Regional Advisory Council Meeting
April 4, 2008
Sharing

**Cook**—Tanesha Pittman reported that:

- The Mobile Science Unit (Science on the Go), reached about 1500 young persons and it is booked until the end of the school year.
- Also, applied for at least $150K in grants and applying for a $450K grant for the STEM program
- Three additional programs have been released offering books in early college outreach, horticulture, and community health. Pittman distributed brochures on Cook County’s Community Health programs.
- Women’s Health Symposium to be held in Orland Park township is being sponsored by Extension Cook County through a grant from the IL Department of Public Health (Prairie State college, Healthcare Consortium of Illinois, and National Cancer Institute are also partners).
- Asian Language and culture program is being offered in three Chicago public schools where cultural norms and customs are being shred. Additionally, Japanese language is being taught.

**DuPage**—Pat Kosmach reported on some horticultural programs in DuPage. *Hort Therapy* was conducted at the Chicago Botanic Garden as a one day class. In September, the Master Gardener Conference will be held in Lombard and about 500 people are expected to attend. Information will soon be available in an upcoming newsletter.

The Embryology program reached approximately 3000 children.

DuPage is currently without a unit educator. All programs are being handled by part-time staff. Their county board is still trying to decide how to distribute transit funds. Extension had been cut out of their budget, but now it appears they may give them what was given last year.

**McHenry**— Tom Dahlfors reported on events and programs in McHenry County. They had an open house to which the county board members and county officials were all invited. Prior to a county board meeting, Extension served soup and sandwiches and the council and Extension program participants were on hand to talk about Extension.

Community garden produced 8000 pounds of food that went to the food pantry.

Equestrian needs are being combined with Wisconsin.

Pesticide training was highly attended with nurseries sending their employees. It was offered in English and Spanish.

Don Schellhaass, County Director, is retiring.

**Kane**—Ana Espinoza reported that the Kane County office has been promoting awareness of the obesity/diabetes problem. The Hispanic population is hard-hit, and comprise 28% of the population in Kane. Getting the message to this audience has been difficult. She feels marketing needs to be better addressed and also language is a barrier. At the ESAC meeting held in Champaign in February, there were discussions about partnering with other organizations that
were doing the same types of programs and that can assist in getting the Extension name out there.

**Kendall County—Wayne Mundsinger**

Jeff Rugg is our new Horticulture/IPM Educator. Jeff has an extensive background in Horticulture and Water Garden Design, Installation and Maintenance. He has already put together several education programs for the Master Gardeners and is working on increasing the speaker’s bureau offerings and other funding sources. One of his passions is photography. The brochure on the classes he is offering contains photos from his collections.

Our part-time Nutrition and Wellness person left us at the end of the year. We have interviewed and added Anne Lietz, RD, LDN, CDE in this position. This is a position that is funded jointly between the County Health Department and the U of I Extension and is scheduled for three days per week.

In January we held our “Funders Luncheon.” This is to say thanks to the people who help fund us either through public funds or private. We had about 30 people show up including most of the County Board. The meal is completely donated, prepared, and served by the local council. Presentations were given by two young ladies who attended the Extension Science Camp last summer and an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Illinois was given by a Master Gardener.

The County approved our FY09 budget request at a 3.5% increase.

**Will County—Lucille Porolli**

Will County Extension Council is busy organizing an Open house Day and a Fair Program Showcase to attract Will County residents, professionals, business people, churches and significant others to come and enjoy a showcase of Extension programming. Two events are planned:

1. The Open House will be held in the auditorium of the Will County Farm Bureau building from 11 AM to 1 PM on Wednesday, May 28. A light lunch will be provided. This event is targeting professionals and partner institutions. Five educators and program coordinators will provide program highlights in breakout rooms. During lunch all the participants will receive an overview of Extension programming, community participation and resource sharing. Organizations will have a chance to look into possible collaboration opportunities.

2. A program Showcase at the Will County Fair in July, 2008, will take place each day of the Fair. Extension Council members will distribute water, program materials and provide short program briefs while answering questions from interested persons. This event targets all those who attend the Will County Fair.

The whole Extension Council is involved. Committee chair Gary Patton is working with a committee of four people providing leadership.
Grants: Due to budget cuts, Dr. Theuri and John Zalanka are aggressively writing grants. In February, they submitted two grants (a total of $223,000). One of the grants was local, and the other was Federal. Dr. Theuri is currently writing a grant for $17,000 partnering with local schools to provide an after-school program focusing on health, nutrition and wellness.

Will county is concerned about the loss of Youth Educator positions and the shrinking funding sources. As such, much more time must be spent on grant writing and creating methods to generate income.