



LSU AgCenter
Orleans Parish Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 9:30 am
Garden Study Center
City Park Botanical Garden, 1 Palm Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124-4608
Minutes

Present: Terry Toombs, (FCS) Associate Extension Agent, Erroll Lewis, FCS Extension Associate Agent Presiding; Dr. Stephen Mullen, South Central /Crescent Region Director; Dr. Alan Morgan, Parish Chair (Orleans); Erica Simon, Nutrition Educator; Terry Boudreaux, Administrative Coordinator; Mark Schexnayder, Regional Coastal Advisor; Carolyn Leperi, Parish Chair (St. Bernard); Reginald Browhow, Healthy Start New Orleans; Rochelle Wilcox, Wilcox Academy; Alfred Richard, New Orleans Public Schools; Sharon Worthy, Office of Community Services; Pamala Thomas, That Amazing Place; Patrick Anderson, Good Work Network; Guilda Duplessis, Gilda's Preschool, Ben Smith, Communities in Schools of New Orleans; Sabrina M. Montana, New Orleans City Council, District D; Sombra Davis, Lindy Boggs/Bridge; Robert Weiss, New Orleans City Council, District B, Kevin Tennessee, Student; Kristi Givens, Kids of Excellence; Lana Palermo, VOA-Family Resource Center; Joia Crear-Perry, M.D., Health Start; Tammy Crumpton, Providence Community Housing; Nadine Van Dyhe, New Orleans City Council, District C; Oliver Thomas, Councilman-at-Large; Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, New Orleans City Council, District D; John Perry, SUNO.

Terry Toombs opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves and name the organization or program they were associated with.

A power point presentation was introduced by Erroll Lewis describing the role of the LSU AgCenter Research and Extension Center (e.g. why we exist, how we are organized, the administrative structure, as well as the LSU System Organizational Structure.)

Dr. Mullen, South Central/Crescent Region Director, talked briefly about the need for funding and described the source of funding for the LSU AgCenter Extension Service. He emphasized that 76% of funding comes from the state and that 21% comes from federal funding. Only 3% comes local government and that the goal was to increase local funding to a minimum of 10% per parish over the next 2 years. He also stated that Orleans Parish was the only parish that does not get support from local funding.

Erroll continued his commentary by pointing out that the extension service conducts educational programs in 3 major areas (e.g. Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR), Families, and Youth). The extension brings the resources of the university to the people of Louisiana for improved quality of life.

Terry continued the powerpoint presentation by describing the importance of advisory leadership and the role that leadership plays in legitimizing programs that will meet the needs of its constituents. She emphasized the primary function of the advisory leadership is to obtain Stakeholder input, to develop leadership potential in members, to create public awareness of the value of extension and its program. Terry pointed out that the responsibilities of an advisory leader are to represent their peers in the community, identify the needs & issues of concern, to provide program direction, and assist in identifying opportunities for collaboration, as well as share skills and talent.

Erroll and Terry introduced and described various FCS Initiatives such as Health and Nutrition, Family Development and Family Resource Management. Programs such as the Food Stamp and Nutrition Program (FNP), Big Brother and Big Sister, P.A.T.H.W.A.Y.S. and the Smart Bodies Program were just a few of the programs described.

Terry briefly described a few of the Family Development programs such as Child Care Provider Training Program, LaCret (Business entrepreneur programs) which are currently being offered by the LSU AgCenter.

Carolyn Leperi, (Parish Chair-St.Bernard) described some of the Family Resource Management Programs such as the National Endowment for Financial Education Program (NEFE) which was created to educate high school students about sound money management skills and the financial planning process. Terry also mentioned that there are other programs such as Habitat for Humanity Programs, Disaster Management Programs and Family Housing Programs that are available.

The members were asked for their input by identifying the needs that would be most helpful in improving the lives of the people in the parish. Some of the needs that were identified were: housing, food, education, quality child care, gainful employment, crimes and violence; lack of resource communication, psychiatric services and putting information on web site.

One member stated that a lack of resources are crippling in the community. Members expressed the importance of rebuilding our schools and a need for public awareness of the different programs that are available. One member recommended that there should be more programs regarding information for first time home owners.

The members were asked for their input on ideas for programming and the need for sponsors and collaborators was greatly emphasized. Of major concern were programs dealing with nutrition and the need to incorporate the value of nutrition as a way of life.

Members were concerned with the effectiveness of the programs and how the programs are being evaluated. Erroll explained to the members that these programs are research based programs and that effectiveness is determined from surveys, and pre and post testing.

One of the members wanted to know how the LSU AgCenter envisioned using the committee? (The advisory committee will help identify the needs of the community, help develop strategies to meet those needs, identify local resources and assess the progresses of the AgCenter meeting programming in meeting the needs of the community). What is the LSU AgCenter's goal for the community? It was suggested by one member that there should be a community resource team. Terry emphasized that the LSU AgCenter goal is to improve the lives of people through education and again emphasized the need for collaboration. The LSU AgCenter is trying to get the word out to the community of the existence of the LSU AgCenter and programs that are available to the public.

Terry and Erroll thanked everyone for coming and for their input.