

**West Feliciana Parish
Family & Consumer Science Advisory Leadership Council
April 13, 2010**

Members present:

Cynthia Vessell-Whitaker – Head Start Social Services/Health Coordinator
Pam Wall – Social Worker and Mental Health Services Coordinator, Family Service Center
Pamela Bassett, Dietitian at West Feliciana Hospital
Gwen Sellers – Insurance Agent/WTTRW Volunteer
Randy Alvarez – West Feliciana Parks and Recreation Director

LSU AgCenter personnel present:

Mary Jarreau – FNP Nutrition Educator
Valerie Vincent – SE Region FCS Coordinator
Pam Myers – Extension Agent, Nutrition

The meeting began with a welcome by Pam Myers and explanation of the purpose of the advisory leadership council. Committee members introduced themselves and their areas of responsibility and relationship to the AgCenter. AgCenter personnel explained their areas of responsibility and some of the programs conducted in the parish. Ms. Myers explained the staffing situation in the parish for FCS program areas and the way in which the staff works to maintain existing programs even with reductions in staff.

Ms. Myers discussed the role of the advisory council in planning Extension programs. Ms. Myers gave an overview of the funding sources for the Extension Service and discussed some of the budget concerns facing the AgCenter at the state and local level.

During the discussion of possible programming issues in the parish, Pam Wall mentioned that financial literacy is going to be a major emphasis for Head Start for parents in the coming year. There was a suggestion to expand Welcome to the Real World to the high school if that is possible. Pam Bassett suggested the possible of incorporating online lessons into local programming in order to attract people who may have trouble attending a series of classes. There are some educational modules on eXtension.com that might work with programs like Smart Portions. The importance of collaboration between groups working in the same areas was also discussed.