

*SOUTHERN REGION FCS PROGRAM LEADERS NETWORK (PLN)
CONFERENCE CALL*

October 23, 2009
8:30 am, CST

Attendees: **Ellen Murphy** (LSU Ag Center), **Monica A. Fields** (South Carolina State University), **Carolyn Nobles** (Prairie View A&M University), **Jorge Atilas** (University of Georgia), **Gina Eubanks** (Southern University), **Vivian Fluellen** (Fort Valley State University), **Lue Jolly** (Florida A&M University), **Jenna Anding** (Texas AgriLife Extension), **Thelma Sanders-Hunter** (Tennessee State University), **Easter Tucker** (University of Arkansas), **Laura Stephenson** (University of Kentucky), **Nayda Torres** (University of Florida), **Dorothy Wilson** (Langston University)

Welcome: A welcome was extended to the group by Ellen Murphy, Chairperson of the Southern Region Family and Consumer Sciences Program Leaders Network.

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.

Advisor's Report: Gina Eubanks reported:

- She has been selected as the 1890 representative to the Board on Agriculture Assembly.
- A joint meeting was held during the ECOP meeting with Dr. Roger Beachy from NIFA. Research will be driving the agenda and the lay public needs to understand how research will benefit them.
- Dr. Beachy discussed the four institutes: Food Production and Sustainability; Bioenergy, Climate, and the Environment; Food Safety and Nutrition; and Youth and Community Development.
- The 1890 Association of Extension Administrators will partner with EDEN and conduct trainings. The winter meeting will be held in Savannah, Ga.
- Capacity building grants are great opportunities for 1890 and 1862 schools to collaborate.

ECOP Meeting: Jorge Atilas reported:

- The Board on Human Sciences will seek clarification about including family in the name of the fourth institute.
- Dr. Beachy will be meeting with BoHS members at the APLU conference. He will also be asking for recommendations for a director of the fourth institute. Mary McPhail Gray is a good candidate for that position.
- The BoHS will elect the new liaison from the Southern Region.

SNAP-Ed Assessment

- The directors voted down the assessment, they want to grow state resources.
- Linda Kay Benning is conducting a system-wide survey to identify what directors can do to grow SNAP-Ed. Shirley Hastings is the representative from the Southern Region.

Future Conference Call Dates, Spring Meeting

- A meeting wizard will be sent to decide if the conference calls will be on Thursdays or Fridays.
- A spring meeting is possible during the Priester National Extension Health Conference.
- A spring meeting may also be held when the Board on Human Sciences meets in February. Caroline Crocoll will be asked to host the Southern Region PLN.

Cross Committee Issues

- Healthcare Extension Initiative
- CoP for Community Health
- Electronic Medical Records with an Education Component
- Mississippi and Alabama are taking the lead on CoP for Community Health.

Ellen Murphy suggested that we use high-tech methods for communication such as webinars and Wiki. The IT committee could partner with FCS for this component.

NIFA Update: Caroline Crocoll reported:

- There has been lots of conversation since the 2008 Farm Bill about transferring to NIFA.
- There will be major policy decisions involving science.
- There will be more resources for NIFA. The status of NIH will be elevated while growing REE functions.
- A Center for Human Sciences is being proposed.

Q. Will there be a change in the national program leadership?

A. There is a national program leader for Child and Adolescent Development. They are interviewing for a 4-H and Youth Development Director and are close to hiring someone for CYFAR. There will be a growth in military positions.

Q. Is extension experience requested?

A. Yes, Human Resources assesses the applications and then they are forwarded to the next level. Sometimes, applicants with extension experience do not make it to the next level.

Q. How likely is it that someone from FCS will be selected as the director of the Youth and Community Development Institute since family is not included the title?

A. There are still some senior executive deputy directors that need to be placed. We need to be purposeful with the planning and recommendations for that position.

Southern Obesity Summit: Carolyn Nobles reported:

- The Southern Obesity Conference addressed current issues in obesity and strategic planning and education with communities.
- Public health officials look to a medical model but personnel is needed on the ground to implement these intervention strategies.
- The next conference will be held in Atlanta, Ga.

FCS Administrator's Meeting, NEAFCS: The Extension Dietetic Internship proposal was presented at the NEAFCS and received great support.

The PLC representatives are Kasundra Cyrus and Shirley Hastings.

Bonnie McGee will be sending out invoices for Caring Hands after the holidays. Please notify Bonnie about items that need to be addressed by the Caring Hands fund.

Appreciation was extended by Thelma Sanders-Hunter for expressions of caring and sympathy.

Please send state reports to Ellen or Rachel to upload on the website. A reminder was requested and the link will be sent.

Submitted By: Monica A. Fields
Senior Extension Director, Family Life Programs
South Carolina State University