Regional Advisory Council Meeting

October 3, 2008

Sharing

Cook—Tanesha Pittman

Professional Development for Mathematics Teachers
October 2007- May 2008 36 workshops sessions were held for teacher to improve math skills. The teachers learned through interactive, hands on activities and felt that they could incorporate interesting math activities into their curriculum. Some topics were geometry, probability, algebra, number sense, graphing and number skills. Overall 160 teachers were involved which impacted over 5000 students directly.

Science on the Go! Mobile Science Lab
The Mobile Science Laboratory traveled to schools and communities throughout Cook County (Chicago and Suburbs) providing science instruction to students. The curriculum used was designed to address state and national science educational standards as well as age appropriateness. Two to four teaching sessions were arranged each day (approximately 110-220 students served weekly). Subjects included biology, food science, animal science, math and physics. Since October 2007, the science lab has visited 48 different locations and taught over 3200 student and 344 adults from Cook County. Evaluations indicated that over 90% of students were more interested in science after participating in the classes on the Mobile Science Lab. This year the Mobile Lab has expanded to include horticulture sciences and community health.

Road to College After School Program provided modules on College Awareness and Study Skills to more than 30 students in Harvey School District 152 who meet weekly from December 2007 to May 2008. The students 11-14 years of age were 6th-9th graders. Some topics included: College Education, Leadership, Veterinary Science, Health Career Exploration, Nature Studies and so much more.

The Road to College Summer Academy was a five week program for 26 students from Harvey School District 152 that ran from June 9 – July 10, 2008. There were 18 girls and 8 boys that participated in the program. Six of the students were Hispanic and the remaining 26 students were African-American. Some of the topic included:

- College Planning
- Experiencing a study skills curriculum
- Visiting University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Capacity Building for Nonprofit Organizations
Forty leaders from 13 nonprofit, government and faith-based organizations learned about leading organization, managing staff and volunteers, fundraising, marketing services, measuring outcomes, engaging in sustainable strategies, gleaning wisdom from the community and board governance
Community Health- Healthy Habits for Every Child – This program was developed to assist young children to make healthy lifestyle choices and develop good health habits. A total of 1538 contacts (duplicated) were made to children less than six years of age.

Girls ROCK! (Realizing Our Capabilities through Knowledge) is a girl specific health education program, which included subjects such as tobacco, alcohol, addiction, body image, relationships and relationship violence. Over 400 face-to face contacts were made at four agencies participating in the program.

Mexican Consulate
- Two program coordinators and one educator are working with parents to help them understand the U.S. education system
- We are working on a DVD entitled “student success what parents need to know” (in Spanish)
  - Study Skills
  - Literacy
  - Understanding the U.S. Educational System

The DVD will play on the monitors while they wait to see the consulate representative. Other programming will be provided as requested.

**DuPage—Pat Kosmach**
**Highlights**
The Health Marriage Initiative, funded by Meier Clinic with a federal grant, has been very successful. Over 1000 people have attended these workshops.

The Illinois Master Gardeners Conference was held this year at the Westin Hotel in Lombard on September 12. There were 464 people registered. The silent auction raised a record level of money for the state office. Mary Horek and Sarah Navrotski did a lot of the work to put the conference together, and it went very well.

**Kendall-Wayne Mundsinger**
**Highlights of 2008 activities**
- 4-H School Enrichment programs were presented in all school districts of the county. The programs reached 2,866 youth and involved 151 teachers through 63 programs.
- 4-H members completed and exhibited 1,141 projects at the Kendall County Fair.
- 210 people attended the 4-Seasons programs and an additional 93 attended other Special Horticulture presentations.
- 350 calls were handled by the Master Gardener Help line.
• Master Gardeners donated over 350 pounds of produce from their gardens at the Extension office.

• Master Gardeners now have a booth at the Oswego and Yorkville Farmers Market. Educational material handouts are provided along with answering Horticulture questions.

• Thirteen Family and Nutrition programs were given with 224 attendees along with an additional 235 attending our Family and Consumer programs. Information was also given to 954 low income families on general nutrition.

• The three community health fairs reached 479 people.

• Six in-service for Child Care Providers were attended by 116 people.

• Many other activities and support from the staff and volunteers provide services to our growing County. Our County Board has recognized our service to the community through continued funding.

**McHenry-Tom Dahlfors**

First off, we are all waiting the appointment of our new Unit Leader. Russ Higgins, from Morris [IPM Educator, Matteson Center], has been our temporary leader for the past several months and has kept things rolling.

Our 4-H Program has been clipping along this summer with the formation of two new clubs, and we will be combining with Boone County this spring to hold the Northern Illinois Leadership Conference.

