Community Partner Advisory Groups Being Initiated in 22 Counties

From Taylor to Walworth, and Eau Claire to Fond du Lac, county Extension committees and staff throughout the state are beginning new advisory groups to strengthen the community-based programs and partnerships in their counties.

In June 2004, at the state WACEC conference, the membership approved the establishment of Community Partner Advisory Groups (CPAGs)

CPAGs will contribute to our effectiveness by providing:

- New opportunities for issue discussions, programs, funding
- A new forum to discuss effectiveness and value of programs
- Entire Extension office team involvement

CPAGs will:

- Reflect diverse voices
- Have regular interaction with Extension Committees
- Interact with UW-Extension staff
- Build local strategies

Supporting CPAGs are Liaisons Kathleen Haas, CRD Educator in Columbia County, Joan Ploetz, WNEP Coordinator/Dept Head in Vilas County, and Deb Jones, 4-H Youth Development Agent/Dept Head in Jackson County.

Southern District CPAG Updates

Columbia, Iowa, Jefferson, Sauk, Vernon & Walworth counties are leading the way in the Southern District!

The Columbia County staff is scheduled to host its first CPAG meeting on Feb. 17. Participants will take part in an asset mapping exercise.

The Iowa County department head, Deb Ivey, met with Kathleen Haas, SD CPAG Liaison, late 2004 to update their office’s CPAG progress. Planning efforts are moving forward.

The Jefferson County staff will take part in a facilitated CPAG planning session to outline their plan of action.

The Sauk County office held its first CPAG meeting on 1/18/05. A second CPAG meeting has been scheduled for 4/21/05.

The Vernon County office is in the preliminary stages of its CPAG planning.

The Walworth County CPAG group held its second meeting on 1/31/05. CPAG accomplishments include drafting group operating guidelines and the election of the CPAG chair and vice chair. Next meeting 3/7.

Informal Mission of Community Partner Advisory Groups:

The mission of the CPAG is to help UWEX staff and the Extension Education Committee implement and sustain high quality education programs that meet the needs and enrich the lives of local citizens and that result in a strong foundation of support for community-based Extension education.

Purpose of CPAGs:

- Program Advice
- Input on program effectiveness
- Identify new partners
- Strengthen existing relationships
- Communicate value

For more information on CPAGs or to become one of the next counties to form a CPAG contact Kathleen Haas, CPAG Liaison, 608-742-9683, e-mail: kathleen.haas@ces.uwex.edu

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