

## Southern Region FCS Extension Program Leaders Conference Call

May 17, 2012

**Attending:** Evelyn Crayton (AL), Anne Sortor (AR), Elizabeth Bolton (FL), Elizabeth Andress (GA), Laura Stephenson (KY), Ann Vail (KY), Jorge Atilas (OK), Susan Barefoot (SC), Shirley Hastings (TN), Carol Rice (TX), Pete Gibbs (TX), Jacquelyn White (TX), Brian Calhoun (VA), Krystal Smith (WVA), Lisa Lauxman (USDA/NIFA), Bonita Williams (USDA/NIFA), Brent Elrod (USDA/NIFA), Carolyn Nobles (TX)

**Meeting was called to order** at 10 am and members welcomed by chair, Jorge Atilas

Minutes were sent via email and were amended to include the attendees. Next meeting, upon review of members, action will be taken on the minutes.

**Conversation with NIFA's Staff: CYFAR Q&A**, Lisa Lauxman and Bonita Williams, USDA

**Question:** *CYFAR conference has changed directions and/or been eliminated. Share the current philosophy behind the professional development for CYFAR?*

**Answer:** Funding for CYFAR comes from Smith Lever D Funds. In fall 2009 the CYFAR funds became a competitive funding stream. Previous to 2009 funding had been awarded to two institutions (Cornell and Florida) to coordinate the conference. The conferences were not part of the competitive funding RFA. To further complicate the situation continuing resolutions impacted the funding cycles (prorated amount of funds that were available). \$8.3 million was at first appropriated for CYFAR and then dipped to \$7.1 million. That decrease impacted the ability to conference and opened the opportunity to partner with DOD last year. Due to the funding priorities, this year the decision was made to offer a grantee's conference specific to evaluation rather than a large scale conference as in the past.

There is Professional Technical Liaison support built into the budget for four years (eight positions initially and has dropped to 6 currently due to retirements/positions changing).

**Question:** *Was there any funding left at the two institutions to continue conferences on a smaller scale?*

**Answer:** The program funding dollars are still in discussion and until that is resolved Program leaders cannot discuss this issue.

**Question:** *Why was the decision made to decrease funding for conferences versus CYFAR community based projects?*

**Answer:** Due to scrutiny regarding the GSA issue there are more internal limitations on spending federal dollars for conferences. These limitations have made it more feasible to focus on technical assistance and grantees' workshops rather than the larger conferences of the past. The Federal Program Leaders are exploring alternative ways to provide training and professional development that expend less money than conferences.

Suggestion from group:

1. Incorporate more messaging to states for opportunities that share the CYFAR outcomes. This is especially important to continue to grow and sustain the opportunity for volunteer and community based partners to interface and exchange ideas/best practices.
2. Galaxy conference could be an opportunity to tag along with other programs already in place to share CYFAR.

**Question:** *Current funded proposals appeared to primarily be 4H/Youth Development programs to the exclusion of other program areas, will there be opportunities for FCS in the future?*

**Answer:** With the collapsing of programs/units in states the names could be misleading. RFA specifically suggested a broad based background of the PI. Public information that indicates PI backgrounds of funded proposals may not accurately reflect the Co-pi's background/information.

Suggestion from group: To show the array of Co-Pi's so that backgrounds and partnerships are publically available.

**1862 Advisor update, Millie Ferrer-Chancy**

ASRED and SAAESD will be hosting a grantsmanship workshop this fall during the last week in November at an Atlanta airport hotel. This workshop will be focused on writing large integrated multi-institutional grant proposals, team building and integration. The selection process will focus on participants chosen from faculty groups who already have a history of working together.

We think the following criteria will be used for selecting groups:

1. Readily identifiable group of faculty working together on a focused issue(s) for more than one year
2. Faculty from multiple institutions and disciplines/specialties
3. Appropriate balance of research-focused and extension-focused faculty
4. Group work objective(s) that are appropriate for a large integrated multi-institutional grant
5. Group interested in participating in a grantsmanship workshop to assist them in forming and
6. integrated team and developing a large integrated multi-institutional grant proposal

If anyone is interested they need to speak to their Extension Director.

**PLC Representatives update:** Anne Sortor (1862): The PLC Representatives are continuing to meet as a Program Leadership Network. The draft agenda for the Southern Region PLN meeting is available. There are excellent speakers, cross committee sessions, panel discussions and mini sessions planned on a wide array of relevant topics. There was a change in leadership: The vice chair moved up and L. Rainey has moved to Vice Chair position.

**eXtension FCS Module Development update:** Jacquelyn White (no new progress to report)

**Expansion Food Safety/ServSafe Survey:** Elizabeth Andress (UGA)

1. Elizabeth has contacted Jenna Anding in TX and Laura Stephenson in KY for ideas on what info we might collect beyond ServSafe, especially since KY doesn't do ServSafe. And she will try a couple of other states to see what kind of info they have access to for their food safety programs.

