

Ascension Parish Advisory Leadership Council Meeting
Recorded Minutes of the 2nd Meeting
12/12/2006, 6:30 P.M. Lamar Dixon Expo Center
Gonzales, Louisiana
Agenda: Identify, Select and Set Priority/Issues and Goals

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Courtney Duhe, (Horticulture); G. Garon, (Director, COA); Darryl Hambrick (Representative, African American Museum – Donaldsonville); Stacey Webb (Administrative Secretary for Parish Government of Ascension); Sandra Lawless (Program Director – Head Start); G. Miller (Family and Consumer Science Education Club Member); Albert Raby (Small Farmer); Thomas Kurtz (Commerical Farmers Markets – Ag. and Horticulture); Ellen Richmond (Gonzales Garden Club – Civic/Horticulture); Muche Spruill (Family and Consumer Science Council President); Terry Tripp (Home Gardener, Retired City Clerk); Mark Peters (YMCA Board Member); Dan Safford (County Commissioner, Farm Service Agency).
Staff Attending: Desiree Dorest (Area Agent, Horticulture and Parish Chair); Sheri Fair (Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Science); Dwayne Nunez (Associate County Agent, 4H Youth, Animal Science and State Livestock Leader); Belinda Champton (Administrative Coordinator II).

Welcome and Introductions

Desiree Dorest welcomed participants and thanked them for honoring their commitment to serve as council members on the joint parish advisory leadership council. Desiree introduced Dr. Debra T. Davis, Professor LSU AgCenter LCES Organization Development & Evaluation, explaining Dr. Davis would facilitate the meeting.

Review Role of Council Members

The roles discussed and defined at our first meeting were reviewed with council members. Why are you a part of this leadership council. What is your task as a member of this council?

- represent your peers in the community
- identify needs and issues of concern of the clients you represent
- provide direction for extension programs by identifying, helping us to implement and evaluate educational programs designed to address client needs
- assist in identifying opportunities for collaboration
- actively participate in ALC meetings as scheduled
- understand and support the mission of LCES
- support educational efforts with your skills and talents

Identifying Issues Facing Parish

Dr. Davis began the facilitation process. She explained to the group what was needed from this process was a prioritized set of issues, (most critical at this point in time) for the improvement and/or well being of the lives of Ascension parish citizens. Reminding everyone that the LCES delivery system is research-based knowledge; Dr. Davis asked the group, "What are some of the issues facing residents of the parish that the AgCenter can address through research-based educational programs?"

The large group was separated into smaller breakout groups. Each of the breakout group was then instructed to brainstorm, identify, discuss, and return with 3-5(of what they believed) were critical issues facing Ascension parish at this time.

When the large group rejoined, a spokesperson from each of the breakout groups, listed their identified issues, and why they considered them top priority. All issues were listed. Individuals were asked to rank the issues by voting.

Prioritize/Rate Issues/Ideas (Voting results indicated the following ranking of Issues :)

VOTES	ISSUE
9	<u>Marketing/Promotion of LSU AgCenter in Ascension Parish</u> 1. Services Available 2. 4-H Image 3. Adult
8	<u>Financial Management (Budgeting)</u> 1. Teens/Children 2. Adults/Senior Citizens
8	<u>Socially Acceptable Manners</u> 1. Reaching Children
7	<u>Senior Citizen Skills</u> 1. Technology 2. Personal Safety 3. Identity Theft 4. Scams 5. Health Care Issues
7	<u>Housing</u> 1. Sustainable Housing 2. Termites, Weather, Mold 3. Contracts, Loans, (Home Buyers)
6	<u>Health and Nutrition (Youth K-12)</u> 1. Healthy Choices 2. Physical Activity 3. Wellness Programs
5	<u>Agricultural and Horticulture Market</u> 1. Farmer's Market 2. Community Gardens 3. Truck Crops 4. Small Farmers
1	<u>Educational Research</u> 1. Provide clients with current recommendations 2. Be sure these recommendations are appropriate to clients needs
1	<u>Implement Parish Wide Fire Ant Control Program</u>

Reviewing the ranking of recommended issues, those ranked highest, will be sent to their functioning sub-advisory committees to initiate developing an action plan. (Although all issues may be evolving)

Agents will use this guideline in developing their plans of work.

Desiree once again thanked everyone for their time and helpful input.

Next meeting date: Tentative (TBA)

The meeting was adjourned.