



## PLN Conference Call Minutes

July 7, 2009

Participants: Charles Cox, Oklahoma; Sonja Davis, Texas; Susan Holder, Mississippi; Thearon McKinney, North Carolina; Suzanne LeMenestrel, National 4-H Headquarters; Marilyn Norman, Florida; Kellye Rembert, South Carolina; Bo Ryles, Georgia; Javiette Samuel, Tennessee; Arch Smith, Georgia; Claudette Smith, North Carolina; Marshall Stewart, North Carolina; Barbara Stone, National 4-H Council; Stephen Sutton, Tennessee; Mark Tassin, Louisiana; Martha Welch, Kentucky; Dorothy Wilson, Oklahoma

**PLC Update** - Dorothy Wilson: early bird registration for PLN in Orlando ended June 30, those who have not registered were encouraged to register as soon as possible. The agenda for the meeting is on the web and any additional comments concerning the meeting in Orlando should be directed to Rachel Welborn. Concerning the meeting in Orlando Marilyn volunteered to send the group ideas for restaurants for the group to eat out. Kellye also reported on information concerning South Carolina's 4-H situation which will impact her ability to participate and serve on PLC in Orlando. Kellye indicated that major changes are underway and South Carolina 4-H will be merging into the youth learning institute. She did not know how that would impact her position, but she will not be available to participate as PLC member in Orlando. The group decided to replace Kellye on PLC for the meeting in Orlando to insure 4-H will have two representatives. After Kellye's situation becomes clearer the group will make a decision on moving forward with PLC committee membership.

**Session at PLN** – Marshall: Talked to colleagues in FCS. Will have session—1 to 1.5 hours; Topics for discussion--a) dialogue with FCS to talk about common themes. (Health, economy, etc.), b) Highlighting of existing collaborations with FCS—examples: obesity camp; c) look specifically at youth health issues—round table discussions; what could we do on state or regional level for multistate projects. Come out with 3-4 action items. These need to be examples of working **together**.

**PWG Update** – Marilyn Norman: She reported that as a member of PWG she will continue to keep the group updated with agendas and reports. PWG has offered a framework for curriculum and distributed copies of job descriptions that Marilyn has forwarded to our group in previous emails. She indicated that it seems as if PWG is a report back to state leaders has involved some dialogue, but not extensive.

**Logic Model** – Mark indicated that Melissa Cater worked with members from the Southern Region to develop a SET logic model. The model is posted on the PLN web site.

**Southern Region Biennial Conference** – Marshall: The dates for the conference are April 27-29 at the Eastern 4-H Conference Center. The discussion for the conference topics including aligning with the three national mission mandates. It was agreed that travel budgets may be tight, but Susan suggested

that the conference offer as many opportunities for presentation and poster sessions to encourage participation. She also suggested a session targeted for retirees to increase participation. Charles indicated that if sessions were tied to existing programs that were grant funded (ie.... OMK, Healthy Living) travel funds from the grants may be applicable to attend the conference.

**PLN Meeting Agenda** Focus Issues survey from Alan Barfield—has been tabulated and was sent out yesterday; Mark will send email correspondence with deadline on volunteering for cross committee sessions.

**National 4-H Council Update**—Barbara Stone; closed out year. Youth Conference Center is doing very well thanks in large part to programs such as CWF; biggest clients continue to come; developing a 50 year master plan; National 4-H Supply is hurting some. Corporate givers have hurt some but many are committed to give. Looking at tough times in the next year. We are being careful with cash management. Working with National 4-H Headquarters on MOU. SET—\$2.9 million; attracting new people through Ag Summit—Animal Science chaired by Bob Horton; will seek funders; ACCESS—on-line enrollment; on track to bring in 16 states in November Larry Divan is leading team; Madeline hired for other functions of ACCESS. National 4-H Science Experiment winner was Wisconsin with the entry of “Bio Fuels Blast.” Bo—trustee perspective—1) Council’s investments are down and lost some major donors; were looking for 12% growth but didn’t reach it. However did have growth. Fair Share program has been discontinued at least for now. Preliminary plans are being put together for a National 4-H Gala around earth day for a major fundraiser somewhere in Washington. ACCESS enrollment—which states in south are part of this? OR, KS, NE; several states are in testing stage—Northeast and west; can work with states ; will bring other states on in September. Hope states with own system will batch their data in so they can take advantage of the broader system. Ask Barbara to have someone to come to PLN to talk more about ACCESS and the enrollment portion. Wondering how ACCESS will make ES237 easier. Not trying to replace state systems but would like to be able to have real time access to data across the country, especially in working with partners/funders.

**National 4-H Headquarters Update** –Suzanne; National Institute—met with Dan Kugler; NIFA will begin on October 1 replacing CSREES but changes will mostly occur after January 1. New undersecretary is just now getting briefed. He doesn’t know anything about Extension. Cathann’s position has been advertised although title doesn’t sound like it. Suzanne encouraged everyone to recruit and submit candidates for this important position. Currently recruiting for 2 new specialists—both military related, one to work with department of defense and one to work with OMK; they have advertised for a new national program leader for CYFAR; New Grants available: CYFAR, July 27, Military—July 30; water quality—July 15; Glen Applebee is appointed until the end of September and he continues to work on National events and looking at the National Curriculum structure: Suzanne will be in Orlando—Aug 27 with update from National 4-H Headquarters.

**Trustees**—Bo’s retirement will be affective Aug 1. State Leaders from across nation will need to appoint a new state 4-H leader to this group to replace Bo. Consider one from south.

Planning committee member for State Program Leaders meeting in Washington DC; need two committee members: Mark and Claudette.

**National 4-H Shooting Sports Steering Committee** – Susan; as of January, asked to regroup—Susan is co-chair w Dr. Kuhn in Michigan; large project area but can have risks; has national committee—Rick Willey from South Carolina is part of the committee; The committee has established three working groups, 1. Professional improvement, 2. Quality assurance (standards), 3. National invitational event (1250 at national banquet) Susan requested assistance with 3 items, the first was that all state leaders and shooting sports contacts complete survey on survey monkey concerning the program. The second item was for a state(s) to volunteer to host training workshop—to host regional or national training. The third item has been resolved for the next two years with Texas being awarded the host for the National Shooting Sports Invitational at Kerville Texas.

**PLN meeting Orlando Florida** – August 24 – 27; Mark will give leadership with input from all members of the group to develop the agenda.

Marilyn—sent a request via email for faculty volunteers to serve as reviewers of promotion packets; she is willing to share. Marilyn will re-send to state leaders.