



Franklin Parish 4-H Advisory Leadership Council Minutes of January Meeting

The Franklin Parish 4-H Advisory Leadership Council Meeting was held at the Franklin Parish Extension Office on January 9, 2007. The individuals in attendance included: Alisha Morgan, Bonnie Morgan, Joe Walters, Scott Washam, Dale Berry, Kristen Berry, Jackie Myers, Christy Allen, Kori Myers (4-H Agent) and Debbie Bairnsfather (Regional 4-H Coordinator).

As the Advisory Council members arrived they signed a sign in sheet, visited among themselves and enjoyed refreshments. 4-H Agent, Kori Myers called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending as well as being a part of the Franklin Parish 4-H Program.

Everyone in attendance then had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the group by giving their name; profession and telling how they are involved in the Franklin Parish 4-H Program. Regional 4-H Coordinator, Mrs. Debbie Bairnsfather introduced Kori as the new 4-H agent in Franklin Parish and gave her a warm welcome. Kori then thanked Debbie and the group for their warm welcome and acknowledged that she is pleased to be serving the people of Franklin Parish.

The purpose of the meeting was then explained to the group by Kori Myers. Kori explained that the council is to assist LSU AgCenter faculty in identifying issues facing our community, to provide input that the programs being conducted by the agent are meeting the needs of our community, to assist the agent in marketing the LSU AgCenter through out our parish and to communicate to others in the community about the AgCenter and our mission. Kori then reviewed the Roles and Responsibilities of Members of the Council with the group. The members in attendance all agreed to serve a 2 year term on the council and signed the Roles and Responsibilities of Members document to be kept on file at the Extension Office.

Two power points provided by the State Extension Office, "LCES Advisory Leadership System" and "Understanding Extension" were presented by Kori. Kori reviewed the mission and organization of the LSU Ag Center, funding on the state and local levels, and specifics to Franklin Parish. Kori informed members that the Franklin Parish Police Jury funds 10% of the salaries for 3 extension agents and a secretary. The school board also contributes some salary support for the 4-H agent position. The agents' responsibilities were also explained to the group. The group was made aware that the office facility, phone service and internet are provided by the Franklin Parish Police Jury. Kori also explained that the extension office makes monthly reports to both the school board and police jury.

The floor was opened for discussion on recommendations for the 4-H program. Recommendations brought before the group included:

Achievement Day: Bring back a parish achievement day to be held at the end of the school year, Have a talent contest and as well as a song/yell contest at achievement day. Involve the Jr. Leaders in assisting with Achievement Day.

Public Speaking-Hold a Public Speaking Contest for the parish to increase the public speaking skills of our 4-Hers

Livestock-Have shirts or jackets made for livestock exhibitors with Franklin Parish Show Team printed on them. These can be worn at district and state shows. Have more livestock exhibitors take part in the Purina Rewards Program

Marketing-Get information about upcoming events and contests out to the members and parents earlier. Publicize 4-H activities. Having the information out earlier will encourage more participation among 4-Hers and may encourage parents to volunteer with activities.

Stability of the program- The parish 4-H program has gone through a lot of change in the past 3-4 years so instability in the program exists. Stability of the program will return as the new agent becomes more involved.

Home school-Find ways for the home school club members to become more involved in projects such as livestock. Identify ways they can interact with other 4-H members besides just at contests.

Alternative School- Have the 4-H agent meet with the principal of the alternative school to discuss 4-H enrichment that the 4-H Agent can provide to the students, have students become involved in the parish 4-H program as members at large

Poster and Essay Contest-Encourage more participation in these contests since they are of low cost to the 4-Hers, possibly have a workshop day where they could come and work on their posters with materials provided to them.

High School Youth-Find additional ways to target this age group since their time is limited and they are involved in so many activities

Non Members-Target these youth throughout the parish that maybe looking to belong to something. Possibly have members bring one non member to a social. This interaction may encourage a non-member to join 4-H.

New Programs- Try to start a sports fishing program, begin collaboration with the Think Center, and have students take part in the Entomology summer camp held in Mississippi, Vocational Awareness program for senior members, Livestock Field Trips to the shows to encourage livestock participation

Following group discussion the next council meeting was set for June 29, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. at the Franklin Parish 4-H Office. Kori then asked the group to complete the meeting evaluation forms and turn it in before leaving. The evaluations were collected and the meeting was adjourned by 4-H Agent, Kori Myers at 6:15 p.m.

Complied By: Kori Myers, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Franklin Parish

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