



Jeff Davis Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Advisory Leadership Council July 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Jeff Davis Parish LSU AgCenter Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Leadership Council met on Thursday, July 9, 2009 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 followed. Each advisory member was provided the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their work or volunteer experiences in their communities.

Advisory Members in attendance:

Cora Mae Vital – Welsh community volunteer
Brenda Moore – Jennings Housing Authority
Linda Patterson – Jeff Davis Volunteers for Family & Community Clubs
Jean Alcock – Diabetes Awareness
Sandy Sudham – Jeff Davis Parish Library
Sylvia Guillotte – Jeff Davis Volunteers for Family & Community Clubs
Coralie Bouley – Jeff Davis Office of Family Support
Peggy Keyes – Jeff Davis Head Start

LSU AgCenter & Southern University Personnel present were:

Penny Thibodeaux – FCS Extension Agent, Jeff Davis Parish
Allen Hogan – Parish Chair, Jeff Davis Parish
Karen Istre - FCS Secretary, Jeff Davis Parish (noted meeting minutes)
Adrienne Vidrine –FCS Regional Coordinator & FCS Extension Agent, Acadia Parish
Cindy Richard – FCS Extension Agent, Calcasieu Parish
Carol Sensley –FCS Extension Agent, Calcasieu Parish

Penny noted that Linda Fruge Myers, FNP Nutrition Educator with the Jeff Davis LSU AgCenter, was unable to attend the advisory meeting today due to a FNP - Family Nutrition Program training.

Penny presented the mission statement of the LSU AgCenter. She explained that even with budget constraints, the LSU AgCenter is dedicated to help the people of Louisiana improve their quality of life.

Mission of the LSU AgCenter:

The mission of the LSU AgCenter is to help the people of Louisiana improve their lives through an educational process which uses research-based knowledge focused on issues and needs.

Penny explained the 3 FCS programming areas of focus for the LSU AgCenter.

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Programming Areas:

- Family & Child Development
- Nutrition & Health
- Family Resource Management (Housing & Finance)

Allen Hogan, Parish Chairman, provided clarification that although Jeff Davis Parish LSU AgCenter may not have a specific agent housed in the Jeff Davis Office to cover all 3 areas of FCS programming, the LSU AgCenter *is* committed to reaching the clientele of Louisiana. Therefore, extension agents in nearby parishes along with Penny Thibodeaux, Jeff Davis FCS Extension Agent and Linda Fruge Myers, FNP Nutrition Educator have been assigned to provide programs to Jeff Davis to provide FCS programs in all 3 FCS focus areas.

To offer further explanation, Allen stated that the LSU AgCenter will still provide help in all areas, not just parenting and childcare because that is Penny's focus. He asked that the group to feel free to bring up issues on all FCS programming areas in today's meeting. The FCS agents in attendance provided a short description on the FCS programs that have been provided to Jeff Davis Parish clientele as well as explain what other FCS programs are available through the LSU AgCenter and Southern University.

LSU AgCenter & Southern University Staff Providing FCS Programming to Jeff Davis Parish:

Name	Title	Program Focus	Office Location
Penny Thibodeaux	Family & Consumer Science (FCS) Extension Agent	Family & Child Development (Parenting, Child Care Provider, etc.)	Jeff Davis Parish
Linda Fruge Myers	Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Nutrition Educator	Nutrition & Health to low-income audiences	Jeff Davis Parish
Cynthia Richard	Family & Consumer Science (FCS) Extension Agent	Family Resource Management (Housing)	Calcasieu Parish
Carol Sensley	Family & Consumer Science (FCS) Extension Agent	Nutrition, Parenting	Calcasieu Parish
Jennifer Battin	Parents Providing for Success Program (PPSP) Parent Educator	Parenting Skills Training - to Office of Family Support (OFS)	St. Landry Parish

Penny provided an explanation of the role of the FCS Advisory Leadership Council.

Role of the FCS Advisory Leadership Council:

- Identify issues of concern for Jeff Davis FCS Programming
- Make suggestions for FCS programs
- Assist in the evaluation of FCS programs
- Serve as an advocate of the LSU AgCenter programs

Next an overview of parish programming was provided.

Overview of Last Year's FCS Programs:

Smart Bodies – Penny spoke about the Smart Bodies program which reaches students K-5th grade with Health & Nutrition education. The program reached 1,300 students in Jeff Davis at Hathaway, Ward Elem, and Welsh Elementary and is supported by the Jeff Davis School Board. Schools that sign up for the Smart Bodies program receive over \$1,200 in free educational materials that are theirs to keep after committing to 12 weeks of Take 10 lessons. Each Take 10 lesson provides 10 minutes of physical activity in addition to the 30 minutes of P.E. per day that children are already required to receive. An example of a Take 10 Lesson is where the classroom teacher leads students in multiplication drills while performing jumping jacks. At the end of the 12 weeks, students are rewarded by walking through a giant body and brain exhibit in their own school for the day. Students are presented a food item and learn how that food (broccoli, fried chicken, etc) affects parts of the body as they move through the Body Walk Exhibit.

FNP Nutrition Programs -- Peggy Keyes , Head Start, shared the FNP nutrition programs that have been provided to Head Start. Brenda Moore added how effective Linda 's FNP nutrition programs have been for the elderly population she serves.

