Northeast Region Advisory Council

October 5, 2007 – 11:30 AM

Minutes

Sharing Session:

Kendall County—Wayne Mundsinger

- The County continues to support Extension. Our request has been submitted with an increase of approximately 3%. Although the County budget is not formally accepted, verbally we have been told it is OK.
- Reported in USA Today, Kendall County has the least economic disparity among the 783 counties sampled. Even with this economic equality we are working to provide programs that support the diversity that is arriving in the County. Reported in the Kendall County Record, our Black and Latino population has more than tripled since 2000 and the Asian population has almost quadrupled. (attached articles).
- Friends of Extension held their annual Pork Chop Dinner in July. Over 400 Dinners were served. This is an increase of over 10% from last year.
- We are interviewing for a Horticulture Educator. This is a replacement due to retirement of our IPM program manager. Reconfiguration of the position to 80% Horticulture and 20% IPM responds to the change in the County from Rural to Urban. Only 3 qualified resumes were received.

Will County—Lucille Poroli

- 4-H
  - The 4-H Forestry Judging team won first place in national competition held in West Virginia in July.
  - Will County 4-H’ers earned the most superior ribbons for their projects at the State Fair.
  - Will County sent more youth to summer camp at Camp Shaw-Wa-Na-See than any other county.
- Master Gardening Program
  - To date this year, Will County Master Gardeners have provided programming to more than 3,000 youth.
  - Will County Master Gardeners have begun a Community Garden in the Village of Bolingbrook. There is potential to work with over 9,000 families in this community. We are excited at this new opportunity.
- Family Nutrition Program (FNP)
  - FNP continues programming with local school districts, Provena/St. Joseph Hospital, Harvey Brooks Foundation and Headstart.

New Programs:
- STEP (Start The Enterprise Plan) Program
  - This program is for low income families who want to start their own business. This is a 12 week program in which the participants go through a step-by-step
hands on process of building their business plan. This program is being taught in English and Spanish.

- **Looking Back, Moving Forward: A Computer Program for All**
  - This is a ten-week program for teens to teach them how to design and create web pages (Web Development). In addition, they will learn how to take and edit digital pictures and videos. This program is being taught in English and Spanish. Participants will learn how to turn the skills learned into Business Enterprise.

- **Growing Your Own Wine Program**
  - This program will offer property owners/renters (with one or more acres of land), training on the enterprise of growing grapes for wine. Resources will be provided to help people work through the process of developing a vineyard business plan.

- **Master Naturalist**
  - Will County has volunteered to be a pilot site for the Master Naturalist Program (still under development). Master Naturalist uses the same training/volunteer paradigm that the Master Gardener Program uses. Adult volunteers will be trained in various aspects of Natural Resources—including geology, wetlands, prairies, mammals, and insects. After receiving this training the volunteers will return time back to the County educating the public.

- **Master Volunteer (or Master Teacher)**
  - This is a new program which is still under development. The program will focus on utilizing retired educators as volunteers in Extension programming in Will County.

- **Joliet Partners for Healthy Families**
  - University of Illinois Extension, Will County Extension, is part of a new Will County initiative to promote healthy lifestyles focused on healthy eating and lifestyles. Other agencies partnering in this effort include: Provena/St. Joseph’s Medical Center, School District #86, Joliet Park District.

- **Continuing Education for Social Workers**
  - Will County has formed a partnership with Community Services Council of Joliet and the National Association of Social Workers to provide Professional Developmental Opportunities for Professional Social Workers. Two workshops have been held, with the third in the series scheduled for November 2007.

- **Culture Camp**
  - Culture Camp will offer youth a hands-on, up-close and personal look into the cultures of the world. Each day, programming will focus on a different culture. Children will learn about various countries and cultures experiencing art, food, dance, language and informal education.

**Just Completed:**

- **Budget**
  - The Will County Board recently approved a $10,000 increase in their donation to the Will County Extension Unit.

- **Youth Position**
  - A large contingent from the 4-H program made presentations at the local hearing sponsored by State Representative, Jack McGuire, concerning the loss of State funding of the Youth Development Educator positions.

- **Kenya Study Tour**
Lucille was one of the participants in the Kenya Study Tour and reported on the success of the trip.

