

Winn Parish 4-H Advisory Council Minutes – 2007

On February 27, 2007 the Winn Parish 4-H Advisory committee met in the Winn Extension office. Those present were: Jan Anyan, Eric Austin, Donald Dulaney, Joseph Dulaney, Donny Moon, county agent and Becky Kelley, Extension agent. After introductions were made Donny welcomed them and then turned the meeting over to Becky. Becky gave the group a copy of Winn Parish 2006-07 4-H impacts and a handout on positive youth development from the National 4-H Council, "A Journey Through the Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development." She stated that the four essential elements listed were those they incorporate in all of their programming and try to accomplish through the 4-H organization – Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity. Becky then highlighted the activities the 4-H'ers have participated in, camping programs, livestock projects, cookery contests and the focus on community service. Becky stated that these were some of the suggestions that had been made by the advisory members, last year, that had been carried out. Some of these activities will be done again this year, but the purpose of this committee is to make suggestions of ideas and needs for the 4-H youth of the parish. The advisory committee's suggestions will give the agents new outlets and ideas that can be implemented for the youth of Winn Parish.

Donny stated that overnight chaperone training has been implemented by Baton Rouge to assure adults who are oversee the youth are responsible and have background checks done. Also, junior leaders who go as counselors are trained so that they know what their responsibilities are, how to deal with the 4-H members and team work. Donny stated that two grants have been submitted Weyerhaeuser, one to assist those who need assistance in attending camps, 4-H camp and 4-H university, and the other for shooting sports.

Donny then told the group that their main purpose is to identify and prioritize programs that the agents can do to better reach the youth of the parish. He then opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Austin stated that he saw a lack of social skills in the youth and wondered if there was a means that this could be incorporated in the 4-H programming; Learning in a group setting so that they can get to know others. Mrs. Anyan stated youth at one time learned many of these social skills, manners, etc. at school in social living but this is not offered in school's today so many of the youth do not have the necessary skills when they go on a job interview.

Mrs. Anyan asked if Becky or Donny had checked with the Rapides Foundation regarding grants. The Rapides Foundation is for grants that are health related. Donny stated that if they wrote a grant it must be submitted through LSU AgCenter. LSU can get as much as 21% for administration cost. Many grants do not allow this. Mrs. Anyan said that Rapides Foundation allowed 10%. Mr. Austin mentions Red River Delta as another grant entity that can be checked into. This is one DARE gets some money from. The other mentioned was Orchard Foundation. The group stated that they did not know how these needs for social skills could be addressed through 4-H, but felt there is a need for this.

Becky stated the character counts program that has been taught through 4-H and is implemented by several of the senior high schools in the parish, emphasizes the positive – teach others with respect, be a trustworthy person, etc.

Another topic brought up was the childhood obesity problem. Becky stated that she was doing the Body Walk again this year. It was implemented in four schools last year that were provided with \$1,200 of curriculum and will be introduced in three other rural schools this year. Drugs were mentioned as a matter of concern in regards to the youth of the parish.

Parental involvement was a detailed discussion topic. Becky stated that she had gone to several school open houses and set up a 4-H display and gave out brochures that encouraged parental involvement with the 4-H program. On the 4-H enrollment card there is also a place for parents to volunteer their expertise in assisting with the 4-H program. A public announcement by the youth to promote and enlist parents in the program was another idea suggested.

Donny told the group that he and Becky appreciated the groups concern and willingness to work with the youth of Winn Parish.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Transcribed by:
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