

Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative
Minority & Low Resource Work Group Teleconference
February 19, 2008
4:00 pm – 5:10 pm

Present: Larry McGee, Lora Friest, Lana Snitker, Lori Egan, Teresa Wiemerslage, Leah Brown, Viktoria Stockman, Deborah Walker, Ann Mansfield and Brenda Ranum

Brenda welcomed everyone and began by reviewing the purpose of the committee. (See notes from 2/12/08 teleconference)

Deborah Walker (WKKF TAP Team member from VISIONS) shared her offer to bring a variety of workshop sessions to the following NE Iowa F&F Regional Team members to help us engage the community from a multicultural perspective...racial, ethnicity, working class, gender, etc. These workshops will help our minority Community Liaisons feel support and help our Regional Team members with the knowledge and skills necessary to support the work of this work group as we work to engage all our community members over time. The work group felt it would be a good idea to bring this knowledge to us. The proposed plan is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 25 - (5:30 pm – 8 pm) – Minority and Low Resource work group Session with VISION's team; location in Decorah to be determined
- Wednesday, March 26 – (11 am – 2 pm) - Regional F&F Leadership Team Meeting, 40 minute session with all team members
- March 26 – (2 pm – 8 pm) – workshop entitled, “Community Engagement from a Multicultural Perspective” for Minority and Low Resource work group and representatives from the other 6 work groups.

Leah could attend the 26th in the eve and then on Wed. from 4:30-8 pm. This would work for Viktoria unless she is called for her work. This date also worked for Lori, Larry, Teresa, Lora, Brenda and Ann. We will need to check with Paul. We will bring this opportunity to the Regional Team on Feb 27 and see if there are additional representatives from the working groups that would like to attend.

The group identified information that needs to be gathered from our minority communities and our low-resource communities to inform us.

- Leah - printed the NIFF local food survey & started making phone calls family by family in her community. Reception has been pretty good. She is explaining the initiative as she introduces the survey. She hopes to complete 60 surveys. She will send the completed survey results to Teresa and will include # of families surveyed, # of responses, # who declined to complete the survey. Leah will also complete the NIFF institutional survey (with her husband!)
- Viktoria - reviewed & printed the NIFF local food survey. She will have to do 1:1 with families verbally and then fill the survey out. She will try to go to Eastern European families...not sure of #.
- We need information from Hispanic community...will need to visit with Paul. He feels he can find community members to help him collect data.

- Teresa said the original NIFF local food survey and the institutional survey was sent randomly to people and institutions in the five county area. The local food survey to households did ask an income question. Data was not analyzed based on income, but we may be able to find this out and see if we need additional sampling.

What secondary data already exists?

- Lori – For our low resource/income communities, we may be able to look at Headstart surveys? (Food security, resources for health care, etc.) Lori will check into that survey and see how current the data is and what the questions were. Lori will check to see if additional information could be gathered from clients seeking heating assistance and she will check into this.

Another source of information could be the Farmer's Market - IDPH - Margaret Long is a contact for # using coupons, etc. and has data from last 5 years. There are some recent changes. They can use coupons in approved Farmer's Markets.
- Teresa – There is a State Food insecurity website. Teresa will try to download data sheets re multiple dimensions of food insecurity. See: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/hunger/counties/allamakee.html>
- Viktoria - Lots of people in Postville are not applying for WIC because they do not have SS # . Group suggested checking with Postville food shelf. They may have some #s.
- Larry – There was a 2004 Iowa State Rural Development Project survey in Elma (1 community/county) where they looked at recreational activities. Good response. It showed changes from the previous 10 yr. They use this survey often for what they want to prioritize in Elma. For other counties the survey was completed for Calmar, Waukon and we'll need to find out for Clayton & Fayette. See: <http://www.soc.iastate.edu/ext/presentations/publications/bulletin/SRB2005-3.pdf>

Also we should look at the "Kids Count" data on infant mortality, low birthweight, etc as it might be a good source.
- Lora - Postville will be included in the Safe Routes to School - community built environment assessment. The Jewish school requested to be included in this assessment and the structural analysis includes 2mi. surrounding the school, so the whole Postville community will be included.
- Leah - One big concern is a place for men & women to exercise separately. The Y has been good... but this year it's been hard to get space for gym. Lora asked Leah to write down what is available for her community, also including space and religious restrictions that might apply? Leah will provide us with a summary of this information. Lora suggested that for Eastern European and Hispanic community it's possible that cost is restricting access. Teresa –also has heard that cost has been a prohibitive factor in youth/families using the indoor recreational facilities in Postville and Waukon and have included policies to use facilities, such as 2nd pair of shoes and or they do not have the required swimming attire, etc.

Next Meeting: Wed., Feb. 27, Regional Leadership, 11 am – 2 pm, Garbee Hall, Upper Iowa University, Fayette. Work groups will have 30 minutes to meet and continue their work. One volunteer from each work group will be asked to give a 5 minute report to the whole Regional Team to share key points about their work and next steps. The group will decide on their volunteer spokesperson when we meet that day.

Next Teleconference date: Tuesday March 4th 4-5 pm (CT) Brenda will send out minutes and send out the teleconference number and url for the next meeting.

Chat Notes from our Connect meeting:

- WIC provides services based on income level without consideration of citizenship status, unless this has changed in the past 2 years. Individuals/families may not be providing the necessary documentation required by WIC to become certified for the program.
- What about the availability of outdoor county resources for physical activity that would be available to all residents? How much consideration do we need give to the barriers that may be present for families and/or individuals to access these resources?
- Let's make sure we put that on our next agenda. It might be an item for the "Built Environment Work Group"

Other possible next steps:

- Summarize data that was suggested to be collected.
- How will this data be used? Are there other work groups that need this information?
- Who will gather this data? What assessment methodologies are available to us and may be needed to gather new data? Is there time to gather this data as part of our Planning Phase or is this a tactic in our Community Action Plan?
- What funding, if any, is needed to gather this data?
- Are there key people we might want to talk to at the county, regional and state level that could provide us with important information about our minority and low-resource communities?

Notes recorded by Ann Mansfield and Brenda Ranum