



Orleans Parish Family & Consumer Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2008

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Incarnate Word Education Center
8326 Apricot St., New Orleans, LA 70118

In Attendance:

Advisory Committee Participants

Patrick Anderson – Good Work Network

Xiomara Augustine – Bright Minds Academy

Tammy Crumpton – Providence Community Housing

Sombra Davis – Lindy Boggs Center

Jimmy Fahrenholtz – New Orleans Public Schools

Cedric Ivory – Odyssey House

Damekia Morgan – Families & Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children

Dr. John Penny – Southern University New Orleans

Kristi Reddick-Givens – Kids of Excellence

Alfred Richard – New Orleans Public Schools

Adona Williams – New Orleans Job Corps

AgCenter Personnel

Dr. Steve Mullen – South Central/Crescent Region Director

Bertina McGhee – Orleans Parish Chair

Terry Toombs – FCS Agent

Beth Gambel – FCS Agent

Erroll Lewis – FCS Agent

Mary Atkins – Nutrition Educator

Emma Ramsey – Nutrition Educator

Erica Simon – Nutrition Educator

Steve Picou – Housing Agent

Brent Jeansonne – Horticulture Agent

Lainie Selle – Administrative Coordinator

- ❖ Handouts included the current Living Well newsletter, Orleans Parish Extension Office brochure, and an AgCenter folder which held the meeting agenda, Terry Toombs' business card, and a 2009 Nutrition Calendar. Also included in the folder were program fact sheets describing EFNEP, Smart Bodies, the Child Care Provider Training Program, the Child and Family Development Program, and Gerontology Programming in the Crescent region.
- I. Terry Toombs introduced herself, and asked the LSU AgCenter staff to do the same. Dr. Steve Mullen welcomed all participants to the meeting and gave a background of Extension. He described the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which created Extension, and the purpose of Extension agents and the program areas in which they work, including agriculture, horticulture, 4-H youth development and family and consumer sciences. Dr. Mullen spoke on the need and importance of Advisory Leadership Councils in guiding Extension agents' programming priorities, to best fit the needs of the state's population.
- II. Along with a Power Point presentation, Terry went into more detail on the history of Extension, its mission and purpose. She described the organization from the USDA all the way down to the local office. She explained methods of funding for Extension, and the importance of local funding. Statewide, a 12% contribution is requested from local governments; however Orleans Parish Extension currently receives no funding from our parish government.
- III. Terry explained what LCES Advisory Leadership System is, the purpose and importance of the meeting, and the role of the Advisory Leadership Council. ALC members are asked to be legitimizers, telling agents if they are doing the right things to meet the needs of the public and if not, holding the agents accountable. ALC members need to be ambassadors for Extension, sharing with others in the community what we are about and encouraging support. Finally, members are asked to be advisors, helping to implement and evaluate program efforts.
- IV. Terry spoke on understanding Extension and the different Family and Consumer Sciences initiatives. Health and nutrition programs include the Family Nutrition Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program. Family development initiatives include parenting programs such as PPSP, child care provider training and certification, and character development programs. Family resource management areas include financial management programs, disaster management, and family housing. Gerontology efforts span all three initiative areas, with educational programs concerning seniors' health, safety, housing, nutrition, finances, abuse, health care and funeral decisions.

Terry detailed the impacts of all of the Family and Consumer Sciences programs on the people of the New Orleans area. For a complete description, see the Power Point presentation hand-outs.

Bertina Mcghee reviewed some of the acronyms used in the presentation, including:

LCES – Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

ALC – Advisory Leadership Council

FCS – Family and Consumer Sciences

EFNEP – Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

PPSP – Parents Preparing for Success Program

SAIL – Saving And Investing for Life

- V. Beth Gambel and Bertina Mcghee facilitated an activity in which key issues were introduced. At the start of the meeting, each participant was given three note cards, purple for Family Development, Yellow for Health and Nutrition, and blue for Financial Management.

Beth asked each participant to think of priority issues in each of the three initiative areas. On the appropriate colored note card, participants were asked to write what they felt was the most important area of need for each subject, as it relates to how the LSU AgCenter can help the community.

Each participant in turn read the issue that was most important to them in each category. Bertina wrote the issues on easel pad note sheets.

Using three red sticker dots given to everyone at the start of the meeting, participants were asked to vote for the programming issues they felt were most important. Participants were allowed to vote as many times as three stickers would allow for any of the issues they chose. For example, one individual could use all three votes for one issue or divide the votes among multiple issues. The results are as follows:

For Family Development, priority issues included:

- Creating a Parenting Center (TWO VOTES)
- Positive character development for elementary school children (TWO VOTES)
- Train parents on the importance of hands-on play (TWO VOTES)
- Make resources available to parents, including educational info. (ONE VOTE)
- Programs to help parents help their children with homework (ONE VOTE)
- Adult mentorship program (ONE VOTE)
- Mental health for families (ONE VOTE)
- Gardening – classrooms & hands-on as character development (ONE VOTE)
- Group therapy for parents, teaching stress coping skills
- Parental training via seminars
- Prioritizing education first, then parenthood
- Helping parents communicate with young adult children
- Religion and socialization
- Seniors/elderly re-entering the workforce

For Health and Nutrition, priority issues included:

- Education for youth & parents to prevent childhood obesity (FIVE VOTES)
- HIV outreach to teens and preteens (FOUR VOTES)
- How to stay active without having to go the gym (TWO VOTES)
- Food safety (ONE VOTE)
- Diabetes education (ONE VOTE)
- Importance of health insurance and preventative care (ONE VOTE)
- Food preparation skills
- Quick and easy nutritious meals – creating a cookbook
- Practical ways to phase in healthy eating
- Understanding food toxins and nutrition labels
- Eating and cooking healthy
- Preventative healthcare

For Financial Management, priority issues included:

- Series of training on finance related to clients needs (THREE VOTES)
- Importance of budgeting/prioritizing short & long term goals (TWO VOTES)
- Importance of maintaining a good credit score (ONE VOTE)
- Credit card & debit card management for high school children (ONE VOTE)
- Parents as role models for money management (ONE VOTE)
- Basic banking & checking skills
- Addressing current attitudes and beliefs about money
- Importance of investing
- Delayed gratification in purchasing
- Basic money management knowledge
- Health insurance
- Financial management for middle-school/partnering with Jr Achievement

During voting, refreshments were offered, including finger sandwiches, cookies, fruit, coffee, water and soda.

VI. Bertina asked all Advisory Council participants to introduce themselves and describe who they represent. She thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

All participants will be notified about a follow-up meeting when a date is set.

Meeting adjourned.