

FCS-SRPLN Quarterly Meeting

5/8/2025

Call Meeting to Order, Dreamal Worthen

Welcome and Introductions/Roll Call, Emma Todoroff

In Attendance: Nina Roofe; Janet Fox ; Tiffany Williams; Allisen Penn; Jacquelyn White; Si-Arah Jones; Annie Hardison-Moody; Ircha Martinez; Katryn Eske; Kathy Hosig; LaToya O'Neal; Renita Porter; Laura Downey; Stephen Green; Emma Todoroff; Dreamal Worthen; Carla Adams Lippett; Annie Hardison-Moody; Mike Gutter; Rachel Luckett; Teron Speer; Richard Whittington

Administrative Advisor Updates, Rich Bonanno

- EXCITE grants are moving forward, funds have been transferred from CDC
 - 3 regional positions for immunization education- will be located in TN, KY, AR
- The President's "skinny" budget has been released, looking at cuts within USDA REE/ NIFA, potentially 30% cut to capacity funds, President perceives the administration could have more control over competitive funds but still unclear what they are thinking
 - USDA is supposed to have staffing plan out next week some time
 - Strong commitment to rural communities and 4-H
- Completed a capacity survey, every land grant institution except for two responded
 - 4-H and food and nutrition funds would be hurt, but could be bolstered significantly with additional funds
- What is your elevator speech? Think about-- what would we lose if we disappeared, what we gain if we had additional resources?

Questions/ Comments

- Janet Fox: Anything we need to do to receive funding for EXCITE, Is the start date still June 1?
 - Rich Answer: Yes, money is there just waiting for paperwork to be signed
- Dreamal Worthen: EXCITE funds introduced what can be accomplished for health education when we collaborate with EFNEP.

Plan of Work Action and Reports

Recruitment and Retention Committee Report, Janet Fox

- Working on historical overview of FCS to understand where we are coming from and where we are going, Karen Munden is writing an article
- Thinking about how to market FCS to recruit and retain, interesting results thus far:
 - 2 states were split whether the name should be FCS or something else
 - 3 states believe FCS isn't the name to use- TX, AL, FL
 - Other states felt that FCS was the best name for recruiting (OK, KY, TN)
- Still more qualitative data to analyze to understand marketing recommendations
- Emerging theme: there is a name recognition crisis
- Working to get information out in the form of a journal article
 - Factors affecting consideration to leave, goal is to finish by June 1
 - Factors that influence FCS professionals' decision to stay

Core Competencies sub-committee, Nina Roofe

- TX, TN, OK have met
- Using a three-pronged approach:
 - Reviewing core competencies by reaching out to the original author
 - Defining workforce development in the context of FCS Extension; asked the question- is the focus internal or external or both? Determined it was both, but first priority is internal
 - Exploring job embeddedness in extension, what contributes to professionals staying in their roles

Roster of Extension FCS Specialists to serve as P&T Reviewers, Laura Downey

- Well on their way to completing a list of tenure-track specialists
- Survey was launched on April 14 with an invitation to participate, reminder sent on May 1, now have responses from 16 institutions
- Survey will remain open until the end of the week to be able to finish the roster by deadline at the end of May
- Allisen Penn comment: may want to consider collecting non-tenure track specialists as well
 - Laura Downey response- good idea to consider different distinctions or requirements for reviewers by university/system, can revise for future iterations

Food Nutrition Security sub-committee, Katryn Eske

- Currently revising survey to make it more effective
- Will want to brainstorm ways to broaden the reach at August meeting
- Need more participation for it to be representative of the Southern Region
- Looking for feedback on how to implement/ solicit information from local agents

Other Business

Upcoming CAFCS Webinar, Janet Fox

- CAFCS Coffee Hour: All are welcome regardless of membership!
 - May 14, 2025 10 a.m. (EST)
 - Remote Work and Hybrid Models: Best Practices for Managing Remote Teams and Creating Effective Hybrid Work Environments, Presenter: Bronwyn Fees (Kansas State University)
 - <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/7855321421?omn=92055779081>,
 - Meeting ID: 785 532 1421

Upcoming SRPLN Conference in ATL, Dreamal Worthen

- Considerations for Committee Night Out
 - Allisen Penn-
 - Tour Options: ATL area food bank, Fort Valley State University mobile health clinic, Emory or Georgia Tech health-related programs
 - Janet Fox and others expressed interest in mobile health clinic
 - Would like to plan tour followed by dinner, needs help from colleagues located in ATL
 - Will need a nomination for secretary during the meeting, 1890 institution