



National Commission on Hunger Public Hearing

June 26, 2015 ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The La Fe Culture and Technology Center
El Paso, Texas 79901

Invited Speaker Biographies (alphabetical order)



Salvador Balcorta

CEO, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe

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Salvador Balcorta, MSSW, is the CEO of Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc. Since becoming CEO in 1992, he has led La Fe's transformation from a small, community-based health clinic into an award-winning Federally Qualified Health Center.

Under Mr. Balcorta's leadership, La Fe has evolved into a comprehensive, internationally honored health and social justice nonprofit with an El Paso County-wide network of 10 state-of-the-art clinics, a Child and Adolescent Wellness Center, the La Fe Preparatory School and numerous program sites serving El Paso families.

Since his early teens, Mr. Balcorta has been one of the community's leading voices for awareness and activism for key issues such as substance abuse, HIV/ AIDS, teen pregnancy, gangs, incarceration, economic development, immigration, U.S.-Mexico border health, and social justice. He has served his community on numerous local, national, and international advisory boards and several prestigious Presidential committee appointments.



Laurie Biscoe

Deputy Director, Workforce Development Division, Texas Workforce Commission

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Laurie Biscoe is a Deputy Director of the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC's) Workforce Development Division, with responsibilities for policy and program development for workforce programs administered by TWC, including the Workforce Investment Act, Employment Services, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–

Employment and Training, Child Care, and Workforce Automation efforts. Before assuming her current position, Ms. Biscoe was responsible for oversight of workforce services administered at the state level, including the management of over 600 Employment Services staff located in workforce solutions offices throughout the state. Prior to joining TWC, Ms. Biscoe worked for 18 years in workers' compensation legislative affairs, policy, and regulation. Ms. Biscoe has a Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas's LBJ School of Public Affairs.



Janet Bono

*Workforce Services Program Administrator, Workforce Solutions
Borderplex*

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Janet Bono has worked in various aspects of workforce development for nearly 20 years, including case management, planning, quality assurance, and policy administration. She is the Workforce Services Program Administrator for Workforce Solutions Borderplex, a nonprofit workforce development board that administers employment and training services throughout a six-county region in southwest Texas. She administers workforce development programs targeting services to individuals receiving TANF and SNAP, as well as to dislocated workers, youth, and income-eligible adults.

Prior to joining Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Ms. Bono supervised the Food Stamp (now SNAP) Employment and Training program for the Upper Rio Grande Private Industry Council. Program services were tailored to the needs of individuals so employment goals could be achieved. As a program specialist with the Texas Workforce Commission, she developed community partnerships to identify and use available resources to better assist individuals as they move toward economic self-sufficiency. At the Texas Department of Human Services, she provided case management services to adults and teen parents, coordinating childcare services and other ancillary services to support education, training, and employment activities.

Ms. Bono holds an Associate of Applied Science from El Paso Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Social Work from New Mexico State University.



Celia Cole

CEO, Feeding Texas
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Celia Cole is an expert in food and nutrition policy with experience at the state and federal levels. Prior to working with Feeding Texas, Ms. Cole was a senior policy analyst with the Center for Public Policy Priorities for 14 years, where she covered food and nutrition, welfare, and family economic security issues. She serves on the advisory committees of the Partnership for a Healthy Texas and the Texas Food Policy Roundtable and is actively involved as a board member of her local YMCA. Ms. Cole holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Columbia University and a master's degree from the Institute of Latin American Studies at UT-Austin.



Linda Farr, RDN, LD, FAND

Speaker-Elect of the House of Delegates, Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
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Linda Farr is the owner of Nutrition Associates of San Antonio, providing personalized medical nutrition therapy to teens and adults, media interviews, nutrition facts labeling, and public speaking. She specializes in addressing weight management, diabetes, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, food allergies and intolerances, and eating disorders. A former clinical dietitian and food service director in hospitals, Ms. Farr has more than 35 years of experience in medical surgical, mental health, physical rehabilitation, and private practice settings.

Ms. Farr currently serves in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (The Academy) House of Delegates as Speaker-elect and as a member of the Academy's Board of Directors. She is a past president of the Texas, San Antonio, and Dallas dietetic associations. She has been a member of the Academy's Evidence Based Practice Committee, Diversity Committee, and Quality Management Committee.

Ms. Farr is the Speaker-Elect for the House of Delegates for The Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and appears regularly on KENS 5 CBS-Great Day SA and in the San Antonio media as a nutrition expert. As a volunteer, Ms. Farr is a preceptor for several dietetic internships; an appointee to the San Antonio Mayor's Fitness Council; and a volunteer for San Antonio's Por Vida! Healthy Restaurant Initiative, where she was instrumental in developing nutritional guidelines for diabetes-friendly restaurant choices and healthy

vending criteria. Ms. Farr is a graduate of Iowa State University and interned at the University of Iowa.



Kathy Komoll

Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Food Banks

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Kathy Komoll is a small business owner and, since 2008, has been the Director of the New Mexico Association of Food Banks (NMAFB). Prior to starting her company in 2000, she was the Vice-President of Real Estate and Community Relations for Furr's Supermarkets, a regional supermarket chain. It was while working for Furr's that she realized the important role that food banks play in the emergency food system. She has been actively involved with food banks as a donor and volunteer since 1995. In her position as Director of NMAFB, she works with five food banks and more than 400 emergency food providers around the state.

