

Lighten Up NH! Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 10, 2006

Present: Colette Janson-Sand, Brenda Carey, Debbie Luppold, Robin McGlone, Martha Judson, Debbie Cheever, Val Long, Charlene Baxter, Helen Costello

1. Meeting with DHHS Bureau of Prevention Services

Val met with the following staff from the DHHS Bureau of Prevention Services to discuss obesity prevention in New Hampshire and the Lighten Up NH! initiative: Alice Bruning, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Prevention Services; Patti Baum, Program Manager, Nutrition and Health Promotion Section; Regina Flynn, Health Promotion Advisor, Nutrition and Health Promotion Section; and Stacey Smith, Health Promotion Advisor, Nutrition and Health Promotion Section. They were interested in collaborating, but it was unclear whether they had already started negotiating with anyone else about obesity prevention. We discussed the results of their recent survey, and how UNH Cooperative Extension could work with them. I told them that we were seeking funding for our project, but had not yet been funded. They did not seem to have any particular plans at this point.

2. Grants Update

We were not approved for the General Mills grant we submitted, and the Allen Foundation grant is still out. The letter of intent has gone into the Healthy New Hampshire Foundation and a letter to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It was suggested that the Kellogg Foundation may be a possibility because of the community aspect of this project. Val and Charlene will talk with the Endowment for Health.

3. Northeast Regional Cooperative Extension Opportunity

Nancy Franz brought the Lighten Up NH! proposal to the last Northeast Regional Cooperative Extension Director's meeting and the Directors were very interested in a multi-state project. New Jersey has a similar proposal and would like to collaborate. The Directors would like the Lighten Up NH! group to create a logic model for the project and submit it for review. Val will work with New Jersey to develop this logic model, and investigate the pros and cons of a multi-state collaboration. Note: the region currently doesn't have a process to select and support regional projects, but this spurred them to start a process.

It was also suggested that we look at the e-Extension grants. The Lighten Up NH! committee felt we should not pursue this.

4. UNH Cooperative Extension Web Site

We included Steve Judd in on this discussion via PictureTel. We discussed the pros and cons of having the Lighten Up NH! be part of the UNH Cooperative Extension Web site. In the end, we felt we would have more flexibility having our own Web site, but with regard to sustainability, being part of UNH Cooperative Extension would provide that support. Charlene indicated that she had talked with Steve and Nancy about placement on our Web site. But, we really can't do much at this point without some funding.

5. Strategic Planning

We tabled this agenda item because we ran out of time. But, Colette and Debbie Cheever offered to talk with a couple of M.D.s to see if they could be involved in Lighten Up.