

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2012

**Reporting Institution:**  1862  1890 (check one)

**Name of Institution** LSU Agcenter

### **Budget Situation:**

Budget issues continue to be serious with previous cuts remaining in the new budget. Approximately 80% of the FCS budget is dependent on EFNEP, SNAP-ED or other grants. This includes salaries for agents & specialists, travel, supplies & equipment.

### **Staffing Update (field and state office):**

The FCS faculty moved July 1 from 4-H Youth Development to the new School of Nutrition & Food Science. Programmatically, all extension work is now nutrition related. There are 2.75 tenure track FTEs with the remaining extension faculty instructors or associates on specific projects. Field agents were changed to area nutrition agents and cover multiple parishes.

### **How Institution is Addressing the Situation:**

The LSU system is reorganizing and recently hired a new president who is also the chancellor of the Baton Rouge Campus. Additional reorganization is anticipated. The School of Human Ecology was dissolved and nutrition programs were merged into the new School of Nutrition & Food Sciences which is in the College of Agriculture and the LSU AgCenter.

As part of the reorganization, the AgCenter created program leaders to replace the positions of extension director and experiment station director with the intent to more fully integrate the programs. Dr. Gina Eubanks now holds joint positions with Southern & LSU AgCenters and serves as the program leader for Nutrition & Food Sciences, including FCS extension. This will strengthen our joint work with Southern even further.

### **Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, impacts)**

- Louisiana is working with Arkansas as part of a pilot evaluation study for Body Quest. It is currently written into the SNAP-ED grant but we anticipate expanding it to other parishes. This was the first year in Louisiana but preliminary and anecdotal data show that students do make changes as a result of the program. This year the program was in 9 schools in 9 parishes for 9 weeks as a trial but will be in 10 schools with a treatment and control groups for 22 weeks this fall. One third grade class from each school participated. The program uses ipads as part of program delivery and clickers for data collection.
- With current USDA guidelines recommending 150 minutes of physical activity per week we realized that we were teaching the nutritional aspects but not providing agents with the proper background for physical activity. Fortunately we already had an associate on staff who had an MS in physical activity and was a certified personal trainer so we were able to reassign a portion of her time. She has assumed a leadership role for the AgCenter's Wellness at Work program as well as put together an agent advisory group to help guide our programming in this area. Safety is a concern so we are in the process of determining what is appropriate for agents in their

programming. Although a couple agents did the walking clubs a few years ago we are still in the early stages with our work in this area.

- **Healthy Beginnings for Your Baby** –is part of the TANF funding that comes to state for mothers receiving benefits who are pregnant or have children under the age of one. The extension contract includes teaching parenting, resource management & nutrition through six three hour lessons that include the following components: 1. Caring For Your Baby/ Your Family's Budget, 2. Keeping Your Baby Safe/ Cash Crises, 3 Understanding Your Baby's Development/ Making It On Your Own, 4. Brain Development/ Meeting Your Transportation and Child Care Needs, 5. Nutrition and Physical Activity/Credit: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly and 6. Communication/Co-Parenting. In fiscal year 2012, 440 clients were referred and 65 % actually enrolled. 39% completed all 6 classes. 20% of those who completed pre and post evaluations showed a positive knowledge gain. 45% indicated they already had the knowledge. The sponsoring state agency is currently working to improve its system of referrals to both improve the number being referred and the number completed the program at the appropriate level.

**New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:**

When all 3 agents in a parish retired or moved to other positions it provided an opportunity to look at obesity issues from the healthy community approach. A new FCS agent was hired to lead the effort in conjunction with the new 4-H & ag agents. LSU Pennington Biomedical Center and the AgCenter are the current funders with additional foundations interested. Focus groups were conducted prior to hiring the agent to determine interest and community support. It is anticipated that a combination of entities will fund portions of the program. Blue Cross Blue Shield Louisiana already is funding several parishes using a similar approach.

**Contact for Additional Information:**

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