



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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# EXTENSION

## **Columbus/Muscogee County Extension**

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### **Columbus Leadership Advisory Groups Joint Meeting City Council Appointed Advisory Committee April 19, 2021 11:00am-12:00 am Minutes**

Welcome from Rhea Bentley. Attendance included Iris Ortiz, Jack Lockwood, Sharayah Davis, Margaret Higdon and UGA Extension staff listed below.

Review of Columbus Extension programing, activities and events:

Ashley Brantley, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator.

- Current efforts include working with school and community gardens in effort to support sustainable healthy food for the community. Much of this effort includes collaborating with MCS D Nutrition, Columbus Botanical Garden and Columbus Food Oasis.

Ashleigh Day, 4-H Agent.

- Promotes youth development in our local schools.

Rhea Bentley, Family & Consumer Agent & Tracey Saxton FACS Educator.

- Current programing includes promoting healthy relationships in the community. Using Elevate programing with its emphasis on relationship skills all couples can benefit.
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education programing teaches families to eat healthy on a budget.
  - Community outreach efforts with WIC through their voucher drive thru.
  - New partnership: Classes with Healthier Fatherhood as a partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine

Villacia Jones, Program Manager with Healthy Families Columbus.

- Our parenting support program offers a variety of family-focused services to pregnant mothers, fathers, grandparents and families with infants and young children. Our program provides families with support, education, and referrals to community services to address the following goals: promoting positive parent skills and parent-child interaction.

Tammy Keith, Program Manager with Parents as Teachers.

- PAT is a home visitation program serving families prenatally into kindergarten entry with some families through the kindergarten year.
- Education and family support in the areas of parent-child interaction, developmentally centered parenting, and family wellbeing.

LaRelle Copeland, First Steps Coordinator.

- First Steps is a community based parenting support and education program that is provided to all parents expecting a new baby and families of young children (Birth- age 5).
- First Steps offers support, education and link families to community resources. First steps also links families that are eligible to our Home Visiting Programs.
- Families receive a First Steps packet that includes a Community Resource Guide and infant development materials. This information is also available in a digital format.

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Impact Statement will be sent out with minutes.  
FY2021 Governor's Budget remains the same. Time to thank our legislators for their support.

Tell us how you can help Cooperative Extension and we can help you.

Sharayah Davis works with Open Door as the Culinary Incubator Director, UGROW supporting urban agriculture, MeryMed Farm, and Elijah's Farm. Sharayah is interested in working with Extension on a new project to develop the old State Farmer's Market on 10th Ave. into a local food and wellness center.

Iris Ortiz works with the Early Head Start program at Enrichment Services. Iris would like to incorporate UGA Home Visiting programs as a resource for families on a waiting list.

Jack Lockwood, Risk Communicator with GA DPH West Central Health District. Jack leads numerous wellness groups and would like to include different areas of Extension in his groups.

Announcements: Relationship Smart Series starts in May

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