



Richland Parish
Joint Advisory Leadership Council Meeting

MINUTES

The 2008 Joint Advisory Leadership Council meeting for the fiscal year 2008 was held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the Rayville Civic Center in Rayville, Louisiana. The meeting started at 4:30 p.m. with Parish Chairman Keith Collins welcoming everyone and making introductions.

Attendees were:

Nicholas Nichols	4-H
Donna Freeland	4-H
Melissa Freeland	4-H
Dr. Cathy Stockton	4-H
Patricia Jordan	4-H
Barbara Weems	FCS
Elizabeth Grady	FCS
Dorothy Stanfield	FCS
Marvin Hamilton	FCS
Edna Natt	FCS
Mildred Harris	FCS
Shirley Howell	FCS
Bill Tatum	ANR
Tom Raborn	ANR
David Moore	ANR
Jerry Hunter	ANR
Rex Morgan	ANR
Rep. Bubba Chaney	ANR
Kay Lynn Tettleton	Area Agent for CRD

Staff Attending:

- Keith Collins, Parish Chair/County Agent
- Joanna Strong, Associate Extension Agent/4-H Youth Development
- Matt Gwin, Assistant Extension Agent/4-H/Horticulture
- JoAnn Smith, Nutrition Educator 2, EFNEP Program

Fannie Coleman, Nutrition Educator 2, EFNEP Program
Staci Bennett, Adm. Coordinator II
Hassie Kirschenbaum, Adm. Coordinator III

The responsibilities of the Joint Advisory Leadership Council are to represent their peers, identify needs and issues, identify opportunities for collaboration, be active in sharing their skills and knowledge to assist the parish and understand Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service as a community resource.

Mr. Collins presided over the meeting and at this time asked Ms. Kay Lynn Tettleton. Area Agent for the Community Rural Development, to talk about the Leadership Development Course being offered in four northeast parishes. Ms. Tettleton informed those attending that this course is to provide educational experiences relative to leadership that result in participants becoming eligible for certification as Louisiana Lead I graduates. The curriculum is designed to increase the leadership knowledge and skills of elected officials, existing and emerging community leaders and volunteers. Graduates will become more engaged in community decision making at the local, parish and regional level to enhance community rural development.

Ms. Tettleton remarked that Senator Francis Thompson was instrumental in getting funding for the grant as well as helping to organize the course to provide leadership to members of the policy jury, mayors, city councilmen, and elected officials. Approximately 25 individuals will be accepted into the pilot program.

Mrs. Shirley Howell, representative for EFNEP, inquired if individuals living in the West Carroll Parish would be accepted, and it was noted that the course is only being offered in Tensas, Concordia, Catahoula and Richland at this time. Keith stated the possibility that if enough individuals do not sign up, that perhaps it could be opened up to other parishes.

The three hour sessions will be conducted on a weekly basis for four weeks. When those attending graduate, it is expected that they will later enroll in Lead Louisiana II, an intermediate course taught on the multi-parish/regional level.

Dr. Tettleton ask those interested to contact either Keith Collins or herself, giving her mobile phone number to be included on the flyer that was passed out.

Prior to the meeting, a booklet prepared by the Richland Parish office listing the educational objectives and services provided by each agent was given to each attendee. This information also included the Mission Statement of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

At this time, Mr. Collins asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and give their affiliation with the AgCenter in Richland Parish.

Prior to the staff introducing themselves, Mr. Collins introduced Matt Gwin, Assistant Extension Agent in 4-H/Horticulture. Matt was hired on July 1, 2008 and will be working in the areas of livestock and horses. Matt has already begun working with youth on the Livestock Quiz Bowl and is also instituting a new shooting sports program. Matt will also be spending time answering calls about horticulture.

Keith alluded to the responsibilities of each discipline, i.e., Family and Consumer Sciences to include the EFNEP and FNP Programs. The nutrition educators working with the EFNEP Program go to area schools teaching good nutrition to students, and the FNP nutrition educator works primarily in organizations, i.e., governmental/state offices such as mental health, head start, etc. Keith asked those attending for their advice and/or suggestions to help the staff work more efficiently in providing services to the communities.

In Ms. Terry Wade's absence, Keith discussed briefly her responsibilities with the Family and Nutrition Program (FNP), Ms. Wade in a nutrition educator for Richland and Franklin Parishes. The FNP program includes formal and informal education methods, one-on-one contact, classes, mail-outs, etc. The program provides information to the following entities: Food Distribution Programs, School Lunch Programs, WIC, Head Start, Medicaid and LaCHIP. Ms. Wade presents monthly educational programs to 200 Head Start students, monthly educational programs to the Mental Health Center clients, provides educational fact sheets to Head Start families and other food stamp eligible families and presents educational programs for the Council on Aging.

Mr. Collins asked Ms. Joanna Strong to provide information on her responsibilities in 4-H in our parish schools. This year she has 12 clubs in public schools, two clubs at Riverfield Academy, 2 clubs at Delhi Charter, and one Home School club for a total of 647 total members (547 traditional members and 90 EFNEP members). Ms. Strong also uses a percentage of her time on including nutrition/exercise activities for the Family and Nutrition Program. She also works with Girl Power in Delhi on self-esteem issues. Details of additional responsibilities covered can be found in the educational/service booklet.

