

Family and Youth Advisory Committee December 5, 2003

Present: by Pic-Tel

Charlene, Wendy, Ann, later Catherine – Taylor Hall

Thom, Claudia – Rockingham Co.

Kathy J.– Grafton Co.

Kathy F.- North Country Education Foundation

Nancy B.- Sullivan Co.

Robin P. – Merrimack Co.- phone connection

Review Fact Sheet about this committee –

- Are we on target with what this group is doing? – YES
- Do we use our time well? – Pic-Tel helps make good use of time. We need to think about when this group meets in relationship to other group meetings.
- We are doing the charge of this committee.
- Good example of how we can work together as youth and family staff, county and state staff... Role model for future programming.
- Helps us through changes
- Robin – communication piece, help to feel connected
- Kathy F. sometimes we feel forgotten in the north country - this is a good connection
- Ann – often rehash of topics discussed in other groups. We need to think about all the things we are doing, what can be let go of.
- The group decided it was important to continue.

Ballot - It will be sent out later this month. Charlotte will replace Ann on the group. Charlene will talk with family specialists to see if one specialist can represent all the specialists especially when we are short staffed with specialists.

November 17th recap

- IOD – impressed with the size of our staff. They are all funded on soft money. Publications are very impressive. Go to their website to see scope of their materials and resources. ATEC has a statewide lending library. Can we learn from them about surviving on soft money?
- Time with Nancy – Helped us think interdisciplinary about topics. Specialist presentation is up on the website. It was very obvious having a vacancy in the family life position.
- Learning Styles – lots of fun, hands on, need for more updated research, possible in-service. We need to be teaching more about learning styles and needs, not have so much training about processes. Inclusive learning- Dept. of Ed. and Bill Wansait good resources. IOD could help with inclusive learning. Fran Mahoney from PSU presented at last year's state conference. If staff had no experience in learning styles – they really liked her. If they had experience, they felt it was too elementary.

State conference workshop ideas. If we have good general session or workshops, it could lead into future in-service audiences. Topics could include: brain research, audiences with low literacy skills, and audiences where English isn't their first language.

It is important that we realize we can not learn all about learning styles in one session. What we need: written materials, video, etc. It needs to be a program goal of the organization and be provided in a progressive manner. Think of civil rights- our organization's capacity for including all learners in extension programming – Santa, Grinch, Mickey Mouse.

Program Leader structure committee – Charlene is a member, the charge was read and the committee was listed in the Biweekly. Questions raised for discussion

- Should we have issued based leadership?
- We want to be sure certain aspects of the program are not lost: family life, money management, etc.
- There is no pre-proposed plan from Nancy at this point
- Report is due to John March 1st.
- Program leader is necessary in our program areas for some consistency across county lines
- PAST (Program Administrative Structure Team) is the team name, and is the next phase after the CRAS committee

Revenue Generation In Service

- Very positive evaluations
- Message clear we are all taking a role in revenue generation
- Specialists take the main role- there is a need to involve county staff to conduct funded programs
- If any one is applying for grants or special funding, be sure PL stays in the loop before moving too far too fast to be sure it fits with program direction and goals
- Some felt that staff are recognized based on their achievement of securing grants. It is an important part, but only a part of the total picture of successful programming.
- There are mixed messages out there.
- It is tricky to balance getting new dollars with doing the job you have previously done. How do we answer to county decision makers what they are getting for their dollars?
- We need to review the MOU with counties to be sure we are operating in a manner appropriate to that agreement. It will be important to bring our partners along in the process.

Options for handling vacancies: Continually being discussed based on meeting program area goals, system goals, and the concerns about potential future recisions. Any progress toward filling a position will be done slowly and carefully. We need to have county dollars stay in the program area where the vacancy occurs.

We may need to move toward more regionalization to be able to maintain quality programs. "Times of change could be times of opportunity." We must be attentive to the needs of county advisory councils, volunteers and other clientele.

Obesity initiative – all minutes are on the web. A website will be the centerpiece of work. Val is taking the leadership at this point. It is important to be multi-disciplinary.

Marketing plan for family and youth program – no, there is not a separate one. A new committee is being formed to advise Holly and Peg about total extension and coordinated by Nancy. It will have representation from all program areas. Most meetings will be virtual and market all programs.

Family and youth need to better communicate what we do. We need it to be a good funding tool. PlusTime is working with the governor's after school initiative. This is to work with NH businesses to help market after school programs to communities and local funders.

Nancy talked about some of the program thoughts from the youth family and consumer science committee and encourages more integration of programming. They really want to recommend a "Mall Madness" program from Florida. It combines consumer management, fast food education, and consumer rights. This will continue to be explored. Rotational leader training was discussed.

4H youth development could do a better job of promoting family development programs. Also look for more cross programming links on the web site. Perhaps more cooperation of family nights out. Also interoffice cooperation – teaming, nutrition connections, family life skills

Take advantage of the POW process- early beginning discussions. Approach people to think about integrated program development. Family Lifeskills is really concerned about literacy needs. It is hard for some clients to think about tomorrow let alone retirement. Guest speakers can give clients in the Family Lifeskills program the same message in different ways. It helps the program.

Thanks to Catherine, Thom, and Nancy for completing their full term and best of luck to Ann as she approaches her knew job opportunity.

Dates for next years meetings will be set after new members are selected.