

West Carroll Advisory Leadership Council
February 22, 2007
LSU AgCenter

The West Carroll Advisory Leadership Council met on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the LSU AgCenter. Attending the meeting were Ben Bennett, JoAnn Bolding, Elizabeth Gordon, Charlotte Hamilton, Jimmy Head, Helen Martin, Kathy McAllister and LSU/SU AgCenter agents James Barnes, Glen Dixon, Sheila Haynes, Carolyn Robinson, Myrl Sistrunk, and Sharon Wilder.

County Agent Glen Dixon opened the meeting with a welcome to the members and insured that all members were acquainted with each other. He gave a brief explanation of why they were invited to the meeting and their role as ALC members.

To help the members understand the LSU/SU AgCenters, its mission, organization and funding, Parish Chair Sheila Haynes presented the power point presentation "Understanding Extension." She then reviewed the minutes of the last ALC meeting and the parish issues and strategies identified at that meeting. The issues discussed were communication / promoting programs and nutrition education. Strategies that were identified to address the communication issue were one-on-one, team efforts, getting information to the schools and churches and providing meals or refreshments at programs/meetings. Agents cited ways that these methods were being incorporated into programming efforts including home visits, educational displays in local stores, and a meal being served after the ALC meeting.

Glen Dixon facilitated the open discussion of parish issues of concern. Items of discussion focused on youth development included the following:

- 4-H
- Evaluating existing programs – effectiveness, minority participation, matching interests of youth to projects, teen involvement & retention
- 4-H Livestock program
- YES program – recruiting through churches
- Other youth programs – collaborations with Even Start to provide youth presentations, teen pregnancy programs

Other areas of discussion included expanding parenting education at Even Start Family Literacy Program to include Hispanic families and the need to continue parenting & nutrition programming programs. One member discussed the number of families in the parish on government assistance programs and stressed the need to teach families how to use low-income programs such as Food Stamp, Free/Reduced Lunch, etc more effectively. It was mentioned that there are FCS programs that address this but with one-on-one contacts, change is slow. Another problem stated was convincing clientele of the necessity of attending these programs. All agreed that transportation and education play a role in having reduced attendances.

Members discussed the need for volunteers to help with some of the programs and the reduced interest in the population to volunteer. One member stated "Overall, we need a lot of volunteers."

In looking at next steps for the next ALC meeting, AgCenter agents agreed that the ALC members needed to be updated on Extension reporting methods. Agents agreed to bring impact statements and outcome statements to share with the committee. Carolyn Robinson stated she would research a church program on sexuality and see how that may fit into AgCenter or school programming. Another member stated the need to discuss attitudes about jobs and the workforce in the parish, stating that initiative and imagination is lacking.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 with a meal following.