



Regional Leadership Council Meeting

November 25, 2013

Postville Community YMCA

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Working Vision for NE Iowa F&F Initiative

NE Iowa is a unique place where all residents and guests experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food with abundant opportunities for physical activity and play EVERY DAY. Healthier people make stronger families and vibrant communities.

Welcome – Meal served

- Brief Introductions - Welcome Barb Schmitz – Oelwein
 - New member replacing Terry Rex - Welcome Barb Schmitz, Oelwein Schools (Barb unable to attend because of weather)
 - Council members present: Scot Michelson, Eric Nordschow, Karla Organist, Brandon Friedlein, Sam Iverson, Lindsay Gaul, Sierra Garcia, Mary Koopman, Liang Wee, Duane Willhite, Sue Burrack, Teri Orr, Jon Jensen, Joanne Tupper, Elaine Govern, Angela Gibbs
 - Council members absent: David Lester, Fernando Vaquero, Larry Tupper, Angie Tagtow (has moved away to central Iowa; will not be able to participate in RLC)
 - FFI staff; School Outreach; Paige Wettach, Jake Geis, Ashley Dress, Felicia Pinto, Megan Woodward, Haleisa Johnson, Teresa Wiemerslage, Ann Mansfield
- Agenda Review
- Approval RLC Minutes – August 26, 2013
 - Motion for approval by Sue Burrack, seconded by Duane Willhite; unanimous approval

FFI Community Action Plan – Overview of Year 4 – Looking ahead to Year 5

- Food Systems – Teresa Wiemerslage
 - Teresa provided an overview including recent developments with location and partnership to advance food aggregation and distribution efforts and the new USDA Farm to School grant to increase procurement of local foods in to regional schools participating in the regional seasonal cycle menu. Food system updates included in recent evaluation reports; distributed to RLC.
- Active Living – Ashley Christensen/Karla Organist
 - Karla provided an overview of fall 2013 accomplishments to advance active transportation to schools in our region including; 15 Walking School Buses with 200 students, 9 new communities involved for spring 2014, Fall Walk to School Day had 14 schools participate with 6000 students, 11 mileage clubs, increased community participation in bike rodeos, SRTS planning efforts by Casey Mai in UERPC, regional trail counting and efforts to secure additional funds to support this work.
- Youth Engagement – Sam Iverson, Lindsay Gaul, Sierra Garcia, Lynette Houser

- Sam Iverson provided the RLC with an overview of the fall 2013 opportunity to deepen the work of FEEST in 3 schools (Postville, North Fayette-Valley and Decorah) with the FEEST workshop and the development of a FEEST Coordinator and 3 youth interns to advance the engagement and capacity of youth to partner with adults and advocate for changes in the school environment to support healthy choices. Sam described potential meals with parents and school board members in the coming winter and spring months.
- Early Childhood – Haleisa Johnson
 - Haleisa provided a fall update re the expanding engagement of the early childhood community in NE Iowa to include NICC Early Childhood Education Program, NEICAC – All 15 HeadStart Classrooms and AEA Voluntary Pre-K classrooms. Early childhood stakeholders seemed poised to embrace the idea of policy and changes to support healthier choices in these environments including Farm to School programming and the development of natural playgrounds as well as active transportation to these settings where possible. Haleisa is discovering that the parent outreach in partnership with HeadStart is a potential opportunity for authentic engagement; she is participating in several pilots and plans to glean helpful information for deepened engagement with this essential stakeholder group.
- School Outreach – Jon Jensen (Emily Neal at Oelwein School Board meeting)
 - Introduce AmeriCorps/FoodCorps service members – Felicia Pinto, Paige Wettach, Ashley Dress, Ashley Turk, Megan Woodward, Jake Geis
 - Service members provided an overview of their work in 18 regional school districts this fall. While it's always a transition with a new service member, they are seeing deeper engagement and expanding commitment in several schools where the capacity for school wellness is growing.
 - Planning for 2014-2015
 - Jon presented the draft conceptual plan for school work in 2014-15;
 - FFI School Outreach will continue to communicate and provide information, guidance and support as requested by each of the schools in their school wellness action plans.
 - With 4 years of investment in schools, we are seeing there are 4-6 schools who are ready to deepen the work to change the school environment and create a cultural shift towards wellness (healthy eating and active living).
 - FFI plans to shift the school outreach to meet the readiness for deeper work in these school communities (including early childhood and parent engagement) while keeping the other schools (not ready for deep engagement/commitment) in the information and opportunity network of FFI. The hope is to place service members in the communities to leverage the relationships with schools, early childhood, parents and community. FFI will continue to coordinate the once/week professional development and school outreach coordination with all of the service members
 - Feedback from RLC – Several members reinforced the idea of schools demonstrating the readiness to support a service member for more than 1-2 days per week and thought that schools may be able to support the stipend with FFI support for programming and travel

Action Items

- FFI Yr. 4 Evaluation Summary – approve for submission to WKKF
 - Motion for approval by Karla Organist, seconded by Mary Koopman; unanimous approval
- FFI Yr. 5 Community Action Plan Draft – Schools, Youth, Early Childhood, Food System, Active Living
 - Motion for approval by Joanne Tupper, seconded by Elaine Govern; unanimous approval
- FFI Yr. 5 Budget Plan – approve for submission to WKKF, Fiscal agent – CFGD
 - Motion for approval by Sue Burrack, seconded by Eric Nordschow – unanimous approval
- Recommendation to utilize Winneshiek County Supervisor funds to advance the Food Hub project described by Teresa Wiemerslage
 - Motion made by Scot Michelson to request that Winneshiek County Supervisor funds for 2013 - designated to support FFI - be directed to the Food Hub project (supervised by ISU Extension and Outreach). Seconded by Mary Koopman. Unanimous support.

Reports for Regional Leadership Council

- Financial Sustainability – Update
 - Summer, Fall visits
 - Case Statement dissemination
 - NICC – pledge to support Early Childhood for coming 3 years!
 - End of year letter to stakeholders
- Equity – Community member participation in planning, decision making

Coordinator Update

- StrengthFinders – leadership development
- Communications - Quarterly Newsletter, Internal Updates
- National meetings –
 - Smart Growth – February 2014 – Teresa Wiemerslage
 - Collective Impact Conference in February (possible)
 - Good Food for All – Washington, DC – March 11th
 - National Farm to Cafeteria Conference – Spring 2014
 - WKKF Food and Community meeting – Detroit – May 19-22
- Dates for future RLC meeting - Quarterly meeting dates
 - Feb. 24th, May 27th**, Aug.25th
- Focus for next quarterly meeting;
 - FFI Community Action Plan – Monitor progress – First Quarter of Year 5
 - Financial Sustainability Plan
 - Other

Notes by Ann Mansfield