

Overall Advisory Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

The East Carroll Parish Extension Service held an Overall Advisory Leadership Council meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 5 p.m. The meeting was held in Plantation Hall at the Louisiana State Cotton Museum on Hwy. 65 in Lake Providence.

The following were present: Caroline Jones, Mattie Dixon, Rebecca Thompson, Rosie Brown, John Goode, Jason Condrey, Alvin Minsky, Timothy Middlebrook and Harriet Bridges; Staff Members – Parish Chair/Associate County Agent Donna Lee (ANR); Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon (ANR); Nutrition Educator 2's Dorris Thompson, Mary Ann Reed, Grace Siggers and Patricia Johnikin (EFNEP); and Administrative Coordinator Lori McLain.

Parish Chair Donna Lee opened the meeting with a welcome and thanked everyone for coming. She thanked Ms. Bridges and the Louisiana State Cotton Museum for the use of their facilities and commented on its ready availability to us.

Ms. Lee explained the LSU/SU AgCenter consists of more individuals than are here today. Ms. Lee stated she works with the ANR program and Cynthia Pierfax works with the 4-H program both under the LSU umbrella. Ms. Pierfax was conducting a 4-H demonstration day with the youth and was not able to be here.

Ms. Lee introduced Associate Area Agent Glenn Dixon also with the ANR program. Associate Area Agent Carolyn Robinson with the FCS program is the supervisor of the EFNEP and FFNEWS programs. Ms. Robinson was not able to be here because she is presently in class working on her master's degree. Nutrition Educator Sharon Wilder works with the FFNEWS and is currently on leave. These individuals are under the Southern University umbrella.

The EFNEP program consists of Mary Ann Reed, Dorris Thompson, Patricia Johnikin and Grace Siggers. They are under the LSU umbrella also.

Ms. Lee explained that the purpose for being here today is to discover what roles we (LSU/SU AgCenters) are not filling.

Mary Ann Reed spoke for Carolyn Robinson about FCS and EFNEP. A handout of East Carroll's FCS programs was made available and is attached. Programs available consist of Family and Child Development, Family Resource Management and Nutrition and Health. EFNEP is implemented through group demonstrations and home visits. Four Nutrition Educators apply EFNEP on a monthly basis with a series of classes for 160 adult clients and 200 youth in homes, at housing authorities and schools.

Ms. Reed briefly discussed East Carroll Parish facts in reference to overall health. East Carroll Parish is ranked 63 out of 64 parishes, which includes a mortality (how long you live) ranking of 63 and a morbidity (how healthy people feel) ranking of 37. The population of the parish is 8,102.

Ms. Reed talked about the programming outcomes of Nutrition & Health and Family & Child Development. See attachment for detailed information.

Ms. Lee asked for any questions or suggestions to improve programs. There being none, she shared that even though we have recently experienced some closures (Calhoun, Rosepine and Coastal Area Research Stations – formerly the Citrus Research Station) research still continues. Ms. Lee stressed that all of the information that we provide comes from the LSU/SU AgCenters.

Ms. Lee explained about her demonstration plots that are ongoing and available to all residents of the parish. These plots include corn, soybean and cotton variety trials, gypsum trial, nematode, Ignite trials, soybean and rice verification, and rice weed trial. Her work also includes ornamentals, home gardens and ecotourism.

Again, Ms. Lee asked for questions and comments. None were forthcoming.

Glenn Dixon briefly talked about his programs on Economic Development, Farm Diversification Enterprises and tourism on the farms of local producers. Non-traditional crops or new focus for last year was on Hibiscus, vegetable varieties, home gardening and grounds.

Mr. Dixon stated that we teach Pesticide Verification and WPS training, along with Community Development, One-Leadership and Entrepreneurship which is now offered via webcam. We are currently working on helping Small Farmers acquire the equipment to accept voucher, debit/credit cards and other ways of receiving payment for their products.

Ms. Lee asked for any comments or questions. How long is the Leadership Program? Two years. One of the attendees shared that he has completed the LSU Leadership Program and commented that it was one of the best available.

Mr. Dixon said that the PFP Cattle program is doing very well. Most all of the cattle that the group purchased one year ago will be ready to go to market.

Ms. Lee turned to the 4-H program and said that 4-H Assistant Extension Agent Cynthia Pierfax was conducting a 4-H Demonstration Day and was not here this evening. Ms. Pierfax's main focus this year is science. She has started a Horse Club, a Garden Club and is working on a Shooting Club, but is having a hard time finding volunteers.

Ms. Lee asked if there were any questions or comments. One person questioned the availability of animal shows for the youth. Ms. Lee stated that both LSU and Southern University host livestock shows each year. The 4-H youth showed three goats and two horses.

Question: Is it necessary for youth to own their own horse? Ms. Lee said that it is not necessary to have one's own horse, horses may be leased.

Question: Is 4-H now in the schools? Ms. Lee responded, "Yes, however; there is a growing need for volunteers to help Ms. Pierfax with her monthly club meetings. Not all students belong to the 4-H Club therefore the teachers cannot assist in those meetings."

Question: How is 4-H funded? Ms. Lee stated that the 4-H'ers conduct fundraisers to help with costs that 4-H dues do not cover. 4-H dues have risen drastically over the past several years and are now \$5, of which \$3 goes to the 4-H Foundation. Ms. Pierfax is working on getting more youth involved in 4-H and looking for volunteers.

Question: Is FHA still in schools? Mr. Dixon said that FHA is still in the schools; however, they focus mostly on industrial arts and plant/animal competition.

Question: How are the programs funded? Ms. Lee explained that some are funded by grants, some by the programs themselves, by fundraisers and some donations help subsidize for some youth who cannot pay for dues, camps, etc.

Ms. Lee thanked everyone for their attendance and the Louisiana State Cotton Museum once again for the use of their facilities and asked each person to sign their Roles and Responsibilities of Members Serving on Extension Program Councils (ALC) form and leave it with us. A copy is on the sign-in table should you need it.

Mr. Dixon reminded us, since those present are 'out and about,' it is so very important for you to let Extension know what is needed in the parish so we can provide information, training and instruction to satisfy that need.

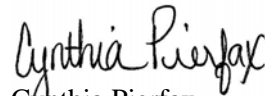
With no further questions, comments or business, Ms. Lee dismissed the meeting at 5:42 p.m.



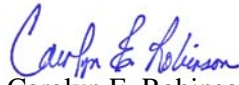
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DRL/GED/CP/CER:lm

Attachment 1