surplus and gleaned produce to providers. The most important aspect for non-profit meal programs was the information shared for Food Hub. Food Hub is a website that links farmers and buyers to bring excess products to market, and has a non-profit aspect that connects farmers wanting to donate to programs with programs able to take large donations. The website is [www.food-hub.org](http://www.food-hub.org)

### 2012 AHNC/WFC Legislative Updates:

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> more than 300 people attended the 2012 Hunger Action Day in Olympia. On the Legislative advocacy agenda were:

- EFAP – We advocated for sustained state support for this critical resource. By sustaining the State's current level of funding we are making it easier to ensure that food banks maintain their level of service, and potentially easier for dedicated funding when the meal program inclusion workgroup is completed with its work.
- State Food Assistance – We advocated for continued state support of food stamps for documented immigrants and refugees who do not qualify for federal food stamps due to length of time in the US or other qualifying factors. SFA currently has approximately 12,500 children on its rolls.
- Farmers Market Nutrition Programs – We advocated to protect funding for farmers' markets to continue to have the ability to provide market credit for WIC clients and seniors. With just \$100,000 in state investment the federal government invests \$900,000.
- School Meal Programs – We advocated for the State's continued support of child nutrition through its co-pay investment into the school lunch program.

**You can contact your legislators at 1-800-562-6000 to support our emergency food infrastructure in Washington State.**