

## NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative – Allamakee County

The Allamakee County Food & Fitness Planning team met on April 15, 2009 at the Allamakee County Extension office at 5 pm. Attendees: Teresa Wiemerslage, Mary Koopman, Rachele Howe, Dave Schmelzer, Lana Snitker, Grace Howe.

Roll call: Please share your name and a conversation you've had this week that related to the work of FFI and our vision.

- Talked to regional conservation boards about trails. Jarrod was our rep from Allamakee County.
- Did a food play in our class on nutritious foods. I was whole wheat bread.
- Went to the Farmers Market ICN to learn more about becoming an authorized FM to accept WIC and Senior Nutrition coupons.
- Started working on the community garden.
- Visited with a group in Postville about housing projects. They talked about resources for their community garden.

Two video clips from the April 1 Youth Conference were shared. A Postville team attended.

The group reviewed the regional team report, timeline and RFA process. Group briefly discussed the Safe Routes to School meeting on April 1.

The group reviewed the proposed organizational structure.

- Talked about who will be the Allamakee County convener? Teresa indicated that if she is selected to convene the NIFF Coalition, it would be best to have another person convene the county team and serve as representative to the regional team.
  - The group discussed possibilities of using Economic Dev office or hiring someone through Extension on a part-time basis to do these duties.
  - Extension would be willing to house the person and offer staff support for the project.
- Talked about what kind of support we can give to the Postville Diversity Council.
  - Dave mentioned there is an emerging group that is working on recovery issues. This might be a group to work with.
  - Himar Hernandez from ISU Extension to Communities is willing to help us facilitate a focus group of Hispanic residents to learn more about their needs. He has offered to assist with leadership development.
  - FFI will be working with the school to gather more information from the students on their thoughts around FFI for their community.
- Talked about future Allamakee County Planning Team meetings.
  - Suggested that we go through a short-range and long-range planning process for the county.
  - Need to increase the partnerships and attendance at the meetings now that we are moving from planning to implementation.
  - Would like to see the ideas generated from the RFA process taken back to the counties to work on additional funding and capacity building.
  - Need to continue to work on ways to engage youth.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 5 pm. Teresa is looking into the possibility of hosting the meeting at the Waukon Community Garden.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.