

Recorded Minutes
Ascension Parish Advisory Leadership Council Meeting
August 8, 2006, 6:30 P.M.
Gonzales, Louisiana –Lamar Dixon Expo Center – Vendor Rooms (1-2)

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Marilyn Rice, Todd Robert, Donald Songy, M. Spruill, Joey Templet, Terry Tripp, Eric Kimbrough, Dan Safford, Dr. Katherine Beier, Pt Deloach, Dion Dixon, Audrey Boudreaux, Courtney Duhe, M. Foster, G. Garon, Ami Clouatre-Johnson, S. Lawless, Ed Price, Albert Raby. Staff Attendance: Desiree Dorest, Dwayne Nunez, Sheri Fair, Michelle Shahan, Cynthia Clouatre, Belinda Champton.

WELCOME: Desiree Dorest welcomed everyone, Mr. Albert Raby, offered praise and thanksgiving that our gathering produces good work for the well being of all the people of Ascension. The Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was recited; the meal, sponsored in part by an Extension supporter, was blessed as all present sat down to eat.

INTRODUCTIONS: Desiree invited everyone to introduce themselves. Potential council members introduced themselves indicating what agency, organization or personal interests lead them here to this meeting tonight. In addition, invitees shared something of their knowledge and/or interaction with the LSU AgCenter/LCES. It is significant to note that there were a number of former 4-H members in the invited group. As examples, Mr. Donald Songy, Superintendent of Schools is the son of a previous County Agent in Ascension Parish, Mr. Claude Songy. Eric Kimbrough, a very outstanding member of Ascension 4H is now attending LSU and working hard in the collegiate 4H organization on campus. Staff personnel introduced themselves; stating their program area responsibility

ORIENTATION: Parish Chairman gave a quick overview of the procedural structure of the meeting, running through the agenda.

The objectives of this session are:

- To introduce you to or review the mission of LCES
- To learn about Extension's advisory process & why you were chosen to participate
- To learn about your very critical role in this group
- To briefly introduce you to the LCES programming process
- ...and finally, to say "Thanks!!!" for all you do for extension

LCES ADVISORY LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

Michelle Shahan, 4-H Agent: Using a pictorial power point program reviewed: Objectives of the ALS:

- review the mission of LCES,
- to learn about the advisory process and
- how members were selected to learn group roles,
- LCES programming process
- thank each for contributions.

Responsibilities of Group Members If asked to summarize your specific responsibilities as a member of this advisory council, I would say they are to:

- Represent your peers in the community
- Identifying the needs & issues of concern of the clients you represent
- Provide program direction for extension programs by identifying, helping us to implement and evaluating educational programs designed to address client needs
- Assist in identifying opportunities for collaboration
- Actively participate in ALC meetings as scheduled. We need your input!!!
- Understand & support the mission of LCES
- Support educational efforts with your skills & talents

Selecting the Parish ALCS:

- Members of this council were recruited for very specific reasons.
- Leader in the community and are well respected by your peers.
- Genuine interest in the community and this program and are well connected with others.
- You are also knowledgeable in this area or very willing to learn.
- You fit the mold of what we need to help provide program direction for LCES in this parish.
- Ascension's joint committee also contains members of our program advisory committees (4-H, ANR, Horticulture, and FCS) as well as the above mentioned demographics.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Michelle, continuing to use the power point program described the programming process (Logic Model) as developed by University of Wisconsin, Cooperative Extension Service. This unique idea begins with planned outcomes in mind and builds into your day to day scope of work lessons, workshops, meetings, contests, events, activities which bring to fruition the planned outcome.

At this point in the meeting, Ascension staff personnel reviewed highlights from their target programs. They advised council members on topics, numbers in attendance and summarized the useful skills and knowledge, as well as seeds of behavioral change gained by these audiences.

4-H and Youth Development (Agent - Michelle Shahan) Oral/pictorial power point presentation highlighting youth programs.



4-H Day at Capitol

- **Learn by doing... 2005 – 2006 Highlights**

- Commodity Cookery
- Chicken Que
- Sew w/Cotton/Fashion
- Speaking/Talent

- Camps
- Jr. Leaders
- Shooting Sports
- Youth/Adult Partnerships---ALC

Parish 4-H Program Focus for 2006-07

Based on the community conversations, focus forums, advisory committees and youth trends program initiatives were formed.

- Leadership Development
- Service-Learning
 - Safety
 - Junior Leader Book Drive
- Project Specific Workshops
 - Books, Nutrition, Sewing, Shooting Sports

4-H Youth and Development/Youth and Adult Livestock Program (Agent -Dwayne Nunez) —

Parish Horse Show, State Livestock Show, State Horse Show, State Livestock Advisory Process

- Approximately 187 parish youth participated in Livestock and Horse projects.
- These youth exhibited over 200 livestock animals and approximately 30 horses at various shows and events.
- Parish Livestock Show, River Classic, and Summer Showdown conducted by AJLA.
- Premier Exhibitor Contest conducted at the Parish Show with over 15 parish youth participating.
- Work in conjunction with the State Fair of Louisiana to conduct State Fair Livestock Show.
- Manage advisory processes for 4-H Livestock and Horse State Show Programs.
- Forward State circular letters to address needs of parish producers.
- Farm and Home Visits to address the needs of parish producers.
- Soil Sample analysis and individual needs addressed through phone and email contacts.



