

NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative Regional Team Summary – August 27, 2008

The reports from each group are as follows:

Resource WG

- Grant writer and youth coordinator have been hired.
- Plan to visit each community foundation in the next two months. Will explore with community foundations the idea of hosting a regional meeting for the foundations.

Youth WG:

- Hannah introduced Lynette Anderson, their new Youth Coordinator to the RT and thanked them for their support.
- Conducting student survey and will have results by next Regional Team meeting. The results of this survey will be used to develop an educational series for students on how to eat more locally grown food and exercise more.
- October goal is to have a school based team at each school represented on the Regional Team. Created a list of potential contacts for each school based team.

Built Environment WG:

- A school questionnaire has been prepared to find out about community use of school facilities and policies. School WG offered the following suggestions: Have hard copy for School WG meeting with follow-up email request to the building principals. Eric has a resource to share to find out the contacts for each school; what about colleges and private schools?
- The WG continues to work on the inventory books to share with county teams.
- The prototypes of the Walkability maps for Fayette and Calmar were shared. Need to check the numbers for locations on the Calmar map.
- Deneb Woods shared an update on the SRTS program. Surveys will be sent to the schools in September for youth and parent feedback.

Communication WG:

- TAP team members Daveda and Emilie will be visiting NE IA on Sept 8-10. The WG will be sending out a detailed agenda soon.
- On Sept 9 from 8:30-2:30 in Decorah, there will be a training to help prioritize communication efforts internally and externally.

Inclusive Team:

- Discussed 4 target communities and what is being done. Elma projects: 5K Run-Walk; Back to school picnic for parents with young children; open rollerskating for 2 nights—one night for Mennonites; Senior wellness program; Bike helmets for every child. Postville: Hosted a lunch for Jewish women to share FFI vision. Waukon: Hosting a Family Night with local food and games on Sept 22; providing healthy snacks for after-school program.

Community Health Assessment:

- Luther College staff helped write a letter of intent to the Wellmark Foundation.
- Assessment is being completed.

- New data BRFSS is available for our five county region and shows health habits. Data from the FFI counties was pooled (949 surveys from 2000-07). May want to oversample in these counties for future BRFSS assessments.

NIFF Coalition:

- Shared summer schedule of farm tours. International speaker talking about an integrated food system on Aug 27.
- Recently completed two reports that will be available on the web: 1. Year End report of activities for NIFF. 2. Base-line report on 2007-2008 producer sales, institutional purchases and expansion of food enterprises for the RFSWG.

School WG:

- Meeting with on Sept. 4 with school superintendents to present idea of Regional School WG. They will be asking for representation from each school to meet once per month.
- Midwest Group Benefits is the insurance carrier for 11 of 17 districts and Luther College. They may be willing to fund part of our future work with the schools.
- Pre-proposal submitted to the Leopold Center for Farm to School pilot program in the region.

VDM group:

- Met with Kathy Zurcher on Aug 22 to develop the strategies for FFI. The draft strategies and samples of tactics will be reviewed by county planning teams in September.