

Nutrition Advisory Committee of Dutchess County

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, September 16, 2010

In Attendance: Christine Sergent, Joy Weber-Maass, Lacie Schmidt, Nancy Cimbrello (CCEDC), Kathy Bell (Astor ECP), Diane Ruffin (Beulah Baptist Church), Ozie Williams (DoH), Rachel Ambroziak (CFD), Brian Riddell (DO), Susan Grove (PFP), Al Muhlnickel (PCSD)

Program Sharing and Announcements:

Diane Ruffin reported that the Summer Feeding Program went very well this summer at Beulah Baptist Church. Approximately 400 meals were served. They have offered to host it again next summer.

Rachel Ambroziak announced that as of September 1st no new applicants were being accepted for County Funded Childcare Assistance through DC Social Services. A sliding scale was going to be used until the end of the year. She also reported that the Parent Fees have increased and the poverty level limit was also being raised to 150% starting in January.

Christine announced that Adams Fairacre Farm store started accepting Food Stamps as of August 1st at all of their locations.

Christine shared that CCEDC is holding their Family Survival Series at the Grinnell Library, East Fishkill Library and Beacon Library over the next 3 months. You can check our website for dates and times and phone numbers to call to register. The RAPP will host a respite event for Grandparents on Hudson River Cruises in Kingston, September 18th. RAPP will also hold a “Discipline Is Not A Dirty Word” three-part workshop in Amenia and Stanfordville. Call Nina Doyle to register.

Christine also announced they we have fee–based services and workshops available through the Family and Consumer Education Program. Programs are available for Nutrition, Financial and Parenting. She will have more information available at the next NAC Meeting.

Brian Riddell announced that Dutchess Outreach lost its Part A Ryan White Funding. He said that the reported Aids cases were too low for Dutchess County so the funding was cut. Home delivered meals programs for people with Aids and their dependents will continue and be provided by volunteers. Brian contacted Pat Brown at OFA and their office will help distribute meals in the Eastern Dutchess and Beacon area. He is looking for volunteers to help with the program and deliver meals for Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park families. Please contact him if you’re interested.

Al Muhlnickel gave an update on the Summer Feeding Program. He reported that he served 31,000 meals this summer. There were 13 total sites but only 4 were open sites. 20% of the eligible children received meals this summer.

Al Muhlnickel told NAC that Rico Griffone from the CIA contacted him. Rico expressed interest that the CIA would like to become a resource for the local School Nutrition Programs. They would like to be involved helping change the environment for food service. Rico was not aware that the local School Lunch Programs have to generate their own income because they do not receive any school tax money to fund them.

Follow-up actions from last meeting:

Al Muhlnickel gave an update on the Summer Feeding Program. He reported that he served 31,000 meals this summer. There were 13 total sites but only 4 were open sites. 20% of the eligible children received meals this summer.

New Business:

Grants Update:

CCEDC still has not heard about the NYS Creating Healthy Communities Grant that they applied for in February. It would provide \$225,000 per year for five years. It would enable CCEDC to work with several communities in Dutchess County for systems change to create a healthier environment. The New York Department of Health is written into the grant as a sub-contractor to provide worksite wellness for an additional \$75,000 per year for five years.

Susan Grove gave an update on the Community Food Assessment. They have organized the key research questions and inquiries that will drive the Assessment. PFP has been partnering with Vassar College Interns in a Community Development class who want to partner with a Non-Profit organization. The 18 interns will start this Fall with the Assessment. PFP was looking for grant money to partially fund this Assessment. PFP applied for "Hunger Free Communities Grant" from the USDA. PFP will be asking for support letters from the various NAC members. She would like to start training volunteers on administering the Assessment in the later part of October. The Dutchess County Department of Health will provide a statistical significant random sampling which contains addresses only of Poughkeepsie City residents. PFP will create and distribute a flyer to let residents know about the Assessment.

CCEDC has applied for a new grant from the Dyson Foundation which would give them \$225,000 over three years. The regional grant would cover four counties and include limited resource families. It would provide more volunteer educators in the Financial Management and Nutrition areas.

Updates:

Capacity Building Initiative – She has revised the Department of Health Vending Survey. Ozie Williams has met with Linda Way, Director, Risk Assessment Department and it was agreed that Worksite Wellness questions be added to the survey.

Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program – The budget was passed for \$815,000 and in effect starting October 1st. This program provides nutrition and financial literacy for almost all of the 3rd graders in City of Poughkeepsie School District. We are also planning to provide Financial Literacy for Youth through a grant from the United Way.

PFP/Farmers' Market –PFP may be relocating to a site near the Walkway Over The Hudson. Susan Grove will keep us posted as things progress and if the location of the market changes.

Susan Grove announced that the PFP has started a high school gardening program at Poughkeepsie High School. She has received grant money to purchase supplies for the High School but she is looking for grant money to hire personnel to help with the program. If anyone has any information, please contact her.

Follow-up actions for next meeting:

- Marketing and outreach to seniors beyond what OFA office typically reaches**
- Investigate how the Aging In-Place Initiative would be impacted by the food systems and food related work**

Next Meeting: October 21st, 2010

Schedule for rest of year:

November 18th

(No meeting in December)