

**Jeff Davis
Advisory Leadership Council**

November 29, 2009

Attending: Tommy Smith, Supt. Of Schools	Mona Miller, K-12 Principal
Gordon Hayes, Livestock Advisory	Joe Tupper, Farm Bureau
Michael cassidy, District Attorney	Jimmy Hoppe, Ag Producer
Eddie Eskew	Allen Hogan
Tina Goebel	Linda Fruge, FNP
Silas Cecil	Patty Vidrine-Daigle

Eddie opened the meeting with an introduction of the Extension Service. He gave the purpose of the Overall Advisory Leadership Council and reviewed the mission of the Extension Service.

The floor was opened for discussion of parish needs that could possibly be addressed through extension programming. Tommy Smith commented that principals had given great reviews of the “Smart Bodies” program. Since childhood obesity had been identified as an issue last year, it was felt that this program was helping to address the issue. Mona Miller commented that getting information to the parents is the next step.

Mona felt like there was a need to address parenting skills. There is a lack of education and a devaluing of education by parents. Parents and youth need to be targeted while children are still young.

Mike Cassidy, D.A. commented that 4-H youth are not the ones that come through his office with problems. Positive role models are evident in the 4-H program and are needed for at-risk youth. Programs used with problem youth were discussed. This included the C-Sip program where community service is used as an alternative to expulsion.

It was discussed that parenting classes could be mandated by the court system. At one time Office of Family Services recipients were required to attend classes. Patty asked the group if they knew of ways to reach the people that we needed to reach the most. Lack of parenting skills is not restricted to Jeff Davis Parish but is a problem through out the state and country.

Other problems with youth that were discussed included: alcohol and drugs, lack of self-respect, sex, and violence. Mike Cassidy offered to sponsor 10 at-risk youth to participate in 4-H Challenge Camp.

Eddie asked if 4-H could be included as part of the Alternative and Options programs. Tommy Smith felt like that was a possibility that we could pursue.

Mona asked if videos with parenting information could be developed to be shown to parent of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. These parents are required to come to meetings at the beginning of school and the videos could be shown then.

The group then looked at the list of items discussed and prioritized them as follows:

1. Parenting Skills
2. Making 4-H Program available to Alternative and Options Students
3. Childhood Obesity

A fourth priority was added in the area of Agriculture.

4. Continue the present research and increase research on alternative energy crops

Allen talked about the interest in research that had recently been done in the area. British Petroleum called Sponsored Programs at the LSU AgCenter to get data on sweet sorghum plots and discussed the potential of building an ethanol facility in Southwest Louisiana.

Eddie thanked the participants for their input and promised to take the issues forward and work on those that could be addressed. Lunch was provided.