



Evangeline Parish
Cooperative Extension Service
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**Evangeline Parish FCS Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, December 14, 2010**

A meeting of the Evangeline Parish FCS Advisory Committee was held Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parish LSU AgCenter Meeting Room. Present were: Tina Guillory, Extension Agent (4-H Youth Development and FCS); Stacey Nevills, Parent Educator; Melody Coco, Nutrition Educator- 1890 Program; Dr. Gloria Nye, FRM Specialist; Susan Fontenot, Secretary, Evangeline Parish Extension Service; Carolyn Lafleur, Evangeline Parish Head Start; Carla Deville, Faith House; Nicole Gill, Assistant District Attorney; Carla Bollick, Department of Child and Family Services; Karen Soileau, Evangeline School Board Child Nutrition Program; Jackie Miller, Evangeline Volunteers for Family and Community President; Virginia Williams, Head Start Program Family Life Specialist; Lisa Derouen, Evangeline Council on Aging; Mary Foster-Galasso, Evangeline Parish Public Library Director; Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor-Elect and Community Action Agency.

Tina Guillory welcomed members and thanked them for coming. She explained that the purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide a means for us to make sure our programs are meeting the needs of the parish clientele. We need the help of the parish advisory committee to market our programs to the clientele in the parish. She also explained that the advisory members are the ones that can let the Evangeline agents know what needs need to be met. AgCenter personnel also want to know what programs are going on in the parish to refer people

to the appropriate agency or organization when needed. Committee members introduced themselves along with their job description. The Extension Service Staff gave a brief summary of programs they have to offer.

Tina Guillory, Extension Agent (4-H Youth Development) – responsible for the overall operation of the FCE Program in Evangeline Parish which includes Volunteers for Family and community. Airs Radio programs twice a month on KVPI, “Serving Louisiana Families” newsletter, and conducts the “Smart Bodies” Program at area schools.

Stacey Nevills, 1890 Parent Educator – responsible for Parent Education for low income families – conducts the STEP 16 Program to parents of head start students.

Melody Coco, Nutrition Educator- 1890 Program - teaches nutrition classes to the Head Start children in Evangeline, Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes; promotes good nutrition to parents of head start students through handouts; and also works with senior citizens promoting good nutrition.

Dr. Gloria Nye, Family Resource Management Specialist – promoting VITA Sites and program, submits articles to area news papers and radio programs statewide regarding finances, regular television appearances on the “Meet Your Neighbor” Program on TV 10. She offered free High School Financial Planning Program training for High School teachers. She also provides numerous programs for presentation to senior citizen groups and posts the information on-line regularly. She researched, wrote and posted numerous FCS articles on-line. Researched and developed numerous personal finance topics for use in Evangeline Parish as radio spots.

Other community agencies and organizations are working with the AgCenter for the good of the community.

Tina gave a quick review of last year's parish needs along with steps that were taken to address these.

Family Development

– Male mentorship for at-risk youth. Tina and Todd Fontenot, along with Betsy Jackson from the District Attorney's office and many other volunteers created a youth mentoring gardening project for at risk youth.

- promote Evangeline /St. Landry Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Mary Foster-Gallasso made Dolly Parton Imagination Library handouts available for the VFC members to put in hospital packets for new mothers. Children enrolled in this program receive a book every month until the age of five. Stacey Neville's enrolls all participants of the program.

Family Resource Management

- promote Vita sites and program. Gloria Nye promoted Vita sites available for low-income tax payers to have their taxes prepared free of charge. She promoted these Vita sites through television, statewide radio programs, news articles, the AgCenter website, and word of mouth.

Nutrition and Health

– continue to promote nutrition and exercise well programs. Healthy nutrition was promoted through parent newsletters that were attached to the monthly 4-H Clover Patch newsletter. Also Tina and Todd conducted the Body Walk program at the Montessori School in Ville Platte. Stacey presented parenting programs to parents of Head Start student. Melody Coco conducted nutrition programs with Head Start students.

Mary Foster-Galasso – Informed the group about many on-line resources now available through the parish library Website.

Jackie Miller – EVFC sewed and presented 1,800 Ouch Dudes to the parish health unit, paper goods to the Respite Center, Baby items and money to Faith House, toys to the Gazette/Police Dept annual toy drive; made and delivered lap robes, hand exercisers and bibs to the nursing home, put together 24 hospital bags for Savoy hospital to give to mothers of newborns

Carla Deville – talked about the needs of Faith House. Many families in the parish come to Faith House to escape abuse from other family members. Not only women but also men and elderly people use the services Faith House has to offer. They accept donations of food, clothing, furniture, etc. to help these families get back on their feet. There are several families this year that have not yet been adopted for Christmas through their Adopt-A Family for Christmas Program. Handouts describing needs, etc. were given to group members with a phone number to reach the different branches of Faith House in the area.

Problems needing to be addressed this year are:

Family Development

- Promote Faith House

Advisory members were all given Faith House handouts and were encouraged to spread the word about donating to Faith House.

Family Resource Management

- Lack of Vita sites in Evangeline Parish for income tax preparation.
- Promote on-line resources available through the parish library.

There are several tax credits that people are not aware of when filing their income tax including “Making Work Pay” for new workers, Child Tax Credit, and Earned Income Credit (EIC). Twenty to twenty-five percent of people eligible for the EIC do not apply. If all that were eligible for EIC would take advantage of this credit, it would help the economy in the area. Possible action that can be taken is to get paycheck stuffers out to people to encourage eligible filers to apply for Earned Income Credit. Gloria attempted to get a Vita site in Evangeline Parish this year for tax season though Ville Platte High School but there weren’t enough students in the accounting program. She will attempt to get the IRS to hold an IRS Super Tax Day site on January 14 at the Ville Platte City Hall to help tax payers prepare their taxes.

Nutrition and Health

- continue to promote nutrition and exercise programs.

Jennifer Vidrine offered to include nutrition handouts in the commodity boxes when they are distributed.

Tina announced that a Master Nutrition Program would be conducted in the parish for volunteers wanting to become certified in basic/general nutrition. Must have 7 – 10 people to have the training in the parish. If you or anyone you know is interested, have them contact Tina.

After a brief review of FCS parish needs, the meeting was adjourned.