**DuPage County—Pat Kosmach**
- This summer, DuPage County's 4-H program collaborated with county government and neighborhood resource centers to address the issue of obesity with the 4-H Show Stopping Healthy Hopping Program (4-H SSHH). 333 disadvantaged minority youth from 9 resource centers participated. The goals of this 8 week program were to improve physical fitness and address basic developmental needs of belonging, independence, mastery of a skill, and generosity. Outcomes show that needs were met and positive changes in attitudes and behaviors resulted. For example, an average survey response of 3.7 (with 4.0 indicating full agreement) revealed that youth experienced success (a measure of mastery). 85% of youth agreed that exercise can be fun. 2/3 of youth participated in at least 3/4 of the 4-H program led days indicating changes in behavior. As a result of this program, Center Directors reported that some youth attended the centers on a more regular basis, lost weight, and are continuing to jump rope.
- The DuPage County Board has budgeted $65,000 to the Extension Unit this year. This is a cut from the $100,000 amount given last year. We have been told that we may receive $25,000 or less next year. We are continuing our lobbying efforts and are researching grants and other funding sources.
- Our Horticulture Educator, Susan Grupp, has taken the position of Center Environmental Educator. We currently have 2 part-time Horticulture Assistants who have taken over her duties temporarily. We will be conducting a search for her successor as soon as possible.

**Kankakee County—Larry Williams (absent – sent report)**
- Our Extension office opened a Satellite office in Pembroke. At our annual meeting and reception, we elected new officers and reviewed the upcoming plans for this fiscal year.
- **Agriculture and Natural Resources**
  - James Theuri will continue with existing programs and implement new educational programs for farmers and others who are interested in gardening. The following educational programs will apply:
    - Annie’s Project – Annie’s project educates women farmers and farm managers how manage and market their products.
    - Teach Biotechnology in schools
    - Small Farms – A renewed opportunity
    - Cover crops for soil conservation and fertility
    - Marketing Grain
    - Therapeutic Horticulture
    - Pesticide Safety Education Program
    - Farm Management/Landowner Seminars
  Desired Outcomes: Adopt efficient production technologies in agriculture (for crops and livestock); heightened awareness of the need to conserve and sustain natural resources; sensitize the public (producers and home-growers) on the
rational use of chemicals for integrated pest management; and educate residents about alternative enterprises such as (beekeeping, small ruminant production, specialty crops etc.).

- **Community and Economic Development**
  - Gather scholarship/grant information and make it available on the website for Kankakee County Residents. Support and make available information on the Kankakee area Agritourism association. We will focus more on leadership development with Pembroke/Hopkins Park communications outreach committee. Desired Outcome: Partner with Communications Outreach committee to conduct Pembroke “Town Hall Meeting” follow-up on Asset/Capacity Building. Gather resource information for local grants/scholarships and post to our website.

- **Family and Consumer Sciences**
  - Will continue to educate the community on basic budgeting, housing (pre/post purchase seminar, recycling, educational programs on care giving, and chronic disease self management.

**Cook County—Tanesha Pittman (absent but sent report)**

- Extension participated in 10 days of activities and speaking engagements at Taste of Chicago in the City’s Goin’ Green Area. Composting, Emerald Ash Borer, Rain Gardens, Container Gardens, Alternative Energy and Organic Pet Foods were covered.
- Extension is currently participating in Science in the City, a 10-day program of events throughout the city and surrounding suburbs to promote science innovations, careers, etc. As part of this, Extension launches its Mobile Science Lab (pdf attached).
- The Early College Outreach team is working on college visits, the ICAN reading day and wrapped up another successful Road to College summer camp.
- The Community Health Team received a breast cancer prevention grant from the State of Illinois Department of Public Health. The team is providing trainings and information throughout the county.
- Many of Extension’s programs are highlighted weekly on either CAN-TV’s Hotline 21 live call-in show, or on Comcast Cable’s half-hour Putting Knowledge to Work program.

**Kane County—Ana Espinoza**

- Recent programs include the Horticulture Fair, summer school camp, and Nutrition in School.
- They are working on translating materials into Spanish for parenting class and getting parental involvement in the schools.
- Farming is of increasing interest to new Hispanic residents who have been buying a lot of land.