

2009 Advisory Leadership Council Minutes
Monday, February 23, 2009
Webster Parish Extension Office

The Webster Parish Advisory Leadership Council met at the parish Extension office on Monday night. The parish 4-H Foundation sponsored a meal for the attendees. Dinner was served at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting being held afterwards.

Parish agents each gave the group an overview of their existing programs and outcomes for the past year. A tri-fold annual highlight brochure was distributed to those in attendance and featured the following program areas:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Family Nutrition Program
- Family and Consumer Sciences

Lisa Holmes, 4-H Youth Development agent, gave a brief overview of the 4-H Club program. She reported over 1,000 current members in the parish. The 4-H program has grown for the past several years and continues to reach youth of all ages in the parish. Some of the successes include the continued growth of the parish Outdoor Skills/Shooting Sports program, (State Champion BB Team and State Champion Shotgun Team) and the Celebrate Girls After School Program, which reaches over 50 preadolescent girls. The program focuses on life skills development.

Calvin Walker, Assistant County Agent responsible for 4-H and Agriculture, reported a continuing growth in the Piney Hills Master Gardener program. The Master Gardener program involves volunteers who have been trained in horticulture-related information and then pay back with volunteer hours that benefit our communities and existing programs. Calvin reported that he will organize and conduct another Master Gardener class this summer at the Extension office. In addition, Calvin has initiated an Archery program for 4-Hers interested in the archery project through 4-H Shooting Sports.

LaDonna Chreene, Nutrition Educator, gave her report on nutrition programming for audiences of low income families. She reported that she works closely with the Office of Family Support, Council on Aging, Community Action and Head Start Centers in both Webster and Claiborne Parishes. She holds regularly scheduled classes for clientele and presents nutrition education materials to parents as well as children.

Joan Almond, FCS agent, finished up with Family and Consumer Science related programs. She reported that she teaches "Smart Portions" – A Healthy Weight Management program for audiences and is currently involved in an 8 week program for Wal-Mart employees. This and other nutrition related classes are available for groups who are interested. She also teaches "Children in the Middle", a program for divorcing parents, which is a court ordered parenting class for Webster parish families. The class is offered bi monthly and is held at the parish Extension office.

Once the agents completed their overviews, the group was facilitated by Lisa Holmes, who offered them an opportunity to share their ideas of how the Extension Service/ AgCenter could better meet the needs of their communities. The discussion was held over the next hour and the committee developed the following topics that they felt should be considered for programs. The topics are listed as follows:

Job Readiness for teens and young adults
Horse Programs
The development of a Multi Use Arena for Webster Parish
Entrepreneurship for teens and young adults
Teen Pregnancy
Development of an Agriculture Awareness Day
Diabetes Awareness
Minden Press Herald and other newspaper involvement in helping youth learn reporting skills
Boys Programs that would mirror "Celebrate Girls" programs

These topics were discussed by those in attendance. Lisa recorded the suggestions and the audience completed their discussions and suggestions. The agents committed to incorporating these suggestions into their programmatic efforts for the coming programming year. Some of the topics will be easier to address than others; however, agents all agreed that they will make an effort to include the suggestions in their programs.

Joan Almond, parish chair, expressed her appreciation to those in attendance and thanked them for their service and support of the Extension Service. Members were made aware that they would receive the minutes in a letter form and that those members who did not attend would also receive a copy.

The meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance were:

Elizabeth Tripp- Homemaker Council President
Idelle Simms- FCS
Tiffany Flournoy- Minden Press Herald
Loriece Cox- Cotton Valley
C.C. Cox- Police Jury
Robin Tucker- Minden High Principal/4-H parent
Scott Tucker- Minden Police Department/4-H parent
Steve Ramsey- Police Jury
Diane Beatty- FCS/4-H grandparent
Joe Beatty- Forestry/Dairy Leader
Harol Thompson- FCS/Soil Conservation
Steve Lemmons- Police Jury
Matthew Lee- 4-H member
Susan Addington- 4-H Leader/parent
Florine Stanley-School Secretary
Sandra Bosby- Head Start
Audry Flournoy- David Raines Community Health Center
Jim Crain- Poultry Project leader/ Minister
Glen Guin- 4-H Leader/Parent
Marilynn Wallace- Head Start Director- Mother Goose Center