



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Winn Parish
119 West Main Street, Room 108
Winnfield, Louisiana 71483
(318) 628-4528
Fax: (318) 628-4538
Website: www.lsuagcenter.com
E-mail address: winn@agcenter.lsu.edu
Research and Extension Programs
Agriculture
Economic/Community Development
Environment/Natural Resources
Families/Nutrition/Health
4-H Youth Programs

**Winn Parish
2007 Family and Consumer Sciences
Advisory Council Minutes**

On February 1, 2007 the Winn Parish Family and Consumer Sciences 2007 Advisory council met and discussed program planning for Winn Parish. The following members were present: Sherry Berry, Cathryn Delaughter, Brenda Etheridge, Penny Harper, Mary Kirkendoll, Joyce McElroy, Gwen Peters, and Candace Tarver. Members absent were: Carolyn Phillips, Candy Bedgood, Kathy Turner, Shameka Swafford and Wanda Taylor. After signing in refreshments were served and Extension Agent, Becky Kelley began the meeting. She welcomed them and extended her appreciation for their willingness to serve on the advisory council and share their ideas and suggestions for programming ideas and needs of the Winn Parish clients. Becky stated that there are two new members on the council, Candace Tarver and Shameka Swafford. They will serve a three year term.

Members introduced themselves and the agency or group they were representing. Becky stated that this is a partnership and we are able to accomplish much more working together with other agencies and people. She shared information compiled by Lisa Holmes on "partnerships". She read a quote by Daniel Webster, *"Men can do jointly what they cannot do singly; and the union of minds and hands, the concentration of their power, becomes almost omnipotent."* She stated a partnership is collaboration in which organizations and community members work together to design and implement a system-wide initiative. This is the goal of the LSU AgCenter and the Winn Parish Extension office, to serve the people and to work jointly together. Becky told the group that partnerships can accomplish work that would be difficult or impossible to accomplish alone. It offers opportunities for people to learn from each other and share resources. Strong partnerships ensure that everyone is represented in leadership, planning and implementation. The 3 C's are cooperation, coordination and collaboration. Becky discussed the 12 steps to creating a successful partnership. She stated that with the group represented the first step, assemble people - getting the right people involved, is the beginning of a successful FCS programming for our parish.

Becky gave the group a copy of Impact Statements of some of the things that she has done during 2006, broken down into the three state-wide FCS program main initiatives- Nutrition and Health, Family and Child Development and Family Resource Management. Becky then stated that tonight the group would look at the needs of our parish in these areas and how we can be more effective. She also told the group that if they had ideas that were not in these areas that she wanted them to share these with the group also as we need to explore every aspect of what our community needs. Becky stated that some programming is mandated through the State Office, as the AgCenter is contracted with some agencies to provide certain services.



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Discussion of some of the needs of the parish included in nutrition - fact sheets and information on adults and child related wellness – diabetes, heart disease and other preventive health related issues. The schools in our parish are under a nutrition initiative and Becky coordinated the Body Walk for three of the parish schools last year and will offer it to the three other parish schools this year to assist the schools in this initiative. In parenting and child development grandparents' raising children and identity theft issues were needs discussed. Suggestions were made to develop a one-page monthly information sheet with research-based health/nutrition information or AgCenter programs or activities offered by Extension to be included in the school/Headstart's newsletters or flyers that are sent home with the children. Also, flyers or newsletters distributed at Council on Aging, Health Unit, doctor's offices and other agencies that serve the elderly and children.

In Family/Child Development the discussion focused on grandparents raising grandchildren and the problems/difficulties faced. Becky stated that she had some good information on this issue. A statement was made that this generation is called the "sandwich" generation. Identity theft was another issue the group discussed and some means of guarding against this problem. Becky stated that this was a growing problem.

The next initiative was then discussed "Family Resource Management" energy efficiency, housing and financial management. Becky showed the group the new publication After the Storm, A Guide to Helping Children that deal with hurricane. Becky stated that she had taken some to the guidance counselors at the schools and to local day cares. She stated it was a good resource of information on how to work with families that were impacted by the hurricane. The AgCenter was and continues to provide resources and information for those impacted by these hurricanes.

Becky asked the group the question, "How can we improve the effectiveness of the FCS program in each focus area." Several suggestions were made and Becky told the group she appreciated all of their suggestions of areas of programming that were identified and there would be programming to meet the needs of Winn Parish residents.

Becky thanked the group for their time and contributions to help her in her programming and she told them that if later they had any suggestions just give her a call. She told the group she would send them a copy of the minutes. A picture was taken of the group.

Minutes transcribed by Barbara Marshall