

## 2006 FCS Advisory Committee

The Jeff Davis Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Committee met on May 2, 2006 at the LSU AgCenter office:

Those in attendance were: Brandi Russell – SWLA Storm Station/UMCOR; Eunice Cligumira – SWLA Storm Station; Cora Mae Vital – Community Volunteer/Welsh; Ronnie Petree – First Guaranty Bank; Margie Doucet – Jennings Housing Authority; Jean Alcock – Diabetes Support Group; Julia Miller – VFC Homemakers/Lake Arthur; Francheska Citizen – CDI – Head Start; Carolyn Fontenot – CDI Head Start; Angie Gary – Lake Charles Region OFS; Coralie Bouley – Jeff Davis Parish OFS; Clifton LeJeune – Jesus Worship Center; Etta Green – Jeff Davis Parish School Board Food Service Dept.; Sylvia Guillotte – VFC Homemakers/Hathaway; Linda Fruge – FNP Nutrition Educator; Patty Vidrine – FCS Agent.

Each participant was given a packet of program information provided by participating members of the committee.

Patty welcomed the group and had everyone introduce themselves by name and who they represented. Each agency/business/organization represented took time to give a little background information on what they did.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify problems that exist within the parish that can be addressed through educational programs.

A summary of FCS programs offered during the prior program year was distributed for members to review.

The meeting was then open for discussion with the following comments from committee members:

**Etta:** Serving sizes is a problem. Not only for students but for teachers as well. Many people either aren't interested in a balanced diet or don't know how to have a balanced diet.

**Angie:** Not enough people are utilizing the earned income tax credit. They can go back as far as three years to claim. Also, people need to take advantage of "Money Smart" classes being offered by the Southwest Literacy Council.

**Ronnie:** Money management should be taught at an earlier age than high school. People are running up credit card bills not realizing how long it takes to pay back, and are damaging their credit history when payments are not made.

**Jean:** The World War II generation was taught the importance of saving because they lived through tough times when lots of things were rationed.

**Clifton:** We live in a second degree world where we accidentally have money leftover. One reason is because we want immediate gratification and there is an "entitlement mentality."

**Coralie:** There are not enough people willing to enter the work force at minimum wage to fill all the positions that local businesses have.

**General:** People need to try to solve their own problems instead of waiting for the government to resolve them. There are a lot of grandparents raising grandchildren because parents either can't or won't take responsibility.

**Clifton:** There is a state funded governor's program on abstinence available to the parishes. But there has been a huge resistance in some places because they don't want to associate with a religion-based program.

**General:** This is supposedly being taught in Jeff Davis Parish by Janet Prather, an R.N.

**Eunice:** There is a great need for resources for those who either did not have insurance or were underinsured after the hurricane. More local volunteers are needed to take applications for the "unmet needs" committee.

**Carolyn:** Suggested that a health fair for kids is needed, possibly in combination with Smart Bodies.

**Sylvia:** Asked committee members if VFC on-site health displays were helpful in getting out information. All committee members with the exception of one hold full-time jobs, so they were not in stores and businesses when the displays were out.

The group was then asked to identify problems and issues they felt could be addressed through educational programs:

**Nutrition and Health:**

- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Portion size – knowing what a serving size is
- Health Fair for kids

**Family Resource Management:**

- Money Smart classes (budgeting, savings, etc.)
- Credit card debt
- Income tax preparation assistance (other than elderly)
- Customer Service training for employees
- Educating people about Earned Income Credit

**Family and Child Development:**

- Character education
- Parenting skills
- Grandparents raising grandchildren

The committee was thanked for their input, and reminded of the upcoming Healthy Lifestyles Seminar to be held in August.

The meeting was adjourned, and concluded with lunch.