Mr. Hamilton asked if 4-H students would be able to receive a discounted rate on tickets to special events again this year and a brief discussion ensued about trips that he had taken students on in the past, utilizing a charter bus for a one day trip. Ms. Strong mentioned that students were given the opportunity to attend 4-H day for a recent football game in Baton Rouge, but, because of a major hurricane, only 20 tickets were sold in our parish to parents and students who wanted to attend this event.

Representative Bubba Chaney mentioned the 4-H Day with the Legislature where approximately 1,600 students attended. He commended the 4-H office, stating that the event was well organized. The students were able to meet with their legislative officials, visit the Capitol, and have pictures made with officials.

Matt Gwin, Assistant Extension Agent, provided information on programs that he is initiating in our parish, i.e., Shooting Sports Program and the Livestock Quiz Bowl. His students placed fourth at the State Fair this year, and he is excited about this. He is hoping to have poultry and horse quiz bowls next year. Matt states that the shooting sports program is big in the state at the present time and that he has been attending trainings and is working on getting a program in Richland Parish. Students have to be enrolled in a parish 4-H Club in order to become a member.

One of the individuals attending the meeting inquired if Matt had contacted Col. Mohl who is in charge of the rifle team at Rayville High School, as they have had a successful team for a number of years. Matt stated that he is in contact at this time seeking Col. Mohl's advice.

It was also pointed out that these programs were discussed in the Parish Review several years ago and suggestions were made then to implement them when another agent was hired.

Ms. JoAnn Smith presented information as outlined in the educational booklet on the responsibilities that she and Fannie Coleman offer to parish clientele as they work within the EFNEP program. Ms. Smith reports that she has been employed for nine years and Ms. Coleman has been employed with EFNEP for fifteen years.

According to Ms. Smith, the vision of the EFNEP program is to help Louisiana families and youth enrolled in the program to have access to and receive up-to-date research-based nutritional information which contributes to quality health and wellness. The nutrition educator's goals for the families and individuals they have signed up are to follow the

recommended dietary and physical fitness guidelines and to adopt preventive health practices to achieve a healthy life.

The nutrition educators meet each month with clients in home visits and group meetings; they each have 75 families for a total of 150 families to visit during the year. For the last three years, they have had the opportunity to go into several of the schools for monthly meetings.

Fannie Coleman works in the Mangham and Rayville areas working with three sixth grade classes at Mangham Junior High and she also has a food and fitness club group at Start Elementary.

Ms. Smith works in the Delhi area and has three fifth grade classes at Delhi Middle School. She also meets once a month after school with 34 Girl Power girls at Delhi Elementary. She has arranged her schedule with the physical education teacher to meet with the teacher's first hour physical education students at Delhi Elementary, making her total youth visits over 160 students monthly.

During the summer the nutrition educators have summer day camps for their students; one in Rayville and one in Delhi. Ms. Smith for the last two summers has joined in the Summer Recreation Program in Delhi in which Mr. Marvin Hamilton oversees. This past summer, Ms. Smith notes that the 21st Century Learning Program participated as well. They target over 100 youth and 40 adults as well as teachers, parent volunteers, school board members, police jurors, and the Delhi City Aldermen.

Representative Chaney asked if the students are weighed when they enter the program to see if there are any changes and/or positive results. Ms. Strong linked her experience in working with Organ Wise Guys, another program geared to children, saying that parents would have to sign a permission slip granting this be done and she also referred to the HIPPA Act, which provides for individual's privacy.

The nutrition educators also participate in health fairs providing displays and educational materials. They distribute educational fact sheets to families who participate in the Food for Seniors and Commodities nutrition programs. They also prepared an educational display at the "Day at the Lake" event for senior citizens at the Poverty Point Marina. Last summer they encouraged elderly citizens to lower the sodium in their diets at this event.

Ms. Gillett, Ms. Coleman and Ms. Smith also present nutrition education programs to approximately 2000 students that participate in Ag Expo, Ag Adventures, and the 4-H Cookery Contest each year.

At this time, Mr. Collins discusses his area of expertise, Agriculture and Natural Resources. He talks about Ag Adventures, which is similar to AgAlley which is in conjunction with the AgExpo at the Ike Hamilton arena in West Monroe. This year at Ag Adventures, four commodities will be available for the children to view, who attend Ag Adventures, i.e., cotton, sweet potato, horses, and the mini-farm (featuring cattle, chickens, etc.). Third grade to fifth grade students are allowed to attend only one event, either Ag Adventures or AgAlley. Last year, we had nearly 1,000 students to go through Ag Adventures in Delhi. Each year the commodities rotate.

Keith talked about the Northeast Louisiana District Livestock Show briefly saying that it brings in money as well as people to the area.

Keith was fielding horticultural questions after the retirement of Charles Whittington, so he is elated to have another agent on board to help in this area. Keith also notes that we have experts in Baton Rouge to help producers with budgets, marketing, cash flow plans, and there is a HOTLINE number to agricultural economists at LSU. Keith asked those who are interested to contact him for additional information.

At this time, a question was raised regarding bringing locally grown vegetables into the schools. This was briefly discussed and reported that other schools around the country are doing this. Representative Chaney reports of budget concerns at the current time for the Governor and that perhaps when the critical issues have been addressed and corrected, that a pilot program might be done to achieve this concern. It was mentioned that the Department of Agriculture would have to come in and inspect the food and a ready supply of vegetables would have to be available by the producers, etc. throughout the year. Representative Chaney asked that he be kept informed, as he has been appointed to the Governor's Ag Committee. He also stated that he would make inquiries on the state level.

Mr. Collins asked if there were further comments and/or questions for the staff. There were none, and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.