

May 15-16, 2008
Southern Region FCS Program Leaders
Spring Meeting
Franklin, TN

Wednesday – May 15, 2008

Opening remarks by Shirley Hastings – Chair. Items distributed were the agenda, map of restaurants, brochure on Tennessee, and minutes of the April 24th conference call. It was suggested that during future conference calls, that we mute the cell and/or office phone. There was challenge during the April conference call due to various distractions. In attendance were: Evelyn Crayton, Laura, Anne Sorter, Irene K. Lee, Katherine L. Cason, Joanne Bankston, Glenn Muske, Judy Harrison, Kyrstal Smith, Thelma Sanders-Hunter, Ellen Murphy, and Beverly Howell.

Overview of the agenda and items to add Action Plan for the August meeting. Minutes were approved with corrections by Shirley Hastings and seconded by Krystal Smith. Introductions were given by attendees. Beverly Howell announced her retirement effective June 30, 2008. They will do a national search to fill her vacancy.

SH serves as FCS Program Leaders representative on the PDT associated with the FSNE program. Helen wants questions from the group and how can they better communicate the FSNE and EFNEP program. Plans are to set up a breeze conference. Another opportunity to discuss these items will take place during the Galaxy Conference – National PL session.

- 1. Maximus an organization that works with states to help generate the match for FSNE. They do all the work with the county staff and the charge is extensive. However, they generate several dollars. Mississippi received approval to allow the agency to generate the match and be paid. Beverly shared that for their \$30,000 that they guaranteed over half million in match for the state. Can contact Janet Luplow or Richelle Jimenez 989-684-4111 for more information. This is an expense that can be built into the grant.**
- 2. Communication that when you invoice FNS you must show the match (in the Dallas Region).**
- 3. There is a discussion as to where there is serious lack of consistency among the regions regarding FSNE policies and guidelines. The cycle continues with inconsistent interpretations.**
- 4. Resistance among states paying the assessment for that position. What are the states getting for the assessment?**

Presentation by NASAA. Examples of Outreach Initiatives by Dan Lord and NASAA Perspective for Investor Education Partnership Possibilities by Attorney Daphne Smith. Interesting information was shared verbally and through printed materials.

Judy Warren joined us by conference call.

Obesity Health & Wellness Community of Practice.

Beverly Howell – Accomplishments: April 10, 2008 named community of practice with e-Xtension. Issue was raised on how to 2008 COP national meeting in Kentucky – June.

Leadership Team meeting is in Washington, May 24-27. Working with University of Nebraska concerning funding, once funded they will hire a Ph.D. student. Next steps mentioned by Shirley were to recruit faculty/staff to joining the community of practice by accessing it on the e-Xtension web site. Suggested that persons be signed up before the June web conference.

Discussion was raised by Glenn on recognition of faculty's efforts in working on the Community of Practice. Also brought up by Thelma was the awareness that once a person replied to the FAQs another person could go into that site and include their answer also. She indicated that she would bring it the group's attention at the Kentucky meeting. Glenn asked if faculty members could serve in a support/mentor/shadowing experience to learn and strengthen the committee. Another possibility would be for faculty to serve as reviewers. Ann asked if the people listed on the COP web-site that they had satisfied their responsibilities.

Galaxy Committee Planning Report

Topics for the fall meeting during Galaxy and plans to get a survey monkey for topics. e-Xtension COP on Care giving, how do we consolidate Extension meetings to conserve travel, assessment, communicating program effectiveness to legislators, succession planning for new FCS state leaders, and Board on Human Sciences update? May have to have an independent registration for participants for the Program Leaders meeting since we cannot use the registration form to indicate who will be attending. FCS Program Leaders scheduled for Sept. 17 all day and morning of Sept 18th. Hopefully, we will receive information from Cynthia with more details for the Program Leaders meeting. What is the role of the National Program Leader? We used to receive trends/directional kinds of things from the program leaders but we do not get that anymore. Given that we have had significant turnover at the national level and in the state, what is the role of the NPL. Beverly mentioned that in the past there were national workshops for specialists that were very beneficial.

The new farm bill that was passed has an implication for food stamp dollars. They are moving away from the paper food stamp dollars to the electronic card. Shirley shared.

Anne asked about advocacy groups to speak up for FCS when budget challenges arise. Laura said that we need to develop and cultivate that need.

