

## Southern Region Family and Consumer Sciences Meeting

November 5, 2015

### Attendees:

Arkansas: Anne Sortor  
Georgia: Deborah Murray  
Kentucky: Cherry Kay Smith, and Ann Vail  
Louisiana: Kasundra Cyrus, Diane Sasser  
Maryland: Virginie Zoumenou  
North Carolina: Michael Yoder, Carinthia Cherry,  
Oklahoma: Jorge Atilas, and Dorothy Wilson  
Tennessee: Laura Stephenson, Allisen Penn,  
Texas: Jacquelyn White,  
Virginia: Crystal Tyler-Mackey

### Welcome and Call to Order – Laura Stephenson, University of Tennessee

**Minutes** – Minutes from the August 25-27, 2015 Southern Regional FCS meetings in conjunction with the Program Leadership Network conference were distributed by Cherry Kay Smith. Minutes were approved as corrected and submitted for posting at the web site.

### Old Business

Ann Sorter noted the request of FCS committee's request for funds to host a pre-conference session at the National Health Outreach Conference. The Program Leadership Committee was supportive of the concept but did not have a funding mechanism to support. They suggested that we request funding through a proposal to state Extension Directors.

### New Business

#### 1890 PLC Representative Appointment to fill current term

Speller-Henderson

Crystal Stafford of South Carolina State University was nominated to fill the current vacancy of 1890 PLC Representative. She was unanimously approved.

#### eXtension Food Systems Join the Corp – Nov 9 deadline

Stephenson

Laura Stephenson encouraged all to read the materials that were distributed. Discrepancies, confusion about the new path, concerns about deletions were expressed. Chris Geith of eXtension will be invited to the next phone conference to update us, particularly regarding projects that are in process and to clarify the iCorp information. Specialists involved in food systems and climate need to apply for this, as they will have good opportunities to help mold eXtension. Only institutions that have paid the premium are eligible. They will look first at nominations for 200 in their "innovation lab" to support agents/specialists, then nominees will be invited to apply. Applications will include video (a two-step process). All need to think about individuals or teams to nominate.

#### FCS Extension Educator Pipeline Survey

Gutter

Thanks to southern region's participation in the survey. Previous pipeline survey/discussion was heavily secondary oriented and Extension needs to be part of the discussion.

**Update on Health Extension Specialists pre-conference to NHOC                      Stephenson, Sorter**

Laura and Anne provided follow up on the original idea to have a pre-conference session at NHOC. We were advised to submit a session proposal and were advised to have pre-conference event for southern region only. Anne calculated number of human/family health Extension specialists across region, and will survey the program leaders to get better numbers.

Based on last year's pre-conference session, Debbie suggests a \$50-100 fee to cover costs. Program leaders might want to set the vision for discussion, not necessarily a focus on what specialists are doing but what they should be doing. Discussion focused on a need to invite a speaker to provide some substance for the event and that specialists be introduced to each other (and what they are doing) and to the framework via phone conference, before agenda is set. Program leaders should be on the call to guide the objectives. Ideally, Ahlisha Shipley, with health in her portfolio, should also be involved.

**State Sharing**

**All**

Oklahoma:

- searching for Health Specialist;
- take educators on cross-cultural experience;
- facing budget challenges;
- have three endowed chairs with Extension appointments.

Virginia:

- Personnel: Crystal Tyler-Mackey is Interim Program Leader; Brian Calhoun long term disability; Karen DeBoard served as interim and now retiring;
- Engaged in strategic study of structure;
- hired family financial management specialists;
- looking at interdisciplinary approach to local food systems work;

Kentucky:

- experiencing reorganization pains;
- FCS extension is the only implementing agency in KY for SNAP-Ed with new visibility on campus (top 50 in external funding) yielding different power within College;
- National Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center and National Coordinating Center for the Regional Nutrition Education Centers of Excellence established;
- much of the SNAP-Ed salary savings coming back to FCS Extension;

Georgia:

- looking at how they on-board agents, had hired agents with academic preparation outside FCS;
- many agents were EFNEP funded and now leveraging those funds with both county and state dollars;
- Investing in identifying competencies (including health) and designing training around those;

- working on the pipeline for new agent hires;
- goal is building a transition between Debbie and her successor;

Arkansas:

- needs a faculty member in human development/family life, a position that has been open for a year;
- instituted a new EFNEP regional model – regional program associates to train and assist the counties, ensuring program integrity and reporting;
- General Assembly passed legislation indicating that DHS and FCS Ext will work together around Medicaid, team charged to solicit funding, goal to move able-bodied adults without dependents off the Medicaid rolls and need training to support them; agents will commit 7% of their time toward the effort.

North Carolina:

- New program leader and new administration
- Implementing a new staffing model with FCS staff covering multiple counties.

Maryland:

- have lost EFNEP staff;
- searching for associate extension director;

Tennessee:

- fully staffed for 3 months;
- new language in handbook to enable non-tenure track extension faculty;
- developing Center for Evaluation;
- biggest issues from system perspective include planning process with THEC, State Board of Trustees, and UTIA;
- faculty lines have to be consistent with the issues; FCS agents Education, Family and Community Financial Management, Health and part of \$3M and new faculty line as a result;

Louisiana:

- Community Resource Development coupled with Healthy Communities;
- have parenting contracts with Dept of Children and Families

Langston University:

- hired EFNEP nutrition education assistants;
- looking forward to hiring FCS specialists

Prairie View:

- losing agents to AgriLife;
- making new contacts for grants, e.g. Baylor College of Med, as they are working in the same areas such as childhood obesity;
- engaging in program planning and community assessments;

- trying to fill open positions; have endowed professor in food science bringing different opportunities; have a new social scientists;

North Carolina State:

- Getting a raise this year, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 8 years;
- going through restructuring and primary changes have affected FCS more than others, switching to one agent for multiple counties;
- Rebranding is NCState Extension, forcing more creativity and changing the way they are thinking;
- FCS department operates primarily on grants.

**Future Meetings:**

Upcoming meetings include January 7, 2016 conference call at 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET. Spring meeting in conjunction with BOHS will be March 9, 2016 in Washington D.C.