



**Jeff Davis LSU AgCenter
Family & Consumer Sciences
2010 Advisory Leadership Council Meeting
Minutes**

The Jeff Davis Parish LSU AgCenter Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Leadership Council met on Tuesday, July, 27, 2010 at the Jeff Davis LSU AgCenter office beginning at 9:00 a.m. Penny Thibodeaux, FCS Extension Agent, welcomed the group and thanked them for their attendance. Introductions were made. Each advisory member was provided the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their work or volunteer experiences in their communities.

Advisory Members in Attendance:

Terri Fontenot – Jeff Davis Head Start, Family Service Department
Sharon Haley – Jeff Davis Head Start, Program Director
Cynthia Arceneaux – Jeff Davis Head Start, Health and Nutrition Manager
Ella Lopez – Family Home Daycare Provider
Cynthia Hoffpauir – Jeff Davis Parish Business Alliance, President
Kenneth Zackary – Tender Love Day Care Center, Owner
Vera Abraham – Title I Program
Cora Mae Vital – Welsh Community Volunteer
Kim Landry – Council on Aging
Angie Gary – Dept. of Children and Family Services (formerly D.S.S.)

LSU AgCenter Personnel Present:

Penny Thibodeaux – FCS Extension Agent, Jeff Davis Parish
Linda Myers – FNP Nutrition Educator, Jeff Davis Parish
Allen Hogan – Parish Chair, Jeff Davis Parish
Adrienne Vidrine – FCS SW Regional Coordinator & FCS Extension Agent,
Acadia Parish
Karen Istre – FCS Secretary, Jeff Davis Parish (noted meeting minutes)

Allen Hogan explained the mission statement of the LSU AgCenter Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

Penny Thibodeaux stated the programming she is assigned to provide is focused in the area of Family and Child Development. She referred to the Annual Report handout that listed different programs provided in Jeff Davis Parish including the FNP nutrition programs that Linda Myers provides and the educational outreach of the VFC – Volunteers for Family and Community organization in partnership with the LSU AgCenter.

Sharon Haley, Terri Fontenot and Cynthia Arceneaux provided an overview of the programs the CDI Headstart in Jeff Davis offers to their students and also the families of their students.

Angie Gary noted that the Dept. of Children and Family Services (formerly D.S.S.) the number of eligible clients including: SNAP (2,113 cases in Jeff Davis Parish), Disaster Food Stamp Program, Child Care Assistance Program, Kinship Care Program (52 cases).

Kim Landry provided an overview of the programs that the Council on Aging has available. (Refer to handout)

Penny reviewed minutes of last meeting.

Cynthia Hoffpauir noted that there is a nationwide concern for childhood obesity. Penny stated that the LSU AgCenter offers programs to help with this problem including Smart Bodies, Organwise Guys, and Body Walk. These are all done through the school system.

Adrienne Vidrine stated that Linda Myers provides programs to help with childhood obesity through Head Start such as adding fruits and veggies to your diet.

Ken Zachary stated that his daycare starts with one year olds for exercise. He walks with them. Then when they are a little older they start an exercise program. His center exercises with the children daily.

Terry Fontenot stated that Head Start provides many healthy programs to the students. She also stated that parent involvement is a big problem that should be addressed.

Vera Abraham stated that a problem she sees is lack of physical activity. A local news program noted that Louisiana was last in laziness.

Ken Zachary stated that people could do a lot of physical activities at home in normal settings such as stretching exercises while cooking or doing dishes.

Kim Landry noted that the Council on Aging has exercise equipment and space available for senior citizens to use Monday-Friday for free.

Cynthia Arceneaux stated that it is important to get the parents involved with healthy eating which would in turn help children to eat healthy.

Sharon Haley stated a major problem is continuous parent involvement. There is a large lack of parent involvement. Also, a lack of male role models and involvement is a big problem.

Vera Abraham thanked Cynthia Hoffpauir for helping to get the Summer Feeding Program support for this year.

Cynthia Hoffpauir noted a big problem was anger management. She stated that many parents abuse or berate their children in public places. It was suggested Parenting Skills be taught with a part of it being on anger management.

Ella Lopez asked if Child Services could make parenting skills mandatory. Angie Gary said it would have to be a law to do this.

Cynthia Arceneaux noted that it is very hard to get parent involvement with their programs at Head Start.

Cora Mae Vital also noted that some children are abusive and angry and hard to handle.

Top 5 Issues Identified in 2010:

1. Childhood Obesity – Start at an early age with nutrition and exercise program
2. Ways to Prevent Laziness – increase physical activity
3. Parental Involvement/Male Involvement
4. Parenting Skills

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

-----End of Meeting Minutes-----