

**LaSalle Parish Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Council
Meeting
March 9, 2011
Extension Meeting Room**

The LaSalle Parish Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in the Extension Meeting Room of the Courthouse at 3 p.m. Kim Evans, LaSalle Parish Extension Agent welcomed the members to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Council members present were: Angie Appleby, Susie Jones, Kathryn Tyler, Donna Estis, Janis Braud, Nelda Tarver, and Marcia Cooksey. Members that agreed to serve, but could not attend were: Debbie McCartney, Polly Duncan, Murphy McMillin, Tammy Fryar, J. Christopher Peters, Amanda Walker, Janice Wyatt, Stacy Turnage, Tish Budemer, Pamela Barnes, and Kelly Thompson. Members signed cards designating their willingness to serve on the committee.

Evans explained the mission of the LSU AgCenter and the purpose of the Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Council.

Evans gave a brief summary of Family and Consumer Sciences Programs that were conducted in FY 2010. Evans discussed general Parenting Education and the Parents Preparing for Success Program, which is required of clients with the Office of Family Support that have a child under the age of one year. The Child Care Provider Training is conducted for registered Child Care Providers and anyone employed at a Class A Child Care Center.

The Smart Bodies program was conducted at Olla Elementary School and Goodpine Middle School. This program emphasizes eating healthy and exercise. The Family Nutrition Program provides information on nutrition to all ages.

The LaSalle Early Literacy Program is a grant through the Children's Trust Fund. Storybooks are distributed to parents of infants through the LaSalle Health Unit. This is the second year to be funded and books for two and three year olds were added this year. Character Critters lessons are conducted for Head Start youth as well as Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten age children.

Lunch and Learn programs are being offered on a variety of healthy living topics bimonthly.

The group was asked for their input to determine the priorities of programs for the next year. They were asked “During the next year or two, what are the critical things in the area of Family and Consumer Sciences that need to be addressed for the families in our local communities to realize their greatest potential in the future?” Several suggestions were discussed and then members voted to determine priority of programs. Those discussed were (1) Parenting, especially teen parents and grandparents raising grandchildren; (2) Health and Nutrition ; (3) Drug Awareness especially for young children; Also discussed was the need to continue offering staff development for child care providers as well as Pre-K and Head Start staff.

The group discussed other agencies and organizations that might partner with the Extension Service on these issues. They also brainstormed about methods to reach the target audiences for the selected issues.

Evans thanked all those for attending and their willingness to work on issues together. She asked that advisory members continue to share suggestions and thoughts throughout the year to provide guidance to the FCS programs. The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.