

*SOUTHERN REGION FCS PROGRAM LEADERS NETWORK (PLN)  
NIFA HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, DC and CONFERENCE  
CALL*

February 23, 2010  
1:30 pm

**Attendees:** **Ellen Murphy** (LSU Ag Center), **Kasundra Cyrus** (Southern University), **Monica A. Fields** (South Carolina State University), **Carolyn Nobles** (Prairie View A&M University), **Jorge Atilés** (University of Georgia), **Evelyn Crayton** (Auburn University), **Bonnie McGee** (Texas AgriLife Extension), **Krystal Smith** (West Virginia State University), **Laura Stephenson** (University of Kentucky), **Marshall Stewart** (North Carolina State University), **Nayda Torres** (University of Florida), **Caroline Crocoll**, (NIFA), **Aida Balsano** (NIFA)

**Greetings/Introductions:** A welcome was extended to the group by Ellen Murphy, Chairperson of the Southern Region Family and Consumer Sciences Program Leaders Network and participant introductions were made.

**Roll Call:** The roll was called by Monica A. Fields, Secretary of the Southern Region Program Leaders Network.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

**CECP (I Learn) Module Development:** Jorge Atilés reported:

- Carolyn Nobles is taking responsibility for the module development.
- The module has transitioned from CECP to eXtension. The CECP site has closed.
- Modules will be published and launched under professional development. All approved modules have been moved to eXtension.

**Dietetic Internship:** Evelyn Crayton reported:

- A retired United States Air Force Major from Texas will assist with the self-study for the dietetic internship.
- The American Dietetic Association is estimating that 100 extension professionals could be licensed within two years. There is a particular need for Hispanic and African-American registered dietitians.
- Caroline Crocoll recommended an intern from Tuskegee University, Amanda Ewing, to assist with the coordination of meetings.

**Ellen Murphy** reported that she has entered into a transitional retirement program but will continue her role as FCS State Program Leader part-time for the next 2 years. She will continue to provide leadership for the Southern Region FCS Program Leaders through the end of her term in August, 2010.

**Update on NIFA:** Dan Kugler reported:

- The current structure of NIFA is being reviewed and will be reformatted.
- The director of NIFA is now a political appointee.
- There is a greater scale for research projects and more money available for projects that focus on solving societal problems.
- There will be a RFA for integrated projects in each of the five priority areas. The sixth RFA will be for science areas that are not covered by the five priority areas. The seventh RFA will include NIFA fellowships for graduate and postgraduate students.

Lisa Lauxman reported:

- There was a significant increase in the number of capacity building grants submitted this year.

**FCS Stakeholder Input and Strategic Planning Session:** Caroline Crocoll reported:

- Family and Consumer Sciences is the integrative, multidisciplinary field of science that studies relationships among humans and their environments to foster quality of life, strengthen communities, and achieve a healthy and sustainable world.
- A tagline has been developed, “Advancing the Human Dimensions of Food and Agriculture”.
- The vision is: “Breakthroughs are made in the human dimensions of food and agriculture because of Family and Consumer Sciences”.
- The mission is: “To focus on the human dimensions of food and agriculture in addressing priority issues through scientific research and its application; strategic partnerships; Extension education; and the preparation of the next generation of human sciences professionals.
- Develop a business case for Family and Consumer Sciences, be strategic about partnerships, build capacity while embracing paradigm shift, and identify the human dimension in the five priority areas.
- A MOU is being developed with the Department of Education because Agriculture Secretary Vilsack wants to include an education component with the more than nine million meals that are served by USDA.

**Military Partnerships:** Brent Elrod reported:

- There is a new transitional program for family caregivers of wounded soldiers.
- Because of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, there is potential for program development within the extension system.
- NIFA, Military Families, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and land grant universities have entered into five-year Interagency Service Support Agreements (ISSAs) to provide military family support under a variety of structures.

**Nutrition and Obesity Competitive Grants:** Etta Saltos reported:

- First Lady Obama’s Let’s Move campaign brings the issue of childhood obesity to the forefront of public discussion. The campaign seeks to influence lifelong eating habits and improve health, not just weight.

- No less than 30% of AFRI authorization funds will be made available for integrated projects.
- Grants will be larger, up to 25 million, and longer, up to five years. A RFA will be released around March 20, 2010 and the proposal will be due within six to eight weeks. A webinar will also be held.