Ellen asked about the America on the Move data base that some states are paying. Dr. Hale joined us via conference call. Concerned about the COP and look forward to how that is progressing and Directors are depending on FCS providing the leadership. Also what can be done to support this effort? New Volunteer COP about child care providers was announced on May 14, 2008. Farm Bill alluded to a proposed reorganization of the CSREES structure. Directors interested at learning how this will impact Extension.

Krystal distributed West Virginia state University Extension Matters magazine and us that their communications department recently received the 2008 Gold Winner Award from the Hermes Creative Awards International Competition for Creative Professionals writing and design at emerging media.

May 16, 2008

CECP update: an e-mail message was sent to the contact persons for the modules with a May 15th deadline. A Disaster module is being developed. Bobby Clark working on the Health Module. Get copy from Judy to attach to the minutes. Ellen asked how many had used the modules; Shirley mentioned that she had used the Dietary Guidelines module for training new agents. Glenn shared that they have developed modules to address core competencies.

2008 Joint Meeting – Thelma Sanders-Hunter

During a recent PLN conference call, they agreed on the gentleman from Illinois for the August meeting. Recommended wearing your walking shoes due to the facility being spread out. They discussed the initiative of Obesity and Health and their support.

Structure for PLN

Concern that people come together and have no clue of their expectation and understanding of the PLN process. Therefore, a detailed orientation for new staff and directors/administrators is being planned to address this concern.

Shirley mentioned the survey from Marilyn Corbin, about communication regarding FSNE, she encouraged all to complete the survey. Glenn suggested that we send her an e-mail referencing our meeting here and would complete the survey on returning to the office on Monday. She also mentioned the new Grants.gov process to access EFNEP funds. There is background conversation about doing site visits for FNS from CSREES. The intended purpose for the site visit is for program improvement and mentoring.

Shirley distributed a copy of the Agenda for the 2008 Joint Meeting, the over riding topic of the meeting is Health. An earlier meeting with FCS and 4-H regarding the obesity initiative took place at a joint meeting. A discussion about the Plan of Action that included 4-H and FCS worked on that was developed several years ago. Should we continue to pursue the partnership with 4-H or seek additional disciplines to work with FCS on this initiative, possibly Community and Economic Development.

Shirley asked for agenda items for the FCS session at the joint meeting. Discussion topics were: successful models for programmatic efforts were mentioned by Ellen; fee based program strategies; what is our role in working with potential donors? What is our role in health disparities. Drafting of the Plan of Action items that must be submitted to the Administrators/Directors during the joint meeting.

Judy Warren joined us again. Summary provided indicated that out of 25 programs shared 15 had evaluations that showed impact. Need to work at what we can do across the region to support agents and other staff – a systematic approach. Informed us of the Southern Obesity Summit – Birmingham, AL. Sept. 7-9, 2008. How can we use the tool of the inventory that has been done? This information needs to be shared back in the state to include Specialists, follow-up with Helen Chipman to ensure that the curriculums are on the

EFNEP approved list and then make sure we complete the Adult Survey so results can be shared during the August meeting.

Succession planning as a topic for the August meeting. Anne shared information concerning the LEAD 21, 1 yr leadership program for persons in leadership positions or aspiring to be leaders. One week long and four sessions during the one year program. Ellen mentioned the Board on Human Sciences and that it has re-organized. It serves as an advocacy group. It is a way to stay abreast with information with deans and associate deans.

We then divided into two groups to discuss (1) the agenda items for the August meeting. Ellen reported: Need time to respond the keynote speakers' presentation; time to discuss model programs in terms of the FSNE/EFNEP and generating income for FCS programs. How to address the influx of immigrants in terms of programming and staffing to meet their needs. Strategies for marketing FCS, state reports and business. (2) succession planning and mentoring process. Anne reported: strategic plan for mentoring and succession. From mentoring standpoint -- orientation packet with fact sheets. Sub-committee responsible for mentoring – keep in contact with /Directors to identify new Program Leaders to forward orientation packet to them. Also recommended a shadowing experience for new program leaders. Institute for identified potential leaders and bring them to a forum at the same time as our meeting. Identify state program leaders who are within 5 years of retirement.

Shirley mentioned the institute Brenmawn University training for women leaders in academia.