

Extension Council Meeting Minutes

6/6/2019- Lake Land College

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. By President Jess Knearem. In attendance were Sean Breen, Gary Gergeni, Marilyn Dufford, Julia Miller, Nancy Purdy, Curt Rinker, Mike Sowers, Jim Sparks and Extension staff members Danna Lewis, and Cheri Burcham.

No new Fiscal update as there was an update from Danna in last month.

Facility update: Danna reported that the Mattoon office will be moving to the old Corvelle building on the 800 block of Broadway. There is one signature away from final lease approval. Cheri Burcham reported that the Arthur facility has wiring being completed.

Educator Updates: Cheri Burcham made a Family Life presentation for the group. Cheri made the group respond to their reference to aging. She focused on positive aging. Her lessons focus on positive reinforcements while aging. She also mentioned 'How High Do You Bounce?' which focused on resiliency. Cheri stated that her programs on Balance and Diabetes are popular. Between January of 2019 and June of 2019 she has had 78 social media posts with 7,000 views. As well as five blog posts that reached 365 people, and 25 Facts for the Family weekly newspaper article (the newspaper has 18,000 subscribers). Also reached were 255 youth, 395 individuals with health programming, and 258 individuals regarding social and emotional health. Cheri is going to be focusing on brain health in July. Danna thanked Cheri for being one of only 6 that is on the Family Life State team.

New Business:

Underserved Audience: How do we engage others to connect to Extension? Nancy Purdy mentioned going to teachers and discussing how Extension could help them. Jess wondered if we might not contact the CEO of Headstart. Gary said we should find groups looking for Volunteers to connect to Extension. Jim Sparks mentioned inviting parents to take part in some 4-H youth activities with their children. He said he has had many positive comments from parents.

EEO and Affirmative Action Program: No immediate openings, but Danna wants to know how to get the word out for Extension employment. Curt mentioned that job postings are on website.

Plans for next year: Goals need assessment in communities. Having Dollar General Station surveys that are short, about 5 minutes. Also, 100 surveys will be going out to staff members that are over one year of employment, surveys starting in the fall of 2019. Danna would like to bring Extension Council in on the Farm Bureau "Meals in the Field" program (Spring 2020) and Healthy Food Distribution which supplied food supplies to over 400 families in 3 hours in Mattoon recently. Emergency preparedness plans and creation of kits will be ongoing through the next year. Goal is to maintain collaborative teams with a focus on all staff to get involved with the other counties in the unit.

Future meetings: Future Extension Council Meetings will be in September, November, January, and March. These meetings will take place at the four county offices in a rotation.

Danna recognized outgoing council members and incoming new members. There are to be 16 members, with 4 from each county.

Gary motioned for adjournment of meeting, Mike Sowers seconded.