Healthy Lifestyles Seminar – Sylvia Guillotte – gave an explanation on the health screenings provided at the event: blood pressure checks, glaucoma screenings, cholesterol screenings, depression screenings, cardiac screenings, sleep screenings along with others.

Annual Report – Penny provided a copy of the annual report of the Jeff Davis FCS programs which was presented in December 2008 to the Jeff Davis Police Jury and School Board.

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes

Penny provided copies of the minutes from last year's meeting with an overview. She noted that last year's council minutes identified "Parenting" as the one area of FCS programming that was not being reached. Penny pointed out that her responsibility in the area of Family and Child Development will help to meet this concern. One of the areas in which Penny plans to focus is the Child Care Provider program. She explained that these trainings not only help our child care teachers be better prepared to care for young children but in turn assist young children in their development thus helping the children to be better prepared for their future. She also plans to provide programming specifically in Parenting and Child Development.

Identify Issues Effecting Jeff Davis Parish

Next, the advisory members were asked to identify and discuss any issues or items of concern affecting the citizens of Jeff Davis Parish

Jeff Davis FCS Advisory Leadership Council

Top Issues Identified:

1. Lack of Community Centers/After School Programs
2. Need for Family Financial Management/Budgeting
3. Need for Healthy Lifestyles/Diabetes Education
4. Promotional Materials/Awareness of Ag Center Programs & Inquire Regarding Interest in Other Programs

Issue #1 - Lack of Community Centers/After School Programs

Discussion opened with Brenda Moore noting that with low-income families both parents usually work outside the home. She would like to see some programs targeted at children between the ages of 10 – 18. These children are left unattended while parents are at work. She noted that this is a big problem. She would like to see a boys and girls club or some other organization come into the area for after school programs and during the summertime. She finds the parish is lacking in this area.

Coralie Bouley added that most daycare centers will not take part-time kids, meaning school-aged children who are in school during the day and would only need after school care and supervision for a couple of hours.

Carol Sensley offered information on how the community centers in Calcasieu Parish work. The centers are open to kids to do fun activities, etc. and are supported with funding through the city. The community centers are open summers and after school. There are a number of them throughout Calcasieu Parish in various communities.

Allen Hogan noted that Crowley has a community center and Adrienne Vidrine confirmed.

Cora Mae Vital stated that the old Ward Elementary was used for tutoring.

Upon hearing the amount of interest on this issue, Penny offered members the opportunity for further discussion by organizing a subcommittee that focused on addressing the issue of a lack of community centers/after school programs. She noted others in communities who would need to also be invited to such a committee: local government, businesses, churches, potential sources of funding, etc.

ISSUE #2 – Need for Family Financial Management/Budgeting

Sandy Sudham – asked for a Financial Planning class for household budgeting through the library.

ISSUE #3 – Need for Healthy Lifestyles/Diabetes Education

Jean Alcock – stated that she has stopped the diabetes monthly meetings due to a dramatic drop off in attendance.

Peggy Keyes offered a possible explanation for the drop off in participation - maybe part of the reason is because people have access to more information through the internet.

Adrienne Vidrine offered an idea to reach clientele -- provide more concentrated diabetes classes, for example, offer 3 weeks in a row with different speakers for each class. She also noted that perhaps we need to provide more awareness to our doctors on what information the LSU AgCenter has available to assist in diabetes education. If aware, doctors could promote LSU AgCenter diabetes information when they discuss diabetes education to tell clientele .

Jean Alcock suggested having kids tested in schools for diabetes at an early age could also assist in earlier detection.

ISSUE #4 - Promotional Materials/Awareness of Ag Center Programs & Inquire Regarding Interest in Other Programs

Adrienne Vidrine suggested getting the word out about what the LSU AgCenter has to offer through all the organizations represented today to see how we can get clients to attend classes, etc. The question was posed, “How can we get clients aware of all the AgCenter has to offer?”

Sandy Sudham suggested a possible workshop for feeding family and children.

The group concluded that the most relevant issues had been brought to light. More discussion to address the identified issues followed.

Healthy Lifestyles Seminar-- Sylvia suggested setting out health and nutrition information at the event on Smart Choices information and Budgeting. Sylvia also let everyone know that they can bring pamphlets marketing their programs to be handed out at the Lifestyles Seminar on August 5, 2009. Brenda Moore requested 160 flyers for Jennings Housing Authority and Peggy Keyes requested 200 flyers for Head Start.

Holiday Program – Sylvia suggested that diabetes information be included as part of the upcoming Holiday Program. Holly Compton’s name was suggested as possible speaker on diabetes for the Holiday Program.

Adrienne informed the group that if they have any questions to please call the local AgCenter or log onto our informative website for the latest research-based information on just about anything:

www.lsuagcenter.com

Allen followed up by noting that the LSU AgCenter will help in any way that we can.

Cora Mae Vital added that if anyone has information they want to provide to the public, there is a group that meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Welsh.

Penny thanked the advisory members for their time and valuable input. She offered members the chance to share their programming ideas by contacting her here at the Jeff Davis LSU AgCenter at (337) 824-1773 or emailing her at pethibodeaux@agcenter.lsu.edu.

All members present listed their email address on a sheet that was passed around the room. Penny told the members that the minutes would be emailed to them so as to save time and money. Advisory members also passed out their business cards.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

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