

Columbus Leadership Advisory Groups Joint Meeting
City Council Appointed Advisory Committee
September 18, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Rhea Bentley introduces everyone present at the meeting.

Rhea Bentley: County Extension Coordinator for Muscogee County

Margaret Higdon: worked with different programs in Extension as a volunteer, proud grandma

Ashleigh Day: 4-H Agent working with youth development

Villacia Jones: Healthy Families Georgia Home Visiting Program Supervisor

Tammy Keith: Parents as Teachers Program Supervisor - PAT is an evidence-based program for parents serving families with children from prenatal through 5 years of age.

Tracey Saxton: new Family and Consumer Sciences Educator – Programming is youth focused but helping Rhea Bentley with current programming; starting first project at Reese Road covering handwashing.

LaZavia Grier: Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Supervisor, nutrition program provided to the community for low-income families, servicing Muscogee and Talbot County

Lawanna Williams: retired teacher for Muscogee county

Helen Williams: retired extension employee

Iris Ortiz: Enrichment Services Head Start Specialist

*Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent position is currently vacant but new hire is coming November 1.

Annual Report: 2018 annual reports were available but 2019 impact statements will be available at next meeting

Plan/Upcoming Events/Needs Assignment Activity:

- ANR agent previous focus was school gardens. Tracey Saxton visited Fox Elementary with Teresa Burkett to see school garden there. There were many Brookstone volunteers, squash was being planted because it is seasonal. The school garden is also in collaboration with Family Organics. They even had a working room where students can learn about things like irrigation. The staff was awesome!
- Mercy Med partnership: currently working with North Highland farmers market, Master Gardeners volunteers participation at all markets. Also had provided EFNEP classes at market last year.
- 4H club is headed back to school for 4th and 5th grades. Chattahoochee county will be receiving health literacy, relationship smart, “agri-science” for students. The “agri-science” curriculum is currently being piloted in Cusseta, GA, hope to have in Columbus soon. Cotton bowl and consumer judging is coming up. The topics include public speaking and consumer production. 12 4H’ers and their families will be presenting at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA coming in October.

- All Healthy Families staff is away in Milwaukee for a training. Invitations will be sent out for graduation. It will be a celebration of families that have finished the entire program since prenatal. End of the fiscal year is quickly approaching so handling EOY business.
- Parents as Teachers programs are now structures to continue program with families while attending kindergarten. Our first year to do this. Our last Family Group Connection was on September 14, 2019. Good turnout with about 22 participants. The PAT program completed the process for Quality Endorsement and expects results by mid-October. MIECHV project involving continuing quality improvement with CQI practicum. State MIECHV team applied for the National CQI Practicum and the Muscogee program will participate. The practicum will take 8 months to complete.
- State Fatherhood Initiative has launched and designed to get more dads involved in parenting, child development. The Healthy Families program will be participating in this initiative with a program designed for dads called *Father and Babies*.
- Jack Lockwood mentioned an event that encompasses barbershops and beauty shops. He will send out flyers.
- UGA Extension is hiring new specialists for evaluations and research.
- For the needs assignment activity, ideas were brought up about what our community needs. The list is as follows.
 - o UGA Extension is very concerned about mental health and illness because of the growing rate of suicide of farmers in South Georgia. Will see more programming soon.
 - o We need to reach teen mothers in middle and high school and teach the importance of families enjoying a meal together. Also teaching social skills outside of social media for students.
 - o The importance of how to market events and workshops is important. EFNEP study looked participants responded to receiving text message reminders of classes. Results will come soon.
 - o Using existing partnerships and including all program areas
 - o Teaching college students (aged 18-25) lessons on life skills, coping skills, insurance, retirement and investment
 - o Partner with faith based organizations (bible studies and Baptist Collegiate ministries)
 - o Work with CASA, foster children, homeschool groups
 - o Hispanic Outreach groups – Claudia Calle is very involved currently.
 - o Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts or similar groups as new partnership. Merit Badge University in topics such as emergency preparation, communications and safety etc.
 - o Royal Rangers
 - o Cancer screenings onsite of cancer cooking schools – Dorothy Height nurses

Engage:

- Tracey Saxton working with Jack Lockwood at Department of Public Health

- Jack Lockwood will be hiring a new health educator.
- Enrichment Services would like to have visiting programs to come back to centers – recruitment