

NE Iowa F&F Minority and Low Resource Workgroup Agenda
Tuesday, March 4, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

- **Roll Call:**
 - Present: Larry McGee, Leah Brown, Lori Eagan, Brenda Ranum, Ann Mansfield
 - Absent: Teresa Wiemerslage, Lora Friest, Lana Snitker
- **Welcome & new items for the agenda**
 - A lot of issues to discuss between minority communities and low resource communities. Is it too hard to visit about these both at the same time in the limited time we have? Lori - see benefits to both. Data will show that >90% of our minorities are also low-income. Are there too many issues to combine? Cultural issues with minorities are in addition to low resource/income issues. Leah - feel benefits both ways. If we separate, we'll need to communicate as there are overlapping issues. Larry - more effective if we let the concerns be separate to start with...he can have more of an impact on low-income than on minority issues in Postville. Solveig - concerned re spreading ourselves too thin. A lot of the minority communities are also low income. Could miss opportunities to share good ideas. Need to make sure all communities are represented and served. Brenda - for today let's plan to keep our work group as one but we'll need to try to keep each other on track and continue to share how we are feeling...making sure we are addressing issues related to both the minority communities and the low resource communities.
- **Review Regional F&F Leadership Team meeting on Wed., Feb. 27th, 2008**
 - Regional Team mtg. discussion – Larry and Solveig reported that the general discussion was around Postville and strategies to get their communities involved. Not a lot of discussion re low resource/income populations. Overall discussion re the meeting @ on Mar.26th with Deborah Walker.
 - Minority/Low Resource Work Group Report: One cultural barrier we are experiencing is that some of the populations don't come to meetings. There may be marketing possibilities available at existing community celebrations and events. The Postville radio station may be an avenue to reach the different cultures with community members talking about FFI. Victoria and Leah are working on delivering local food surveys in their communities.
 - Additionally - conversation re access to food. Solveig - our cooperative has tried diff. things over the years to make their food available to those with less means. This year have a scanner to use their swipe card (ex. WIC). They are adding fresh fruits & vegetables to WIC program.
- **March Workshop - “Community Engagement from a Multicultural Perspective”, Wed., March 26th, 2008, 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm**, Decorah by the WKKF Technical Assistance Team of VISIONS. In order to better understand the diversity and underserved audiences and issues in our area, staff from VISIONS will be attending the March Regional Team meeting

to give a 45 minute training on “Community Engagement from a Multicultural Perspective.” This training will continue from 2-8 pm at Luther College for one member from each work group. The following people have volunteered to attend the extended training: Leah Brown, Paul Raul, Viktoria Stockman, Lora Friest, Larry McGee, Lana Snitker, Solveig Hanson, -4:30 Jane Schadle, Janel Clarke, Karen Foster, Ann Mansfield, Brenda Ranum. (Others were encouraged to attend and to contact Brenda or Ann to participate. Deborah has indicated that we can take up to 18-20)

- **March Minority/Low Resource Work Group Session with Visions – Tues., March 25th, 2008, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Decorah.** (site to be determined) The evening of the 25th works for Leah, Lori, Viktoria, Brenda, Larry, Ann and hopefully Teresa. We’ll need to check with Paul and Lora.
- **Cross-Communicate with the following Work Groups will be needed and can begin at our Workshop on 3/26:**
 - Built Environment (Teresa)
 - NIFF Coalition (Teresa, Brenda)
 - Public Health (Ann)
 - Communication
 - Schools (being formed in March)
 - Youth (???)

Is there any one else that should be invited to this workshop? Please let us know if you have someone in mind who you think would like to come. Deborah will send ppts for handouts, will need flipcharts, markers, etc.

Deborah - please think about issues that you'd like to make sure we address...

Brenda - issue of minority vs. low-resource and the benefit of separating these issues vs. keeping them together.

Deborah - When it's all said & done...what will make this workshop a valuable use of your time?

- Solveig - to learn how I can connect with some of the different communities out there as a farmer/local grower. We'd like to know what it is that people would like for us to grow?
- Lori - list all of the various cultures and low-income...a better understanding of the barriers that some of the minority groups face re access to food & fitness. How do their perceptions vary from mine...how can I better understand
- Viktoria - I want to learn how to approach the minority community and hear about the experiences in other communities. What works and doesn't work? Immigrant community to include Eastern European and Hispanic...she works with these groups the most.
- Leah - I would like to have more tools... how to approach my community and get a more clear picture of how to work with my community more effectively.

