Cass County Advisory Council Minutes  
May 1, 2019 - 3:00 pm  
Cass County Annex – Bison Room

Attendance  
Kim Lipetzky, Dylan Nelson, Julie Sorby, Cassie Wiste, Jack Wood, Kim Ruliffson, Kyle Aasand, Don Kinzler, Sarah McNaughton, Rita Ussatis

Welcome & Introductions  
The Cass County Advisory Council was facilitated by Kyle Aasand, Extension Agent / Agriculture & Natural Resources and Sarah McNaughton, Extension Agent / 4-H Youth Development. Don Kinzler is the part-time temporary horticulturist until a full-time agent is hired. He discussed his work planning the Spring Garden Day scheduled for April 25, 2020 in Fargo. Cassie Wiste with Cultural Diversity Resources shared information on the multicultural gardens at local schools. Jack Wood talked about his work with the community gardens. Julie Sorby with Family HealthCare and Kim Lipetzky with Fargo Cass Public Health shared updates in their work within the community. Rita Ussatis, Extension Agent / Family & Community Wellness welcomed Kyle and Sarah as the new agents as of February.

County Budget & Updates  
Rita Ussatis, Extension Agent, Family & Community Wellness  
- The Horticulture agent position is open until mid-May. Currently Don Kinzler is the part-time, temporary horticulturist for a few months this spring until the full-time position is filled.  
- The Parent Educator position is still on hold due to funding. Sharon Query is the part-time, temporary Parent Educator until the full-time position opens and fills (hopefully 0.8 – 1.0 FTE).  
- The new Urban agent position interviews are complete and an offer has been accepted. Final paperwork is needed before announcing the new agent.  
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) agent interviews are in progress this week and next week.

Kim Ruliffson, NDSU Extension East District Director  
- Kim shared the North Dakota House and Senate budget updates.  
- Kim and Rita recommended the Advisory Council, Extension staff, write a letter / email directly to legislators thanking them for approval of the Extension budget

Carousel Activity  
Sarah introduced the Carousel Activity with the whole group together at each of the stations.  
The questions asked at each station were:  
1.) What is Extension doing well in this area?  
2.) What could Extension improve upon in this area?  
The stations / program areas include:  
- Family Nutrition Program (FNP) & Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)  
- Family & Community Wellness (FCW): Includes Food, Nutrition & Health, Personal & Family Finance and Parent & Family Resource Center  
- 4-H Youth Development  
- Agriculture & Natural Resources: Includes Cropping Systems, Livestock and Horticulture

The feedback, thoughts, ideas and suggestions are as follows:

Family Nutrition Program (FNP) & Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP):  
What is Extension doing well in this area?  
- creative community involvement  
- the courses and classes are great – recipes  
- ability to work with policy and food systems
What could Extension improve upon in this area?
- consistency?
- promotion

**Family & Community Wellness (FCW):**
Includes Food, Nutrition & Health, Personal & Family Finance and Parent & Family Resource Center

What is Extension doing well in this area?
- Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) success
- On the Move (OTM) – train the trainer model

What could Extension improve upon in this area?
- advertise and outreach (The Village)
- use newsletter (Extension Update) for upcoming events
- reach out to Family HealthCare (FHC) and clinics to promote
- police outreach / cultural parenting considerations
- more requests in some areas than Extension can provide
- some programs – can’t fill

**4-H Youth Development:**

What is Extension doing well in this area?
- livestock – keep the momentum
  - official leasing program
- array of curriculum

What could Extension improve upon in this area?
- reaching diverse audiences
- more school gardens
- elevator feed program
- day camp on particular topic (ages 8 to 18)
- intro to 4-H – not all about agriculture

**Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR):**
Includes Cropping Systems, Livestock and Horticulture

What is Extension doing well in this area?
- horticulture day

What could Extension improve upon in this area?
- reach smaller communities
- tractor safety school
- marketing teaching
- seasonal Extension workshops
- teaching new ag tech
- visibility
- work with NDSU students
- solving labor issues
- update custom rates

**Trail Mix Parli Pro Activity**
Kyle facilitated the Parliamentary Procedure process using trail mix.
Members enjoyed the fun learning activity while networking to conclude the meeting.

**2019 Meetings:**
August 7, 3-5 p.m. & November 6, 3-5 p.m. - Cass County Annex – Bison Room