

University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee
Thursday, February 21st, 2019
James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room

Members Present: Tom Snider, Mike Brunn, Steve Binder, Karen Powers, and Tom Borchart.

Members Absent: None.

UW-Extension Staff: Dana Berger, Mandi Dornfeld, Ashley Rolph, Sarah Thompson, Kimberly Miller

Others Present: Tom Konetzke, County Board Member

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Tom Snider.

Comments from the Public related to items on the agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: Binder moved to approve the 1/17/2019 minutes; seconded by Borchart. Motion carried 5-0.

Program Reports:

4-H Youth Development: Berger shared that 4-H Fun Day was on February 2nd at Webster Stanley Middle School. It was a successful event, with 110 youth in attendance, 50 non-4-Hers and over 30 volunteers to help youth create hands-on projects. Projects included, rocketry, backyard chickens, slime science, sewing, leather crafts, LEGO Robotics, MathArt, acrylic painting, tissue paper painting, bird feeders, soap carving, gymnastics, and cookies in a jar. Berger reported that 4-H will be hosting a cultural event at the Expo building to celebrate diversity at the county fair this year on August 3rd. They will be partnering with Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities and Reach counseling for this event. There will be youth dance troupes and activity stations featuring cultural-themed projects for youth to make and take. The goal of this event is to educate the general population about cultural arts and to attract diverse crowds to the 4-H program. Berger shared that 4-H will be collaborating with a few organizations this coming year. Those organizations include the Boys & Girls Club of Menasha, YouthGo Neenah, UW Oshkosh and the Oshkosh Public Library. The main focus of these collaborations will be to piggyback on events and ideas, and forming new clubs. Berger shared her 1-2 year goals for the program. She will be working on building relationships with volunteers, streamlining team processes, creating a comprehensive volunteer role description binder, and implementing creative ideas to encourage youth to compliment the Experiential Learning Model. She explained that she would like to try introducing a digital or video version on 4-H Record books in hope that it will get youth more interested in doing them.

Human Development & Relationships: Dornfeld distributed copies of the *2019 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group* brochure and explained the recent structural changes that have been made to the program over the last year and a half. Since Dornfeld has taken over the program, they have increased the number of childcare staff, which all have group management experience. She explained that there are roughly 1,400 kids in Winnebago County who are being raised by non-parents. Many of the non-parent members do not have a strong support system outside of the group. This group has helped many of them make connections, which is why it is so important to our community. Dornfeld went on to explain how the support group runs. When members arrive, they are greeted with a family dinner where the staff members join and talk with the members. After dinner, the children get to play with toys and games in another room, while the adults participate in the support group session. The GRG support group is thriving and continues to be a success. Dornfeld distributed an information sheet about *Teens Informing the Prevention of Suicide*. This is a qualitative suicide group study where teams of high school students and community partners will come together and research what impacts teens' mental health and their stressors. They will then use what they learned to help improve teen mental health and prevent suicide-related behaviors. Dornfeld will be part of the advisory team. Dornfeld gave an update on the Sources of Strength program that she has been working on. By the end of 2020, all Winnebago County high schools will be suicide prevention schools. Dornfeld is one of two regional trainers for this program. She will be training 15-17 schools. They are currently working on getting SOS into the private schools in the county. Dornfeld shared that her programming will be launching a 2 way interactive parenting workshop called Raising a Thinking Child. It will be the very first online parenting class. It will be launching this summer.

Scholarship Updates: Thompson explained the changes that have been made to the 2019 County Board Scholarship. Applications have been sent out to high schools in the county and are available on the Winnebago County website.

Community Gardens: Miller gave a quick update on the community gardens. Rob Way will present to the county board in March, and a vote on the proposal will occur in April. If approved, a budget transfer will need to be requested for additional expenses to prepare the location for a community garden site.

Committee Chair Report: Snider shared an email from Catherine Neiswender that introduced the new Area 10 AED Chris Viau. He was unable to make it to the meeting today, but will be present at the March meeting.

UW-Extension – Administration:

Staff Updates/Area Updates: Dornfeld went over a report given by Chris Viau's, the new Area 10 AED. Viau officially started on February 4th, 2019. He was unable to attend today's meeting because of a training he needed to attend, but he will be present at the March meeting. Dornfeld shared that Jessica Beckendorf has finished her interim AED position on Jan 31st. Dornfeld announced that we have completed the hiring of an Agriculture Agent. John Thompson will be starting early to mid-March. As of now, there is a meet and greet for Thompson in the process and will be announced once the dates are finalized. The Financial Education Educator position has been posted and will close on March 11th. Viau and Dornfeld are working on getting the person hired for the position to start on May 1st. Jody Bezio is working as a temporary Administrative position. Her contract will end on March 31st. A Full-Time Administrative Associate position is in the works and will be posted soon. Amy Hendrickson is now on FMLA, with an expected return date in April or May. Melissa Haight is working as a part-time program support for Dornfeld's programming until Hendrickson returns. Rolph will continue to work on the finances for the office until Hendrickson returns as well.

Department Activities: Dornfeld shared the plan for safety upgrades within the office. Purchases for a corner mirror, duress buttons and numbered door signs are in the works. Dornfeld and Viau will be attending a meeting with PNF to have all of this approved on March 7th.

State Activities: Dornfeld reported that with the recent restructure and collaboration with UW-Madison, new branding is still being identified.

Comments by Committee Members: If there is anything needed to be added to the meeting agenda, please email Dornfeld.

Next Meeting: Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 21st, 2019.

Adjourned: Borchart moved to adjourn; seconded by Binder. Motion carried 5-0, 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Rolph