- Ann - I would like to have at the end for us to have a good feel for the level of engagement and good conversation around the idea of engagement. We want to hear from each.
- Brenda - understand expectations and understand what people's hopes & dreams are for growing, eating food and being more active. We know that there are many strengths and assets that some of the communities bring to the regional conversations.
- **Other Assessment Updates:**
 - Local Food Survey –
 - Leah has completed about 20. People like to fill out anonymously. There is some explaining that needs to happen around what is grown locally. I'm learning a lot about what their needs are what they want. Many want more local and organic, but price is a barrier if it's more expensive. Another question - anyone interested in growing their own food? Keeping names.
 - Viktoria - still working on the surveys. A lot of the E. Europeans have gardens. There is a public garden outside of Postville... there is a problem with produce being stolen! It's been a disappointment. The gardens are on the NW side...it's a community garden space sponsored by the city of Postville. Contact - Judy Eglund. It's run by the Diversity Council. The data on community gardens... the more people want to grow their own food, the more likely they are to want to buy fresh local food. It actually supports the demand for local food.
 - NEICAC 2007 Head Start survey
 Returned surveys reflect less than 25% of the households surveyed are receiving Food Assistance (food stamps). Of those with children in elementary or high school around half are participating in the free or reduced price lunches in school. The WIC program appears to be reaching the majority of eligible families.
 Survey completed by
 - 57% households reported receiving food assistance within the last 12 months. (132 of 231)
 - 58.01% household reported receiving medical assistance with the last 12 months (134 of 231)
 - 31.25% reported their household currently needs assistance with basic needs (75 of 240)
 - 67.59% reported the source of their household income is through employment income (171 of 253)
 - 30.12% reported obtaining food from a food pantry, food bank, etc. in the last 12 months (75 of 249)
 - Of those, 63% reported using it 1-3 times in 12 months (41 of 65)
 - Of those, 20% reported using it 4-6 times in 12 months (13 of 65)
 - Of those 7.69% reported using it 7-9 times in 12 months (5 of 65)
 - Of those, 9.23% reported using it 10+ time in 12 months (6 of 65)
 - 96.76% report eating 2 or more meals each day (239 of 248)

- 27.21% report eating 5 servings of fruit each day (67 of 248)
- 32.26% report eating 5 servings of vegetable each day (80 of 248)
- 56.85% report eating 5 servings of dairy products each day (141 of 248)
- 23.39% report they do not have enough money to buy food (58 of 248)
- 10.89% report they need assistance with preparing healthy affordable meals (27 of 248)
- 2.82% report they have eaten at a congregate meal site or senior center in the past 12 mo. (7 of 248)
- 25.93% report their greatest challenge their household is currently facing is employment (63 of 243)
- 22.63% report their greatest challenge their household is currently facing is healthcare costs (55 of 243)
- 18.11% report their greatest challenge their household is currently facing is dentalcare costs (44 of 243)

- Farmer's Market Nutrition Program Directory of Authorized locations – you can find the markets and farm stands that were authorized in our region in 2007 on the website: www.agriculture.idals.state.ia.us.

Authorized locations

- Winneshiek FM
 - Oelwein FM
 - West Union FM
 - Rawson Berries
 - Cresco FM
 - Kirkpatrick Produce, Elkader
 - Friedlein Produce & Baked Goods
 - Swanson Orchard, Monona
 - Strawberry Point FM
 - Doc's Acres, Volga
 - Mieners Produce and Preserves, Lansing
- Women Infant & Children (WIC) Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
 - Allamakee-Not served
 - Clayton-Not served
 - Fayette-\$2,286 redeemed
 - Howard-\$1,118 redeemed
 - Winneshiek-\$1,856 redeemed

Teresa did not have access to the information on the number of people who received checks by county, but above is listed the dollar amount redeemed in those counties for the WIC program. Not all counties are served due to lack of funding. The seniors program is done by Area Agency on Aging service area and not by counties, so we do not have the information wanted for the senior program.

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- Solveig has application for this ... there are some rules because they are a delivery program not a farmer's market that make this program a challenge. Making this contact might be a next step.
- Larry - this is a policy change that would be a good next step.
- Solveig - has a lot of information that she intends to review and bring back to this group.

- Northwest Area Foundation has some quick statistics for each county on its poverty indicator website
 - Allamakee
 - Poverty rate for people under 18 was 16.8% in 2005; 11.8% in 1999 and 13.6% in 1989
 - Ranked 26th – from highest to lowest – out of 99 counties in 2005
 - Clayton
 - Poverty rate for people under 18 was 14.5% in 2005; 9.6% in 1999 and 16.9% in 1989
 - Ranked 48th – from highest to lowest – out of 99 counties in 2005
 - Fayette
 - Poverty rate for people under 18 was 15.9% in 2005; 12.3% in 1999 and 18.0% in 1989
 - Ranked 32nd – from highest to lowest – out of 99 counties in 2005
 - Howard
 - Poverty rate for people under 18 was 14.3% in 2005; 8.7% in 1999 and 14.9% in 1989
 - Ranked 51st – from highest to lowest – out of 99 counties in 2005
 - Winneshiek
 - Poverty rate for people under 18 was 8.7% in 2005; 6.5% in 1999 and 14.7% in 1989
 - Ranked 91st – from highest to lowest – out of 99 counties in 2005

- Poverty and Food Needs (Profile created by the Iowa Food Insecurity Project (2001 – 2006))
 - Allamakee
 - In 2005 – 28.9% of students were eligible for free and reduced school meal program
 - Clayton
 - In 2005, 21.0% of students were eligible for free and reduced school meal program

- Fayette
 - In 2005, 25.5% of students were eligible for free and reduced school meal program
 - Howard
 - In 2005, 18.3% of students were eligible for free and reduced school meal program
 - Winneshiek
 - In 2005, 14.1% of students were eligible for free and reduced school meal program
- Other items:
 - Please review the data included in this agenda. What does this data mean for our region? We may be able to use "Project Voice" videotape or record the stories in our region--around Fmr. Mkt, WIC, access, etc.
 - We also need to be thinking about what the other workgroups need to know from us.
 - Next mtg. will be **Tuesday April 1st @ 4p.m.** We will focus on this data and discuss what it means? Who else needs to know it? We will also have Viktoria & Leah's food survey work -- to inform the food work of our initiative.