**EFNEP & SNAP-Ed Update:** Helen Chipman reported:

- A report about shared results from EFNEP and SNAP-Ed will be released in March.
- Clemson University was awarded the contract to develop a web-based reporting system for EFNEP.
- An EFNEP Webinar was held for new staff and mentors are being assigned for new EFNEP coordinators.

February 24, 2010  
8:30 am

**Attendees:** **Ellen Murphy** (LSU Ag Center), **Kasundra Cyrus** (Southern University), **Monica A. Fields** (South Carolina State University), **Evelyn Crayton** (Auburn University), **Gina Eubanks** (Southern University), **Millie Ferrer-Chancy** (University of Florida), **Bonnie McGee** (Texas AgriLife Extension), **Anne Sortor** (University of Arkansas), **Laura Stephenson** (University of Kentucky), **Marshall Stewart** (North Carolina State University), **Nayda Torres** (University of Florida), **Caroline Crocoll**, (NIFA), **Aida Balsano** (NIFA)

**Ellen Murphy** reported:

- It was discussed that the FCS program leaders collaborate with the 4-H, Technology, and Middle Management committees. The Plan of Work needs to be updated to reflect these collaborations.
- FCS will revise their plan of work and list cross committee issues such as the Extension educational healthcare system and electronic medical records. The Health Disparities conference will be included on the Plan of Work.
- The technology committee has sent a letter requesting to work with FCS and a representative will be on the next conference call.
- A possible training for all FCS agents in the southern region is being explored by Kasundra Cyrus (Chairperson), Bonnie McGee, Bobbie Clark, and Laura Stephenson.

**Administrative Advisor's Report:** Millie Ferrer-Chancy reported:

- ECOP is working with Cornerstone to increase 2011 Extension funding.
- Each administrator has been asked to complete a one-page template about the value and benefit of programs, program highlights, and how federal dollars are leveraged with state and county dollars.
- Extension priorities should be identified and the most critical needs should be immediately addressed by NIFA.

**Gina Eubanks** reported:

- Nominations should be submitted for Extension Excellence awards.
- An 1890 AEA Winter meeting was held in Savannah, Ga. Many 1890 institutions submitted capacity building grants.
- Prairie View A&M University is submitting a CoP for Teen Leadership and a grantsmanship webinar was held. Selected participants will travel to Atlanta with a concept paper that will be developed during the training sessions.

**Remarks and Discussion:** Caroline Crocoll reported:

- National program leaders will be reassigned to the institutes. The competitive grants program will no longer exist as is.
- AFRI grants will be released in mid-March.
- The Southern Region has been asked to compile a list of the strengths and gaps in each state.

**CoP Updates:** Carolyn Dunn reported:

- The Families, Food, and Fitness CoP has about 300 followers on Facebook and Twitter.
- There is an interactive Beverage and Fast Food Nutrients Guide. Nutrients are coordinated with fitness activities. There is a nutrition facts label, spice guide, and specific foods for holidays such as chocolate candy for Valentine's Day.
- There are special resources for military families. Leslie Sansome will be contacted about exercise videos. Videos should be culturally specific.

**Karen Gehrt** mailed her report about the Horrible House of Germs Food Safety CoP.

**Evelyn Crayton** reported:

- The budget has been submitted and the full proposal will include five states and six universities.
- The CoP will be presented at the Priester National Extension Health Conference.
- Evelyn and Marshall Stewart will serve as reviewers for the training proposals.

**Health Initiatives, Competitive Grants, Priester Conference:** Shirley Gerrior reported:

- An interagency task force will host a webinar for the 1994 tribal colleges about health. Plans are being finalized for the Priester National Extension Health Conference.
- A new partnership has been formed with the American College of Sports Medicine. A fitness index has been developed that includes a community action guide for activities such as walking in the grocery store.
- There are funding opportunities for Rural Health and Safety Education. A RFP will be released on April 1, 2010 with a deadline of June 1, 2010. A diabetes CoP is being developed.

**National Integrated Food Safety Initiative:** Jodi Williams reported:

- Projects submitted to the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative must integrate Research, Education, and Extension. The educational component has to take place in a formal classroom setting and include an evaluation component.
- Priority areas include food safety education and training, fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables, and new food processing technologies.
- There is one million dollars available for grants about fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables and two million dollars available to study antibiotic resistance.

The Southern Obesity Summit will be held in Atlanta, GA on September 12 - 14, 2010. The National Caregivers Conference will be held in Nashville, TN on September 29 - October 1, 2010.

**Submitted By: Monica A. Fields**

Senior Extension Director, Family Life Programs  
South Carolina State University