

NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative
Fayette County Planning Team Meeting Minutes
August 16 , 2007
4:00 pm, ISU Extension Office, Fayette

Attendees: Deb Kahler, Joe Organist, Brady Kunz, Jennifer Ranheim, Donna Story, Maureen Johnson, Alice Moeller, Vicki Rowland, Scot Michelson, Sue Burrack, Richard Jensen, Dave Runyon, Ron O’Kones, Sheryl Struthers, Barb Schoenjahn, Ruth Schemmel, Judy Kane, Alexis Spain, Karla Organist, Brenda Ranum

1. Regional F & F Leadership Team Report:

- The regional team felt that they had a whole new perspective on the initiative. Our goal is to create a model that other regions throughout the country can use. They felt that the regional team is all about building connections and sharing ideas – and that all of the counties have shared visions, values and purpose.
- The Kellogg Foundation wants to see true policy shaping and system change. We have a real culture shift to take on. We will need to address city and county councils, planning and zoning professionals and others to achieve our goals.
- The team emphasized patience. We will be creating one regional vision and plan. But they want to stress that small individual community and county projects should be encouraged – these could provide data for a larger plan.
- Several grant opportunities were presented to them at their meeting and it was stressed that we might have a better chance at these funds if we work regionally.
- The Regional Team determined that they would like to have 2 youth representatives from each county attend the meetings, but they will have one vote
- Meeting times were changed to: noon – 2:00 p.m. in Decorah, for now.

2. Youth Representation: Alexis Spain (Jr.from Valley) and Trent Moeller (Sophomore from Starmont) will be our regional representatives. We are still seeking more youth at the county level and have several prospects. We will try to get as many as possible at the next meeting.

3. Webcasts & Discussion:

“Why Safe Routes to School Matter” Our Key Points of Discussion:

- Benefits of creating a Safe Route to School program: Student alertness, energy level, appetite, fitness, staff can benefit too, pollution reductions, and socialization. To quote Dick Jensen – “Build a personal and spiritual relationship with others and the great outdoors”
- Obstacles: Distance to our rural schools, community buy-in, safety (not enough road space or sidewalks), money (for signage, crosswalks, traffic lights...), volunteers for a committee, policy change may need to come at a higher level of government (DOT, legislature...)

“Assessment and Mapping Toolkit for Building a Healthier Community: Safe Routes to School”

Our Key Points of Discussion:

Are there schools in our county ready to submit a Safe Routes to School grant application?

- We couldn't answer this. Is it up to us to decide – or are we here to pass along the opportunity to our schools, and assist if they are interested? We finally determined that each school needs to decide for themselves.
- The following people from our committee agreed to take the information to the 5 districts in our county: North Fayette – Scott and Ron, Oelwein – Alice, Starmont – Sue, Valley – Deb, West Central – Brad

Are there schools in our county that would benefit from a SRTS program?

- We think so! But some may be better served by a Walkable/bikable community assessment.
- No committees have been formed in any of our schools. We feel that several of our schools could benefit from an assessment and mapping program.
- The group felt that each of our schools could incorporate some form of the Safe Routes to School program. There are both infrastructure and education opportunities at all of our schools.
- We will look at this issue again at our next meeting.

4. Other items:

- Upper Iowa University is hosting an "Information Fair" for students to let them know what is available. Scot will be there with another booth, so will take a DVD (from Brenda) for information on our initiative.
- The webcasts will be downloaded to a disk for check-out. Currently only from the ISU office, but soon in all libraries! You can always pull them yourselves from the site too: www.niffcoalition.org.
- Next Meeting: Sept. 20, 2007. 4:00 – 6:00, ISU Extension Office.