



PLN Conference Call Minutes January 6, 2009



Participants: Chris Boleman, Texas; Wanda Burke, Louisiana; Charles Cox, Oklahoma; Janet Fox, Louisiana; Betty Gottler (for Lamar Nichols), Alabama; Paul Henderson, West Virginia; Susie Holder, Mississippi; Ivory Lyles, Arkansas; Thearon McKinney, North Carolina; Darlene Millard, Arkansas; Marilyn Norman, Florida; Kellye Rempert, South Carolina; Bo Ryles, Georgia; Javiette Samuel, Tennessee; Claudette Smith, North Carolina; Marshall Stewart, North Carolina; Barbara Stone, National 4-H Council; Cathy Sutphin, Virginia; Steve Sutphin, Tennessee; Mark Tassin, Louisiana; Dorothy Wilson, Oklahoma

Mark Tassin called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Kellye e-mailed out the October 21, 2008 minutes from Southern Region 4-H Program Leaders Meeting Conference call on October 21. The minutes were also posted on the PLN website. Darlene made a motion that the October minutes be approved. Bo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PLC Update

The 4-H Group is developing a Science, Engineering and Technology Logic Model. Our group is ahead of the curve with the development of this area. The PLN Website has been updated. It's a good tool for information and communication. Each individual needs to visit the website.

Kellye agreed to organize the changes for the website. Rachel Welborn is the contact for the website. Future meeting dates and call in numbers are posted on the website. We also go through Rachel if we have messages to our group. The messages usually take a day or two to get out. Institutions with multiple representatives within a group should have a point of contact.

If we have any changes to the Plan of Work, there is still time but we need to submit the changes as soon as possible.

Mark will be invited to participate in the February 12, 2009 PLC conference call. Kellye will make sure Mark gets the information for the conference call. During the Orlando Meeting, the PLC will be working across disciplines during the time of the meeting. Dorothy Wilson and Kellye will be there at the First Timers Reception.

Three Most Critical Issues to PLC

Charles recommended that the group look at the survey results of the Future Directions NIFA and PLC sent out at the end of last year. Kellye and Dorothy agreed to get this information and share it with the group. Bo mentioned that we had three Mission Mandates that could provide a background for our critical issues. It was shared that all the other PLC groups wanted to work with 4-H. We might want include the state of the economy within our response. Mark will start an e-mail discussion regarding the three most critical issues to PLC. The responses should be sent to Kellye and Dorothy. Dorothy is at home on medical leave. Her cell phone number is 405-470-4911. We need to get the information in by the end of January.

PWG Report

National 4-H Changes

Bo reported on the most recent meeting of the PWG. As of December 8, Suzanne Le Menestrel is Acting Director for Youth Development until April 8. Suzanne, Glenn and Dan described their respective roles and how they differ. Suzanne will be focused on internal management, including the day to day administration of Headquarters as well as helping to provide leadership and direction for 4-H. Glenn will continue to focus on the transition to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture and will still be the point of contact for Shooting Sports. Dan will continue his role as Acting Deputy Administrator for Families, 4-H and Nutrition with oversight for this unit as well as the Natural Resources and Environment Unit.

National 4-H Leadership Annual Meeting

Jonathan provided a report on the National 4-H Leadership Annual meeting. The meeting will be held on April 20-23 in Portland, Oregon, with a possible preconference on the 19th. The PWG will meet from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. plus a working dinner on the day prior to the conference or the preconference, depending on whether a preconference is held. Preliminary plans for the meeting include a discussion about NIFA; a dialogue with foundation directors; and an opportunity to address different topics through breakout discussion groups.

ACTION ITEM: By January 15, please e-mail to Jonathan at JDespain@uwyo.edu priority topics for the breakout discussion groups. These topics can be gathered by asking the following question, "As a state program leader, what would you like to know more about that would help you in your role?"

ACTION ITEM: By January 15, please e-mail to both Suzanne Le Menestrel and Maria Arnold any feedback on the need to hold a preconference orientation or professional development session on the 19th.

The National Institute and 4-H Transition Data Collection

Dan provided an update on the agency's work in transitioning to the National Institute on Food and Agriculture (The National Institute). There is not much visible at this point to share. The following committees have been formed and are working on the transition: Vision Group for NIFA (operating principles); Structure and Functions (what do these look like); Core Group (overall developments and movement of agency to NIFA); Executive Council (supervisors and administrators); and Communications (internal and external communications). There will be a Federal Register noticed posted in early January for public comment on the transition. We are collecting input from internal and external stakeholders. The draft structure will be in place by the end of February. There is an extensive approval process afterwards.

Glenn provided an update on the work of the Extension Directors group. 4-H is moving forward quickly and has the process for gathering input well underway. Glenn noted that 4-H is ahead of the curve in the planning. A request for Tier 3 data collection has gone out. Thanks to State 4-H Program Leaders for sharing their responses to the question from the Director's Group.

ACTION STEP: January 15 is the deadline for TIER 3 data – State 4-H Constituents:

State 4-H Leaders pose the question to their constituencies (mostly staff, but State 4-H Leaders can decide how broadly they cast "the ask" in their states).