2. Beverly Samuel is the NPL contact for a **national survey** USDA asked Dr. Andress to do. The Goal of this survey is to describe how states are staffed to carry out programming for very small food business entrepreneurs and home food preservers, and to discern any interest in/use of a continued National Center resource.

3. Please be on alert to be watching in the next couple of weeks for a national survey on food preservation that USDA-NIFA will conduct. There will be 3 different forms of the survey:

- a. State Ext Directors and Administrators (a short one)
- b. State Program Leaders (also short)
- c. One for state specialists and county agents/educators with more questions about how food preservation and food entrepreneur programming and outreach is being carried out.

***Multistate proposals update:***

Shirley Hastings (TN) – Reported that one joint proposal has been developed with interdisciplinary and multi-state program team related to childhood obesity targeting family’s food preparation and meal planning skill-building through a multi-faceted educational curriculum package.

Pete Gibbs (TX) – Reported that Rick Peterson, Family Resource Management Specialist, is leading a multi-state families and disabilities proposal related to agrability.

Jorge asked that each state be prepared to bring a list of multi-state proposals to share/collate at the PLN meeting.

***To Do List, All***

**1. Agenda Items for SR PLN Annual Conference.**

*FCS Programmatic Meetings at the PLN Conference:*

Full agenda at: <http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/12pln/plnagenda2012.pdf>

**Ideas for agenda items are listed in bulleted list in another color font**

*Monday, August 20*

5:00 pm Newcomer orientation (new FCS state program leaders should attend)

*Tuesday, August 21*

8:00-Noon General session, break, success stories, social media break-out sessions.

1:30-3:00 pm FCS Program Committee Meeting with Administrative Advisors

**1. Welcome & introductions, all 13 states**

**2. Divide up FCS representation at each of the cross-committees and decide on major questions from FCS perspective on each.**

3:30–5:00 pm Cross-committee Meetings with Administrative Advisors **(Need FCS volunteers for each)**

- Budget in Cooperative Extension Services (CES)
- Cooperative Extension Agent Recruitment, Training, and Retention
- Climate Variability

- Food Systems
- Job Skills Training and Education
- Measuring and Reporting Impacts, Relevance, and Value
- Military Families
- Obesity

Evening States night out

*Wednesday, August 22*

8:00-Noon FCS Program Committee Meeting w/o Administrative Advisors

- 1. FCS Cross Committee Reps report out**
- 2. Review Plan of Work and create, adopt a new one**
- 3. Multistate grant and program efforts**
- 4. Other**

1:30-3:00 pm FCS Program Committee Meeting w/o Administrative Advisors

- 1. Discuss information and action items due at 3:00 pm**

3:30-5:00 pm FCS Program Committee Meeting with Administrative Advisors

Evening FCS Program Committee Night Out; **Where to go? Suggestions**

*Thursday, August 23*

8:00-Noon FCS Program Committee Meeting w/o Administrative Advisors

- 1. Other agenda items**

FCS Program Committee Adjourns

- 2. Continue progress on plan of work:** [http://srpln.msstate.edu/fcs/fcs\\_pow\\_2011.pdf](http://srpln.msstate.edu/fcs/fcs_pow_2011.pdf)

We need to complete a webinar on SNAP ed questions to be facilitated by Shirley Hastings before August.

- 3. State FY 12 Annual program reports due July 15, 2012.** Please complete using the template at our webpage: <http://srpln.msstate.edu/fcs/index.html>

- 4. Accomplishment report:** We will only report against our plan of work. Jorge will have a report of progress ready for our approval.

- 5. Need nominations for:** Vice-President (1 year), Secretary (1 year) and 1890 PLC representative (2 years)

Krystal Smith nominated Chris Grimes (KY) for the 1890 PLC Representative. Laura Stephenson will follow-up with Chris.

***Dates to Remember:***

**2012 Joint Meeting #cesvalue: Advancing Cooperative Extension's Mission** August 20-24, 2012, Orlando, Florida. <http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/12pln/info.html> Early bird ends July 15.

**NEAFCS Annual Session.** Columbus, Ohio September 24-28, 2012.

<http://www.neafcs.org/content.asp?pageID=1778>

**Updates:**

Congratulations to Evelyn Crayton and the new “graduates” of the Extension Dietetics Program

Thelma Sanders- Hunter is retiring. Ellen Murphy retired. Nayda Torres retiring August 1. Retirement gifts have/will be sent to them on our behalf. The Caring Hands fund is still in Texas (the plans to transfer the fund to Mississippi did not reach fruition).

Meeting adjourned at 11 am ET.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Stephenson, Secretary