The main focus of the Association is acquiring and distributing fresh produce to member food banks and their partner agencies. Ms. Komoll also speaks frequently to community leaders and policy makers about the importance of a comprehensive food system that meets the needs of low-income New Mexicans, particularly those living in rural areas.

Born in El Paso, Ms. Komoll grew up in West Texas. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in English.



Kathy Krey

Director of Research, Texas Hunger Initiative at Baylor University

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Dr. Kathy Krey is the Director of Research for the Texas Hunger Initiative at Baylor University. She oversees a diverse portfolio of research and evaluation projects on food security topics. Dr. Krey has served as a university research analyst and adjunct faculty member and worked for management and technology consulting firms as a marketing communications professional. Her research interests include research methods and community sociology. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in marketing and sociology, respectively, and earned a Ph.D. in applied sociology from Baylor University.



Oscar Muñoz

Director, Texas A&M Colonias Program in the Center for Housing and Urban Development

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Oscar J. Muñoz's mission in life is to help unleash the leadership capacity of people and strengthen communities living in some of the most challenging circumstances here in Texas and internationally. For 15 years, he has implemented and directed diverse programs encouraging the human development that is key to sustainable community development. As Director of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Colonias Program, Mr. Muñoz leads a growing team of more than 60 staff members, with three regional offices and 42 community resource centers along the Texas-Mexico border.

Through the TAMU Colonias Program, residents of the colonias have emerged as community leaders by continuing their education to help secure a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities. Participatory community development is central to the TAMU Colonias Program. The core program, the Texas A&M Training Academy, builds the capacity of colonia, rural, and urban residents to become certified by the Texas Department of State Health Services as promotoras/es or community outreach workers, bringing a wealth of programs and resources to some of Texas's most remote communities.

Mr. Muñoz also leads the Texas A&M Water Project, an interdisciplinary collaboration and participatory pedagogy dedicated to the production, distribution, education, and research of appropriate technology and point-of-use ceramic water filters. The project primarily serves colonia residents and rural and international communities in Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico, and Guatemala.



Kori Reed

Vice President, Cause and Foundation, ConAgra Foods

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Kori Reed is vice president, Cause and Foundation, at ConAgra Foods, one of North America's leading food companies, with brands in 99 percent of America's households, including Healthy Choice, Hunt's, Orville Redenbacher's and more. In this role, she is responsible for integrating the company's cause of fighting child hunger across the

company, from philanthropy and employee engagement to food donations and cause-related marketing activities.

Ms. Reed joined ConAgra's Corporate Responsibility team in April 2006 as Executive Director of the ConAgra Foods Foundation. Under her leadership, the ConAgra Foods Foundation embarked on a strategic planning process that today guides the company's philanthropic strategy, which is focused on two core areas, child hunger and nutrition education. For more than two decades, the company and Foundation have invested in national and local initiatives designed to end child hunger.

Prior to her role in philanthropy and cause, she spent 15 years in corporate communications, earning progressive responsibilities at two other Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Reed served as Chairman of the Board for the Association of Corporate Contribution Professional, currently co-leads a coalition of corporations fighting hunger, and is frequently invited to speak about domestic hunger and corporate social investing.



Joseph R. Sharkey

Professor of Health Promotion and Community Health Science, School of Public Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center

Founding Director, Program for Research and Outreach-Engagement on Nutrition and Health Disparities

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Joseph R. Sharkey, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D. is a Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences at Texas A&M School of Public Health in College Station, Texas; and Founding Director of the Program for Research and Outreach-Engagement on Nutrition and Health Disparities Solutions. He received his Masters of Public Health and Doctoral degrees from the Department of Nutrition at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health. Dr. Sharkey led efforts to examine food insecurity – causes, consequences, and coping strategies – among children, adults, and seniors in rural and underserved areas. His current work focuses on the growing Mexican American and Mexican immigrant population along the United States border with Mexico. Dr. Sharkey is currently Principal Investigator on a USDA NIFA award to improve nutritional and physical health among children and families of Mexican heritage who reside in underserved areas along the Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas borders with Mexico. In addition to this work, Dr. Sharkey is involved in community collaborations to improve population health. His work has been supported by the AARP Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and USDA.



Kathy Underhill

Executive Director, Hunger Free Colorado

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Kathy Underhill is the Executive Director of Hunger Free Colorado, the state's leading anti-hunger organization. Launched in 2009, Hunger Free Colorado leverages the power of collaboration, systems change, policy change, and social change to educate, advocate, and mobilize Coloradans to take an active stance against hunger in our community and to ensure that no Coloradan goes hungry.

Ms. Underhill brings a deep knowledge of federal nutrition programs and related policy to her role at Hunger Free Colorado, along with extensive experience of how food and nutrition programs are implemented at the local level. With a Master of Social Work in community organizing, her anti-hunger work spans two decades. She has presented at numerous national and international conferences. She was named a Livingston Fellow in 2012 and the Top Thinker for nonprofits by the *Denver Post* Editorial Board in 2013.