

Minutes
University of Illinois Extension
Unit 13 Extension Council Meeting

February 8, 2018

- I. Call to order: The Unit 13 Council Meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Council Chair, Diana Herriott
- II. Attendance: Claudia Dewitt, Charles Alt, Deb Fruitt, Brad Zwilling, Myla Munroe. Staff: Ginger Boas, Chelsey Gerstenecker, Melissa Schumacher, Caitlin Kownacki
- III. Minutes from November 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.
- IV. Civil Rights- County Director, Ginger Boas discussed ways the Unit are targeting Limited English Proficiency (LEP) audiences and asked for suggestions from the Council. Examples of the Unit's efforts include two programs targeting LEP participants. Herbert Chavez secured a class with an conversational English program. He plans to use food and nutrition and work with the instructors to incorporate English words within a nutritional context. Khadiga Mohamed, a Community Worker in the EFNEP program, worked with a campus international group to secure a class with LEP. She is working with an interpreter since the class is very diverse and has multiple primary languages spoken. She utilizes hands on demonstration to reach this audience.

Ginger reported that she is on a state-wide committee looking at ways to identify and work effectively with LEP audiences. Additionally, she stated that Unit 13 have staff members that fluently speak six different languages. This aids in the mission to reach LEP audiences.

V. County Director Report please see Attachment 1

- A. Changes in Extension Leadership
- B. Budget Review
- C. Staffing
- D. Partnerships

VI. Old Business

- A. Vermilion County Foundation / Federation- The Vermilion County 4-H Foundation was dissolved earlier this year. Funds from the foundation were transferred to the Vermilion County 4-H Federation with the intent of starting a new foundation in the future. Ginger Boas asked for assistance identifying the feasibility of a new foundation and potential interested community members who would be willing to serve on a new foundation for Vermilion County. A meeting with

B. Educator Reports and Program Action Plans- Educators provided information on current programs and introduced the program action plans to the council in order to get input into program needs. (Attachment 2)

- (1) Family Life- Chelsey Gerstenecker
- (2) SNAP-Ed- Caitlin Kownacki
- (3) EFNEP- Melissa Schumacher
- (4) Horticulture-Ryan Pankau
- (5) Consumer Economics-Kathy Sweedler
- (5) Youth/4-H

VII. New business

A. Council Membership / Nominating Committee- Nominations will taken at the next meeting.

B. Meeting Dates: Ginger Boas will send out a doodle poll to get a date for the April meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

County Extension Director Report

BUDGET:

- The unit has still not received any County Board Match. There are efforts to investigate the status of these funds within IDOA.
- We have used a higher percentage of Federal Funding to off-set part of the shortfall.
- Higher percentage of grant funding

POSITIONS

RECENTLY FILLED AND PENDING POSITIONS

- Horticulture Program Coordinator, Champaign, Tabitha Elder
- 4-H Coordinator, Champaign- Amy Cain
- SNAP-ED and EFNEP Community Workers- 6 new staff added in Champaign County
- Office Support Assistant - Part-time Extra Help position being filled by Erin Watson

RECENT STAFFING CHANGES

- Jamie Boas moved to Piatt and Dewitt Counties January 2018
- Hiring for 2 Youth Development Educator in Champaign County February 2018

FOUNDATION ACTIVITY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2-Unit Scholarships for students enrolling in ACES
- 12 – Scholarships for adults and high school students in Champaign County
- Ford-Iroquois Foundation held their annual auction to raise funds for the \$20 program fee for all 4-H members in Ford and Iroquois Counties. The foundation funds over 600 youth each year. They also fund 4-H members who need help for camp, workshops, etc.
- Champaign County Extension Education Foundation funds scholarships, Master Gardener fees, 4-H programming, and 4-H member help to attend camp and other activities.

GRANTS

- SARE Grant- \$26,000 with Sola Gratia and Salt & Light- Fresh Produce for Low income with Cooking Class
- Grant- \$50,000 ADM Post Harvest Loss Project (2nd Year)
 - Prosperity Garden and Danville Area College (DACC)
 - Portable Wash Station
 - Cool trailer
 - Building- Use Building Trades at DACC

- Rantoul Food Hub Project on the Old Air Force Base
 - Cooling Trailers (2)
 - Portable wash station on a trailer
 - United Way- Potential for up to \$30,000 for Financial Literacy Year 2. Meeting for final Interview will take place this month.
 - 4-H Foundation Grants- New Initiatives aimed at reaching new audiences
 - AHEC-Rural Health Grants have changed focus to health careers for youth. The youth team will pursue opportunities for continued partnership.
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PROGRAM INFORMATION

YOUTH/4-H PROGRAMS

- Approval for 2 Educators with funding for one coming from State 4-H (IDOA). One will cover Champaign and Ford Counties and one will cover Vermilion and Iroquois Counties. The positions should be posted by the end of this week.
- Food to Fork initiative with Earth Partners has expanded. There are 11 from Unity HS, 8 from Rantoul, and 10 from Central. They will be trained as teen teachers to reach youth in Unit 7, St. Thomas, and Rantoul and Thomasboro Elementary School.
- Food Science at University of Illinois. Hands on activities targeted to up to 30 high school students. The students will come to campus to learn about Food Science majors, tour the production facility, and do hands-on activities related to Food Science chemistry, microbiology, production, and safety. Graduate students are spearheading this opportunity. This fits into the ACES initiative of student recruitment of 4-H members.
- Welcome to the Real World programs are planned for high schools in all four counties this spring. This program provides students with career exploration, budgeting, and a real-life financial simulation based on the career chosen.
- Career Readiness- Working with the trades, local high schools and the University

CONSUMER ECONOMICS- KATHY SWEEDLER

- 85 Master Money Mentors trained and providing individual financial education.
- Money Mentors are also involved in Education in area Elementary and Middle Schools.
- Fourteen Student interns are being trained this semester to work with College Students on finances. Campus activities, presentations, and individual office hours to work with students included in the internship each semester.
- April- America Saves Month.

TELEVISION / RADIO

- Horticulture Program conducts twice weekly TV programs on-location called "In the Garden" as segment of WCIA the Morning Show - responsible for ideas, coordination and on-air interviewing of guests. Videos can be seen online at www.illinoishomepage.net; monthly guest on WCIA TV CI Living; WILL TV Mid-American Gardener panelist, and substitute host. Re-aired on PBS stations statewide. Video also available online and audio rebroadcast on WILL AM.
- Kathy Sweedler conducts bi-weekly television program in the area of personal finance.

NEWSPAPERS

- Ryan Pankau, Kathy Sweedler and Chelsey Byers write Weekly newspaper column Homeowners Column for Champaign Urbana News Gazette.
- News releases sent to all newspapers in the 4 county Unit
- Number of People visiting unit website in 2017: **2,419,442**
- Web hits in January 2018 : 176,751
- Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, online news outlets (January 2018)
 - More for Your Money- 19,000 hits
 - Getting Through Tough Financial Times- 4,910 hits
 - Credit Card Smarts- 4,208 hits
 - Elder Abuse- 1,159
- Most 4-H resources are now posted online.