

Work Group Reports – August 2009

Human & Financial Resource

- Wellmark Letter of Intent due next week to submit proposal on supporting youth as change agents in active living. Requesting \$75,000. Wellmark approached us to apply.
- Human & Financial Resource W.G. – Changes in Budget or Requests

Vision Work Group

- Spent the month working on the Community Action Plan and collecting match letters
- Various members have been working on the Fall Conferences and Mark Fenton visit

Youth Planning – Lynette Anderson & Vanette Grover

- Presented at an assembly at South Winn high school to start a Youth FFI team
- Photos from the Youth Boston Trip are posted on Flickr.
- The news release from the Boston Trip is on the back page.

NIFF Coalition – Teresa Wiemerslage

- Working on contacting Farm to School pilots
- Working on collecting baseline sales/purchase data for annual report
- Participated in F2S meetings/calls in Prairie du Chien and Fairfield, IA
- Submitted a proposal to develop food safety procedures for farms
- Hosting a Farm Tour at the Holthaus farm on Aug 29
- Homegrown School Lunch Week will be Oct 5-9, 2009
- Kitchen Krafts presented a Home Canning Demonstration at the Waukon Farmers Market in Aug

School Engagement – Ann Mansfield

- Working on contacting Safe Routes to School pilots
- Working on a teleconference to reconnect with the school regional team
- Working on the Fall Conference

Active Living – Scot Michelson, Rick Edwards

- Working on contacting Safe Routes to School pilots
- Working on the Mark Fenton visit
- Check website under Latest News: Architects suggest more trees, updates to train depot (Clermont Vision Planning)
- Allamakee Economic Dev submitted a REAP grant application for a trail within the city park in Waukon. It will loop the existing trail that is already there. The project is around \$82,000. The reap app. gives \$75,000.
- Story: As a result of ISU Extension involvement in the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, the following Built Environment effort is underway. For many years, Fayette County Conservation Board had been working to gain support for a Fayette County Trail System. This effort had stagnated and was essentially dead. The involvement of the CC Board in the Food and Fitness Initiative, along with many groups and organizations that had never worked together before, have resulted in a new effort to support new trails not only for Fayette County but for all of NE Iowa. As of today I wrote a letter from The Food and fitness Initiative and ISU/Fayette County to show our support for a RECAT Grant application to complete Phase one of the trail. Over \$55,000 has been raised through private donations to help leverage state funding. County Conservation Boards in other NE Iowa Counties have banded together to support this “backbone” of the proposed NE Iowa county trails system. This cooperation would have been unheard of in the pre Food and Fitness era.

Communications Work Group – Judy Isaacson

- Developing media plans for Mark Fenton visit and Fall conferences
- Liz is working on a toolkit for Homegrown School Lunch week
- There is a new flyer on the story of the NIFF Coalition at: <http://www.iowafreshfood.org/site/stories.html>
- Lynette attended a meeting in Chicago sponsored by RWJ Foundation addressing rising childhood obesity rates.
- Communication is going to move forward with a new webpage for Implementation Phase.
- A graphic designer will be helping us pull together media collection

Community Health – Haleisa Johnson

- Community Health: looking at opportunity for rural health policy grant. Partners = Luther, Public Health. \$85K to do a county assessment. Also help us get tools to aid with the data collection for this grant.

Area youth attend Boston FFI Conference

Nine Northeast Iowa residents, including five high school youth, attended a youth planning retreat for Food & Fitness in Boston, Mass. from July 26 through 29.

The conference was organized by the Youth Engagement Associates with the WK Kellogg Foundation to allow five of the nine Food & Fitness community cooperatives the opportunity for cross-site learning.

Local residents included, Lynette Anderson of Riceville, Scott Denner of Elkader, Deb Obermann of Cresco and Rob Hughes of Cresco. Area youth attendees were Adolfo Calderon of Postville, Kristina Walz of Elkader, Liz Dovenberg of Decorah, Wyatt Lee of Riceville and Lauren Obermann of Cresco.

The Boston conference also allowed groups from different regions of the country to work collaboratively on responses to upcoming national congressional decisions.

“It was an opportunity to prepare advocacy efforts on state and national levels around the Child Nutrition Re-Authorization Act and the Transportation Act,” said Lynette Anderson, Youth Engagement Coordinator with the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative.

The conference served as a catalyst for youth to narrow their focus on the national Food & Fitness Initiative. Participants attended educational sessions and discussed the current reality of youth engagement in Food & Fitness as well as the desired reality for youth engagement.

“In these sessions, Youth Engagement Associates and local trainers facilitated skill-building activities, learning exchanges and planning sessions to help shape and support each community’s efforts to establish, sustain and grow effective youth engagement work during the implementation phase of the Food & Fitness Initiative,” Anderson said. “The youth who are engaged in this effort understand the need for change to create healthy and vibrant communities.”

The exchange of ideas was particularly useful, according to one participant.

“I think it was important to see how others solve the same problems that we’re working on solving,” said Liz Dovenberg, a student at Decorah High School.

The upcoming school year will be a chance for these youth to take the FFI further into schools. “I see us working with the schools even more than we have been and getting healthy foods in the school lunches and concession stands,” Dovenberg said. “Also, educating elementary school kids about eating healthy and being physically active.”