

Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative Work Group Report - May 2012

Active Living/SRTS Team

- No workgroup meeting this month.
- New SRTS Liaison joined staff on May 16. Welcome Ashley Christensen!
- Challenge: Scheduling summer committee meetings - with such a small committee, if only one person is gone, we lose quite a bit of input! We are having difficulties finding a consistent time that works for most.

NIFF Coalition

- Workgroup met on May 3.
- Working with school food service directors on cycle menu with a goal to identify local foods incorporate into more meals.
- Working on a production planning database for GROWN Locally to help with crop planning.
- Working with Debra Garrison from Primus Labs on an affordable small farm GAP pilot program.
- Met with Doug O'Brien, USDA Rural Development at the Sharing Spaces Kitchen.
- Four farms successfully passed GAP audits: Rolling Hills Greenhouse, Heathered Ridge Farm, J&J Produce, Ecko Gardens. (Fayette and Clayton co.)
- Working on annual data collection from buyers, schools and farmers.
- Three projects recently received funding from the Leopold Center and will directly impact the food system work in northeast Iowa.
- A new report summarizes interviews with leaders of 15 local food groups across Iowa that was conducted in Summer 2011 by Leopold Center graduate intern Joanna Hamilton. Read it at www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs-and-papers/2012-03-current-state-regional-food-system-work-iowa
- 14 ag lenders attended a meeting hosted by SARE, NCAT and ISUEO to talk about lending to alternative ag enterprises.

School Outreach - Wellness Team

- Weekly RC meetings
- Action plans received from all school but Oelwein and Eastern Allamakee. New plans from Allamakee and Clayton Ridge
- Met with Food service staff from 6 F2S pilots...working on letters of support for Farm to School Bill
- Jackie Bilyeau Holmes has been hired as a Nutrition Outreach Consultant for the next year to assist schools with a regional, seasonal cycle menu.
- School gardens underway; weekly RC visits for maintenance
- Completing a "Monster Evaluation" for a year's worth of work
- AmeriCorps Grant Completed
- Partnering with UNI-CEEE on an AmeriCorps planning grant for future years.
- Upcoming: Youth piece design next year...Cafeteria Coaches...RC work plan/meetings next year

Communications Team

- Last FFI School Wellness Newsletter for 2011-2012...sent!
- Completed Robert Wood Johnson Foundation RoadMap to Health Prize with Ann, Kathy and Corry's support--(\$25,000, no string attached!)
- Bike Rack Challenge-- prize, story and wrap up.
- Sat in on Interviews for potential FoodCorps service members for 2012-2013.
- FoodCorps/AmeriCorps binder for next round of service members

Before June 22nd Flannery will be:

- Completing fitness videos for New Hampton and FFI archive

- Completing one-pager about FFI school outreach by the numbers and stories.
- Completing news release templates for major stories (HomeGrown School Lunch Week, school gardens, action plan release, etc.)
- Updating Regional Messaging Campaign Budget
- Sharing computer files.

Community Health Team

- Workgroup met on May 16
- WG Report (in bullets):
- **School Wellness Update.** Continue to build local commitment and capacity with health in each school – still a work in progress
- **NICC Early Childhood Curriculum Update:**
- NICC Newsletter – monthly – gives FFI recognition for curriculum used
- Students have worked on updating curriculum - will post to FFI website
- Willing to partner with FFI? Setting up meeting in June with NICC (Dana Dotzenrodd & Dr. Wee) to see readiness to partner with early childhood education
- **WKKF Pre-Proposal** (new strategy 0-5 yrs)
- Reviewed Strategy and Outcomes
- Alignment with Institute of Medicine Recommendations
- Met at Luther on May 29th to review draft proposal
- **WIC – Recent changes reviewed:**
 - Changes to the WIC food package: no cheese, no canned beans, store brand cereal and peanut butter.
 - Retained the cash value vouchers for fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. Those may be used at approved local Farmers Markets.
 - Distributing Farmers Market checks to children ages 2 thru 4 and breastfeeding women in Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek Counties.
- **NICHQ** - National Institute Child Health Care Quality – Healthy Weight Collaborative Haleisa Johnson, Ann Mansfield, Vicki Carolan, Flannery Cerbin and Nancy Yelden working with IDPH and University of Iowa School of Public Health. Using FFI’s regional messaging campaign “Together We Grow Healthy Kids” – plan for an expanded audience to include primary care and deepen efforts in local public health in NE Iowa.

NE IA Funder’s Network -- No Report

Youth Outreach

- Collecting evaluation data from youth and coaches.
- Worked on Youth Team Action Plan
- Told hundreds of elementary students about Iowa’s Dairy Story in field trips to the Dairy Center, Calmar.

Convener/Administration:

- Attended the Weight of the Nation Conference in Washington DC, May 7-9.
- Attended the Food and Community Conference with NE IA team, May 22-24.