

Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Leadership Council Meeting
December 15, 2005 – 10 a.m.
Extension Office Meeting Room

The LSU AgCenter Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Council Meeting for Concordia Parish was held on Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 10 a.m. in the Extension Office Meeting Room. Terri Crawford, FCS Extension Agent (Nutrition) welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made by Concordia staff and council members. Those present were: Council members: Liz Brooking, Kathy Stevens, Hattie Neal for Amanda Taylor, Patsy White, Margaret Ford for Emma Tarver, Addie Hooper, Dr. Kerry Laster; Concordia staff: Terri Crawford Extension Agent (FCS) and Glen Daniels, Parish Chair.

Highlights of the past year's programming were discussed with members and they were given copies of the bi-annual report for the parish extension staff. Members were informed of two awards that the Delta HOPE Tri-State Childhood Obesity Initiative won for 2005. An exhibit on the program as well as a poster on the research findings for the parish was set up in the room for viewing.

Terri stated the purpose of the FCS Advisory Council was to decide priority items for educational programming for Concordia Parish in each of the following areas: Family Resource Management; Nutrition and Health; and Family Development.

Members were asked to respond to the following question – What are the critical issues in each of the three areas of Family and Consumer Sciences that need to be addressed for the families in our communities? The different program areas and problems were then discussed. The following section gives the top issues and the input about programming that members discussed.

Nutrition and Health –

1. Drug abuse – Parents spending money on drugs and not having food in the house for the children to eat.
2. Nutrition Night grant - Superintendent plans to have schools apply for Nutrition Night grant and would like to collaborate with us to conduct the sessions.
3. Needs of Elderly – have been affected by Hurricane aftermath and commodities have not been available for several months. If members are aware of or hear about other food programs they were asked to let COA know about them so that the parish can continue to meet the needs of local residents as well as assisting evacuees still in the parish.
4. Diabetes programs for both adult and youth – Programming to be offered in the spring for adults. Provide programs of fact sheets to schools and students regarding symptoms, basic facts, etc.
5. Health Support Groups – Potential audiences for programs on health and nutrition. There is one group for adults on diabetes.
6. Parent education on child nutrition – Put up display at Bank, Wal-Mart, Medical Center and Clinic for parents to pick up fact sheets.
7. Check into putting news blips on rolling news ticker on cable channels.

Family Development –

1. Continue parenting classes with young mothers.
2. Programs on dealing with medical, legal, etc. issues of elderly parents.
3. Community meeting to bring agencies together to discuss the above issues; including Medicare, Medicaid, Hospice care, Power of Attorney, Insurances, etc.

Family Resource Management –

1. Budgeting and self control for all ages.
2. Continue high school financial management program and other programs in the schools provided by other agencies.
3. Program to target high school and college students related to receiving credit card application or pre-approved cards.
4. Gambling and money management – Need to make people understand the importance of not spending money to gamble when they neglect the basic needs for living.

The meeting was adjourned.