Two questions to answer:

1. Give us one idea of the most important thing to you, our organization or institutions in this transition of the 4-H Youth Development Program to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture."
2. What you do feel is the most important consideration as we transition from where we are now to where we are headed?

State 4-H Program Leaders synthesize the data collected within their states and send this synthesis to Bo Ryles no later than January 15, 2009. PWG members then compile and forward to marnold@csress.usda.gov the syntheses reports from states in their region no later than January 22, 2009. Regional summaries will be shared with the PWG.

National Congress Operations Team

Charles reported on the recent National 4-H Congress Design Team meeting. About 18 months ago, Doug Steele approached Council to manage the business side of National 4-H Congress. Don said that they looked at the finances and looked at a draft MOU. They are working on getting an MOU in place where it is doable on the business side. Whether the National 4-H Congress makes a transition to National 4-H Council depends on what they are able to offer. Depending on the direction that National 4-H Council goes, there might not be changes as Arkansas is willing to support the financial management.

Darlene brought up the issue of the National Congress Operations Team Co-Chair. With her retirement in June, Darlene wanted to make sure that National Congress Operations Team is covered. The individual will take one year to learn the procedures and they will be in charge in the future. The person needs to have attended National 4-H Congress. The time commitment is meetings in February and August, conference calls throughout the year, and Congress attendance. The co-chair would work on the logical aspects of the National Congress. The National 4-H Congress Planning Committee will be February 6-8, 2009. Marilyn volunteered to ask Florida's Event Coordinator. Mark will let Darlene and Susan Stewart as to the status of this potential co-chair. Kellye made a motion that Darlene will serve out her tenure in her role for 2009 National 4-H Congress. Charles seconded. Motion carried.

Logic Model Update

Melissa Cater, Chris Boleman and Ed Maxa are representatives of the SET Logic Model. The group is looking at areas of common focus within the SET Mission Mandate. These areas include: Critical Thinking Skills, Teamwork and Problem Solving. The group hasn't pinpointed specifics. Do we need to garner input from other states? Each state has a SET contact so this group that could provide some feedback. Do we need to request SET Plans from other states? The committee needs to look at the SET Plans that have been developed. The common threads from these plans could help focus the SET Plan outcomes. National level is focused on career awareness and aspirations. The final deadline for identifying the common threads is beginning of April 2009. It will be accepted by the August 2009 meeting.

CSREES to NIFA Reorganization Comments

Mark reminded the group of the important of our response. He also encouraged the group to get feedback from stakeholders and faculty members. Mark will send the group Louisiana's response.

IRB Process Utilized by States

Dr. Lyles requested that the IRB Process be added to the agenda via a request from Ron Brown. Each state shared how they utilize the IRB process for mostly program evaluations. The most common response among the states is that they do not go through a formalized IRB process. However, they ask for permission to survey youth through a parent signature on registration forms. If a parent doesn't sign the registration form indicating permission, the youth does not participate in the evaluation. These states include: Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas appear to similar use processes. In Texas, the IRB views evaluations as a means to support program impact which is a necessary to justify our program. It is considered secondary data that is internal. However, when a professional desires to publish their findings, it is required that they go through the IRB process.

National 4-H Council Partner Operations

Barbara Stone provides leadership for the Partners Operations which is focused on raising money and building capacity through partnerships. Their focus is to provide the expertise to support the Mission Mandates. They are starting to build the team around curriculum, professional development and evaluation.

In supporting the Mission Mandates, Science, Engineering and Technology is going well with three new positions through a grant written by Eddie Locklear. This grant will support urban communities and partnerships. An RFP has been released to solicit ideas for the National Science Day Experience.

Danny Perkins (PA) and Sherry Booth (MI) are providing leadership to the Healthy Living Mission Mandate Team.

Dorothy McCargo Freeman (MN) and Gail Long (TX – Prairie View) are providing leadership to the Citizenship Mission Mandate Team.

ACCESS 4-H is rolling out the online enrollment system in early 2009. Sharon Anderson and Barbara Stone will be having conversations across the nation with key individuals to gather information.

State 4-H Program Leaders Meeting

The State Program Leaders Meeting is April 19-23 in Portland, Oregon. Claudette and Darlene are the representatives on the State Program Leaders Conference Planning Committee. The meeting will be at Embassy Suites in Portland. The next planning conference call is January 23. We'll be meeting with the 4-H Foundation Directors. Has any thought been given to the cost and length of the meeting? Some states are going through tough budget times and will need to justify our costs. Darlene agreed to bring up the issue of cost and budgets.

Southern Region Strategic Directions Team

LSU System has a Southern Region Strategic Directions Team account with a balance of \$14,000 that has not been used since 2005. The account was established to support volunteers and 4-H members on regional committees. In looking at spending these funds, some potential areas of support are: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Forum Conference and Congress Design Team. In terms of housing these funds, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Georgia and Arkansas are willing to explore keeping these funds if needed. We might want to discuss whether or not we want to

move it to a state account versus a 4-H Foundation. We need to identify which states have which Southern Region accounts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Submitted by Janet Fox

Southern Region 4-H Program Leader Network Secretary