



Livingston Parish FCS Advisory Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 17, 2008

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Livingston Parish Health Unit

Meeting Called to Order: Laura Lea Perault

Facilitator: Natasha Pittman

Minutes Recorded/Prepared: Laura Lea Perault

Members in attendance:

Martha Latimer

Joyce Annison

Terrie Martin

Natasha Pittman

Jinx Berthelot

Mary Broussard

Sharon Martin

Laura Lea Perault

The meeting was opened by Laura Lea Perault who welcomed Council members. Natasha Pittman began introductions and asked each Advisory member to introduce themselves and the agencies in which they represented.

Laura Lea Perault informed members of the roles, structure, and responsibilities of the Advisory Council and the members. The mission and vision of the La Cooperative Extension Service and LSU Ag Center were addressed using a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Understanding Extension".

The following Family & Consumer Science Initiatives were discussed:

1. Family Resource Management
2. Nutrition and Health
3. Family & Child Development
4. Leadership & Volunteer Management

Members of the Council were informed that their names and the minutes of the meeting were going to be posted on the Livingston Parish LCES website. Additionally, members were informed that they were to sign agreement forms on these terms. Members returning signed forms but unable to attend today's meeting due to previous commitments included: Sandra Cavalier (Foster Grandparents); Nelda Graham, Carolyn Carpenter and Connie Arceneaux (LVFC Council); and Tammy Mulhearn (Livingston Parish Library). Advisory Council members were told about the formation of the Parish Overall Advisory Council in 2006 which includes FCS, 4-H and Agriculture Advisory Council members. Those representing the FCS Advisory Council on the Overall Parish Council included: Martha Latimer, Terrie Martin, Mary Broussard, Connie Arceneaux (absent) and Sharon Martin. Martha Latimer currently serves as Chair of the Overall Parish Council for a 2-year term of office ending in 2008.

The LSU Agricultural Center, a statewide of the LSU System, and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, a statewide campus of the Southern University System, provide equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A & M College, Southern University and A & M College, Louisiana parish governing bodies, and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Laura Lea Perault reviewed minutes from the last Advisory Leadership Council. Minutes were approved and there were no corrections to the minutes.

Laura Lea Perault informed members of her programming efforts in the area of Financial Resource Management. She gave a summary of the family and consumer science programs and activities that were conducted in the past year.

Family Resource Management programs being conducted by Laura Lea Perault included "Identity Theft" (which is constantly being updated), "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?", "Protect Your Credit", "Protect Your Privacy", "Clean Up Your Credit", and "Credit Scoring". Other programs offered have included: "Money Matters: Personal Finance for the New Year"; "Year-End Money-Saving Strategies"; "Louisiana Saves"; "The Color of Money", "Financial Fitness", "Small Steps to Health & Wealth", "Financial Records: File or Shred?"; and "Avoiding the Holiday Bill Blues". The High School Financial Planning Program is on-going and was conducted in the community again this summer for teachers - targeting Free Enterprise teachers as well as others: FCS, ROTC, Math, etc... A new program on Money Management for Operation Hope (women in the St. Vincent de Paul Women's Shelter) was conducted this past year to help residents learn financial management in terms of developing a budget, banking basics and credit scoring to prepare them for their return to society. A similar program entitled "Step Out" is ongoing to help formerly incarcerated individuals with the same subject matter as well as work force preparedness to become productive members of society again. These programs are currently serving clientele in Livingston Parish. (Fact Sheets describing FRM Programs were included in each member's packet).

Natasha Pittman updated members on the Family Nutrition Program (FNP), stating the goals of the FNP program in Livingston Parish. The dietary guidelines are the foundation for nutrition education with four core elements forming the basic range of educational categories: Dietary Quality; Shopping Behavior/Food Resource Management; Food Security; and Food Safety.

Family Nutrition programs being conducted by Natasha Pittman include: "My Pyramid", "Dietary Guidelines", "Basic Food Safety", "Smart Choices", "Smart Portions", "Show Me Nutrition", "Parenting for Nutrition & Fitness", "Take Charge of Your Health", "Growing Vegetable Soup", and "OrganWise Guys" (a component of the Smart Bodies Program being conducted in 2 elementary schools in Livingston Parish each year). Smart Bodies is an educational program aimed at preventing childhood obesity. The program targets children in grades K-5 and consists of three components of nutrition and physical activity integrated into core curriculum academics and includes: Louisiana Body Walk; The OrganWise Guys®; and Take10® Classroom Program. A Kid's Cooking School was conducted this summer at the library in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program. It was very successful and well attended. (Fact Sheets describing FNP Programs were included in each member's packet).

Natasha Pittman then gave an overview of the parish situation in relation to the area of Family and Consumer Sciences. Facts about Livingston Parish Families were discussed with emphasis on our environment, our health, our education and our children. The contact forms for the FCS database as well as copies of the Living Well Newsletter were discussed and included in each member's packet.

The meeting was then opened to Council members for group discussion, idea sharing and needs assessment for the 2008-2009 FCS programming year. Group discussion followed with advisory committee members focusing mainly on health and family issues including nutrition, childhood obesity and targeting family debt.

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