

Regional Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2014

North Fayette High School Library

5:30 – 7:30 pm

The FFI Regional Leadership Council met on May 27, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the N. Fayette High School library for a light meal and meeting.

Attendance: Elaine Govern, Barb Schmitz, Karla Organist, Mary Koopman, Nancy Yeldon, Sue Burrack, Joanne Tupper, Brandon Friedlein, Duane Willhite, Nick Mabe, Eric Nordschow, Haleisa Johnson, Angela Gibbs, Ann Mansfield

Guest: Nick Mabe – Iowa Food Hub Coordinator

Motion made by Karla Organist, seconded by Sue Burrack to approve the RLC minutes from March 31, 2014. Unanimous approval.

FFI Community Action Plan – Year 5

- **Theme: W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food & Community Meeting – highlights, take-aways**
- School Outreach – Duane Willhite
 - Duane provided an overview of the Detroit gathering and his opportunity to visit a Detroit middle school where they have a 2.5 acre garden and greenhouse. Food service budget supports gardeners to grow the food for school food. There is significant parent involvement and support.
 - Duane is working with NF-V Food service director to budget for an additional position in food service to help with the processing of fresh vegetables and fruit in the coming school year. Great news!
- School Wellness Action Plan 2014-15:
 - School commitments for service members – placement in schools where there is an active school wellness team this year
 - Full time – Decorah, Oelwein, North Fayette-Valley, Postville, Waukon
 - Part time – North Winneshiek, Clayton Ridge, Central, Turkey Valley, St. Joes, MFL (unsure)
 - Riceville – expressed interested in having a service member. Schools are required to have an active school wellness team to support and guide an FFI School Outreach service member; the first step will be to build school wellness readiness & capacity with FFI Operations team members. For example, if the school is interested in school faculty/staff inservices regarding building local commitment for school wellness, FFI Work Group leaders are willing to provide inservices and guidance in the coming school year.
- Food Systems – Nick Mabe
 - Overview of Detroit gathering – A chance to hear about the national movement for the development of food systems where the access to good food is increased for all community members. Nick described several site visits to learn more about urban agriculture and the intersection with community institutions sourcing local food.
 - Food Hub – Nick provided an overview of current Iowa Food hub Work including the expanding routes to communities where there is less access to healthy food. The

initial pilot community is Postville; additional support for increased access will be aided by the addition of a new EBT system where participants can use their EBT fund to purchase a food box delivery.

- Beef Project – Journey chronicled by Teresa Wiemerslage in a FFI Blog where a local beef cow was procured for school lunch in Decorah the end of May. Take-aways: It's possible to do! A lot was learned! We have more to learn before we can scale this pilot.
- Active Living- SRTS – Karla Organist
 - Rural Model – Overview of recent manual created by Ashley Christensen for final report to the Iowa DOT for SRTS Grant; outlining the 10 steps to creating a regional, rural model for SRTS.
 - Karla provided an update of the trail counting activity in the region; invited RLC members to participate in these activities whenever possible.
- Early Childhood – Haleisa Johnson
 - Haleisa has been working with regional HeadStart teachers and staff to recognize Farm to PreSchool efforts in their classrooms.
 - Successful parent engagement activities – 3 HeadStart sites hosted end-of-year family nights where they cooked their healthy meal together.
 - FFI Summer Intern working with Haleisa to prepare materials and programs for fall.
- Youth Engagement
 - Cici Mueller, FEEST Coordinator, attended the WKKF Food & Community Gathering in Detroit where she co-presented a session about the FEEST model in NE Iowa FFI. (Cici was not present at this meeting.)

Action Items - Updates

- FFI Yr. 5 Budget Plan – November 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014
 - Overall Budget = \$ 318,951.00
 - 05.01.14 Balance = \$211,419.51

Reports for Regional Leadership Council

- Financial Sustainability – Update
 - 2013 Donations
 - FFI Direct Fund - \$8,150 Balance = \$14,363
 - FFI Endowed Fund - \$1,400 Balance = \$7,338
 - NICC - \$5,000/year to support Early Childhood for next 3 years (Will transfer funds to CFGD after July 1, 2014)
 - 2014 Donations
 - **Great Give Day – May 6th = \$5,895** raised to support FFI School Outreach (Direct and Endowed Fund)
 - Grant submissions – Early Childhood – Haleisa Johnson
 - Walmart
 - Wellmark
- Equity – Equal opportunity for all citizens, community member participation in planning, decision making
 - Focus - Parent Engagement, Education – HeadStart parent education, grocery tours, etc.
 - NE Iowa – Talking Points – Equity in this work

- Good Food For All – National working definition from May 2014 WKKF Gathering:
 - A just, equitable and sustainable food system is one that provides physical, economic and community health; regenerates, protects, and respects natural resources and animals; and ensures that all people live with dignity and freedom from oppression and exploitation. To achieve this, we must:
 - Prioritize the leadership, decision-making and community self-determination of small and medium-scale farmers, farmers of color, farm workers, food chain workers, indigenous people, low-income people, women and communities of color.
 - Change policies, systems and institutional practices to target resources and benefits toward historically disinvested communities, with particular attention to the well-being of children and families in these communities.
 - Build resilient local food economies grounded in sustainable agriculture and just distribution of economic benefits.
 - Practice environmental stewardship.
 - Respect and sustain indigenous food traditions.
- Evaluation
 - Innovation Map – Food System Journey for NIFF, NE Iowa FFI - shared with RLC members
 - Year 5 – preparing to submit by August 31, 2014
 - National – Food & Fitness sites – common indicator discussion ongoing
 - BMI data – Schools – Central Elkader reporting a statistically significant decrease over last 5 years. This is great news. Central is the only K-12 school in the region with a long-term valid data collection process in place for BMI data; they were a part of an IDPH grant several years ago where the school nurse created a plan.

Coordinator Update

- StrengthFinders – leadership development for collaborative work
- Communications - Quarterly Newsletter – **June 2014**, Internal Updates
- State and National meetings
 - National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, Austin, TX – April 14-18
 - 4 Food service personnel, 4th grade teacher, Haleisa Johnson (Early childhood) and Teresa Wiemerslage, 2 FoodCorps service members
 - Group GAP Inspector training, LaFarge, WI April 22-24
 - Nick Mabe, Teresa Wiemerslage
 - WKKF Food and Community meeting – Detroit – May 19-22
 - Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place in Pittsburgh- September 2014
- Dates for future RLC meeting - Quarterly meeting dates
 - August 25th
- Focus for next quarterly meeting;
 - FFI Community Action Plan – Third Quarter of Year 5 – Planning for Year 6
 - School Plan 2014-15
 - Financial Sustainability - Budget, Grants, Community investment

Notes by Ann Mansfield