4-H and Other Youth Development – Mission: through non-formal, research-based, experiential education activities, 4-H participants gain knowledge and life skills enabling them to become positive, productive, capable and compassionate members of their communities

Agriculture and Natural Resources – County Agent, Area Agent Horticulture, and Master Gardener Program (Agent: Desiree Dorest)

- The Overall Advisory Horticultural Committee meets annually to set priorities and program goals.
- YMCA Youth Camp (122 youth and 16 leaders) participated in the YMCA Youth Camp. Youth gained knowledge and experience through FNP/Ag/Horticultural Educational Series – educational programs which included Botanical Garden of Art, Wildlife, Archery, Fishing, Career Choices, Insect Growth and Habits, Growing Corn, D's Vegetable Market and an Animal Mini-Farm.
- Ag Spring Festival (63 youth and 7 adult leaders) attend the three day festival, consisted of Ag/Hort educational activities to gain knowledge and meaning of Agricultural/Horticultural vocabulary and how it relates to activities in gardening
- Vegetable Garden Contest and Awards. (24) Youth and seniors gained skills and knowledge in selecting vegetable plants, and seeds for growing vegetables for consumption and nutritive value. Each had a vegetable plan drawn and record keeping was mandatory.
- Katrina Disaster Relief: Helping Hand Boxes, Recovery after the Storm.
- MASTER GARDENERS® and two volunteers assisted with judging 68 home vegetable gardens. A total of 85 people attended the awards program
- Vegetable Garden Tours(2): A total of 106 youth and 16 leaders attend **2 tours** where they were provided an opportunity to gain knowledge on growing garden crops, seed varieties and transplants used; preserving/jarring vegetables, and how farm animals are fed and marketed.
- Horticultural Educational Series: Spring and Fall educational programs presented to the Council on Aging Senior Centers in St. James and Ascension parishes.
- District Livestock/Swine Show - work in conjunction with program
- Farm and Home visits to address agricultural and horticultural needs of parish clientele.
- Soil Sample Analysis addressed through phone contacts and analysis consultation with agent and Louisiana Master Gardener Turf Specialist



Youth camp participants tour the River Classic Livestock Show (Animal Mini-Farm) [Left] 'Mr. and Mrs. Cook Home Garden and Food Preservation Tour.' [Right]

Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Mission: ... seeks to enhance the quality of life for people through basic and applied research that identifies and develops the best use of natural resources, conserves and protects the environment, permits further development of new and existing agricultural and related enterprises, and develops human and community resources in rural and urban areas.

Family and Consumer Sciences (Agent – Sheri Fair)

Three Major Focus Areas of Research & Education

Nutrition

- Smart Bodies is an innovative 3-part program of nutrition and physical activities that are integrated into core curriculum academics to prevent children from becoming overweight or obese. This program targets children in grades K-5 and consists of three components:
 - The OrganWise Guys ® ;
 - Take 10! ® Classroom Program ;
 - The Louisiana Body Walk: (A 35-foot by 45-foot enclosed walk-through exhibit representing the human body.)

Family Development

- Child Care Provider Education
- Children in the Middle – participates are court mandated to attend
- Character Critters – Pre-school Character Education Program
- Preparing Parents for Success Program-parenting and financial education for single mothers

**Family Resource Development
(Financial)**

- HSFPP – High School Financial Planning
- Program Power Pay – debt reduction
- Identity Theft
- SAIL Saving and Investing for Louisianan's (upcoming programming)
- Library, Financial Series
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Credit Management/Debt Reduction

(Housing)

- Mold – Avoidance and Remediation
- Indoor Air Quality
- Home Buyer Education Classes
- LaHouse: Open House Fridays 9am- 4pm

A home and resource center to teach both consumers and professionals about hazard-resistant, energy efficient, and or healthy housing technologies and methods



*LaHouse: Open House
Fridays 9am- 4pm*

FCS Vision Statement: Working for a healthy Louisiana - physically, socially, emotionally & financially.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS

The web-site links below are provided as specific data sources to these questions/suggestions raised by members of the council at the August 8, 2006 meeting.

Continued availability of education on Mold Prevention and Reparation

- [LSU AgCenter. List](#) (Articles and Publications on Mold and Decay)
- Contact: Desiree A. Dorest at ddorest@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Contact: Sheri R. Fair at sfair@agcenter.lsu.edu
- Could they be provided with a “Talking Points” or ‘Program Accomplishments” instrument to use when promoting and/or marketing LCES services and activities
 - <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/ronlyres/2A176856-12D9-471F-B489-DC55DF458A7D/29751/TalkingPoints06.pdf>
 - [LSU AgCenter. LSU AgCenter Leads](#)
- More detailed information on the Master Gardener program in the area
 - There is no Master Gardener training in Ascension parish scheduled for this quarter. However, this training is available to Ascension parish residents in neighboring parishes. [LSU AgCenter. Louisiana Master Gardener Program](#)
- Director of Volunteer Ascension requested an Events Calendar indicating at what times, places, events we would need volunteers, offering to work with us in getting her contacts to assist us.
 - 4-H agents e-mailed Director of Volunteer Ascension indicating the type of assistance needed in the upcoming months and through early spring. A copy of the 4-H Calendar of Events and [The 4-H RapUp](#) (newsletter) was attached outlining some of the specific contest details. Plans are to send Mrs. Boudreaux current copy of the newsletter as each new edition is developed.
- Visiting through the major portion of group as signed contracts were accepted participants mentioned, “We had no idea that your organization reached out in that many educational areas.” Mr. Dion Dixon, a local registered Arborist, was amazed. He only knows Extension through damaged or sick trees.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- Setting a meeting date became somewhat complicated due to standard meeting dates from several of our council members (relative to their employ). It was finally determined that the second Tuesday in December which is the 12th is the TENTATIVE for next meeting.

- **MEETING ADJOUNED**