



Jeff Davis Parish FCS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 2008

The Jeff Davis Parish Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the LSU AgCenter office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Patty Vidrine-Daigle welcomed the group and thanked them for coming out in such bad weather to attend the meeting.

Introductions followed. Present were:

Cora Mae Vital, chairperson, Welsh community volunteer

Brenda Moore, Jennings Housing Authority

Angie Gary, Regional OFS Office

Vera Abraham, Parenting Center

Carolyn Fontenot, Head Start

Francheska Citizen, Head Start

Marie Berken, VFC council president-elect, Roanoke

Julia Miller, VFC, Lake Arthur

Linda Patterson, Jennings VFC president

Sylvia Guillotte, regional VFC director, Hathaway

Linda Fruge, FNP Nutrition Educator

Cynthia Richard, Family Resource Management agent, Calcasieu Parish

Carol Sensley, 1890 FCS agent, Calcasieu Parish

Patty Vidrine-Daigle, FCS nutrition agent, Jeff Davis Parish

Each person took a few minutes to share with the committee their work and/or volunteer experiences in their communities.

The three FCS agents and nutrition educator that provide programs for Jeff Davis Parish explained programs that were available.

Patty V. Daigle also shared with the group that she would be officially retiring January 31, and that her position would remain vacant until local funding (parish) was provided from the Jeff Davis Parish police jury and school board. She stated that Jeff Davis and Orleans parishes were the only two parishes in the entire state that have not come up with the 10% funding. Any other positions in the office that should become vacant would be treated in the same way. She asked that committee members contact their school board and police jury representatives and encourage them to review their budgets and dedicate the needed funds for the full staffing of the Jeff Davis AgCenter staff.

Other items discussed were:

OFS Programs:

- VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – grants are available to those who would be willing to work in Jeff Davis Parish
- Earned income credit – over a billion dollars is unclaimed each year
- Individual Development Account – money can be obtained and used for down payment on a house
- Quality Rating System – for daycare centers – provides benefits for centers and parents who utilize these centers.

Head Start:

- Parental involvement is good for special themed activities at Head Start
- Healthy habits are incorporated into children's day at school, such as two nutritious meals and brushing teeth twice while at school
- Old Ward Elementary school has been looked into for relocating Head Start, but there are some problems with wiring that would have to be fixed first.

Jennings Housing Authority:

- Currently 166 apartments at 4 locations in Jennings providing housing for the elderly, non-elderly disabled, non-elderly working, and non elderly unemployed. All must meet income limits.

The group was asked to identify problem areas in Jeff Davis Parish that could be addressed through educational programs.

The top priority decided upon was the need for parenting skills. The committee members stated that many other problems that existed were the result of poor parenting skills.

Other problems selected to work on included nutrition, shopping skills tied into nutrition, housing, budgeting, and litter/recycling.

Patty stated that another committee meeting would be scheduled when the FCS position was filled. The committee meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m. with lunch served to participants.