We are also working with several other counties to develop an “Officer Training” website that will likely be adopted state wide. The Master Cook Club has had to set a limit to their enrollment and a survey of families is currently being reviewed by the expansion committee. The Embryology program for teachers in our school districts expanded this year and we are already receiving more requests for next spring. Plans are already underway for our annual 4H International Night with the Woodstock Noon Rotary.

The Master Gardener Program held their annual Garden Walk with over 225 people in attendance, “Tools for the Job”, “Body Smart Gardening”, Making Hypertufa Planters, “Unwanted Home and Garden Invaders”, and “Sex in the Garden-Pollinators” were some of the topics presented. Our Community Gardens have harvested over 3000 pounds of food for the local Food Pantries. Interviews have started for the 2009 Intern class. The Satellite program and Speakers’ Bureau have reached over 400 clients so far this year.

The Family Nutrition Program has had numerous program offerings. The Senior Center programs have dealt with cooking with available produce and nutritious snacks. The Community Gardens have expanded into 14 various gardens. 1st and 2nd graders are
working on their hand washing units. The bilingual program has expanded the after school programs on basic nutrition, and works with the Dept. of Human Services, Centegra Hospital, Head Start, and Turning Point, which is a local battered women’s shelter.

The Grandparents Group has been very active and is meeting monthly with speakers who cover topics such as Child Abuse; Disciplining with Love, Logic, and Parenting; summer camps; and special needs programs.

Our Open House for County Officials was held and outreach was done by Advisory members with various organizations throughout the County. As we await the appointment of our new Unit Leader, the fiscal audit has been completed, as has the data base for County Fair. Our web site has been maintained and updated on an ongoing basis. That’s it for McHenry County!

Will-Lucille Poroli

Some Program Highlights:
Keeping Will County residents aware of healthy food choices is our focus. FNP is increasing cooperation with local agencies (Joliet Partners for Healthy Families), to provide services that will enhance health behaviors of Will County residents. University of Illinois Extension will serve seven local elementary schools in district eight-six. In addition to Joliet Central High School, Premier Academy alternate school and Head Start pre-schools in Joliet and Romeoville.

Will County youth continue to excel.

- Two delegates from Will County will attend the National 4-H Congress in November.

- J C Penney’s new Mokena store donated $5K to Will County after school programs.

- In September, JC Penney hosted a Day of Giving to support 4-H youth programs. By buying a 5 dollar coupon, buyers were ensured of a 20% off merchandise. The $5 will be donated to 4-H after school program.

- 4-H Federation youth earned nearly $10K from the sale of food at their food stand in the Will County Fair.

- Some $4,250 was issued to Will County 4-H seniors in form of scholarships from the Andy Wicklein Scholarship program at the U of I College of ACES.

- 3,300 students participated in 4-H Classroom Embryology Program.

• WGN radio’s Max Armstrong nominated Will County 4-H member Luke Benjamin for State Master Showman Contest at Illinois State Fair.

• Nine Japanese children stayed four weeks with Will County families this summer in a Youth Exchange program.

• Over 300 children from Will County attended Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See.

**Master Gardener Garden Walk-July 18 & 19, 2008.**
Program raised some $6,000 for Will County programs. This was the first public garden walk for the Will County Master Gardeners. This walk featured 10 gardens in the towns of New Lenox, Frankfort, Homer Glen and Mokena. Ticket prices were $12.00 before the event and $15.00 on the days of the event. Over 500 visitors turned up over the two days; even though the weather provided us with several drenching downpours! Another Master Gardener Garden walk is planned for July 2009. Be on the look out for ticket sales!

**Kids n’ Nature Program.**
University of Illinois Extension, Will County Unit, Master Gardeners have entered into a partnership with Provena/St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Joliet District #86, and Joliet Park District for a program benefitting at risk youth. The funding of this program comes from the Will County Community Foundation through a grant given to Provena. This program, Kids n’ Nature, program had 3 sessions encompassing 27 weeks of the school year. For the spring and fall phases, children attended afterschool programs lasting 1.5 hours; the summer program was held for 3 hours in the mornings, June and July. Children were bussed to the park district’s Pilcher Park location from the participating schools.

The Will County Master Gardeners provided instructions and leadership to the children in the development of the organic garden.

The fall session started late September, 2008. Provena St. Joseph hospital in collaboration with U of I Extension has submitted another grant for the program to continue in 2009. Some grant money will be given to Extension for cost and recovery.

**2008-2009 Will County Extension Council**
It has new officers and five new members, bringing the total Council Membership to 19 people.