

Walworth County UW-Extension
Community Partner Advisory Group
2005 Annual Report

The Walworth County UW-Extension Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) was created by Ordinance of the Walworth County Board of Supervisors, September 9, 2004 to:

Advise the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee in its function to evaluate agriculture and extension education programs and provide guidance concerning prioritization of agriculture and extension programming.

CPAG Mission:

The mission of the CPAG is to help UW-Extension staff and the Agriculture and 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.

CPAG Purpose:

The purpose of the CPAG is to:

- Provide program advice about current and emerging local issues to ensure the continued relevance of extension programs;
- Assist with identification of program methods and assessment strategies to ensure program effectiveness;
- Identify new partners and strengthen relationships with existing partners; and
- Communicate to others the impact and relevance of UW-Extension's educational programs.

CPAG Membership:

The 2005 CPAG had 16 members, appointed by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. These members drew lots to serve either a one-year or a two-year term, beginning January 1.

Membership on the committee is diverse, with four members appointed from each of the four geographic quadrants of the county. One appointee from each quadrant represented each of the four primary UW-Extension program areas, including youth development, agriculture/agribusiness, family living, and community, natural resources, and economic development (CNRED).

2005 CPAG members included:

James D'Alessandro, Williams Bay, Chair2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Jacqueline Buleje, Lake Geneva, Vice Chair.....2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Rollie Cooper, Whitewater2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Elton Feffer, Delavan.....2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Yvonne Fiskum, Elkhorn1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Dianne Kegley, East Troy2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Marilyn Kienbaum, Whitewater2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Letha Kuecker, Elkhorn1 year term ending December 31, 2005
John Newhouse, Whitewater1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Barb Papcke, Elkhorn1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Gen Reed, Lake Geneva1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Hoss Rehberg, Elkhorn1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Nina Ruskey, Lake Geneva.....2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Christopher Stebnitz, Elkhorn.....1 year term ending December 31, 2005
Kathleen Tober, East Troy2 year term ending December 31, 2006
Mary Vander Veen, Sharon1 year term ending December 31, 2005

The CPAG served in an advisory capacity to the Walworth County Ag and Extension Education (AEE) Committee, which had the following members in 2005:

Stanley Muzatko, County Board Supervisor, Chair
Dorothy Burwell, County Board Supervisor, Vice Chair
Art Lein, County Board Supervisor
Roy Lightfield, County Board Supervisor
Sandra Wagie-Troemel, County Board Supervisor
Don Fredrich, FSA Board Chair, Citizen Representative
Greg Wescott, Superintendent of Elkhorn Area School District, Citizen Representative

Walworth County UW-Extension Staff, 2005:

Carolyn L. Belczyk, Department Head/4-H Youth Development Educator
Gabriela Anaya, WNEP Coordinator
Peg Reedy, Ag/Agribusiness Educator
Christine Regester, Horticulture Educator
Jenny Wehmeier, Family Living Educator
Jan Ellsworth, 4-H Program Assistant
Maricela Quirino, WNEP Program Assistant
Candy Cervenka, Ag/Family Living Support Staff
Angela Recknagel, Administrative/4-H Support Staff

2004-05 CPAG Meeting Highlights:

- November 30, 2004: The Walworth County CPAG met for the first time. Members learned about UW-Extension and about significant Walworth County demographics:
 - Walworth County has a population of 97,052 (2004 estimate).
 - The County has experienced rapid population growth of 29.4% since 1990.
 - The non-Hispanic population increased by 20.4%, and the Hispanic population increased by 204%; in 2000 the Hispanic population was 6.5% of the total.
 - 37% of the population lives in one of the four cities (Whitewater, Delavan, Lake Geneva, or Elkhorn).
 - 66% of the county's Hispanic population and nearly 58% of its non-White population live in one of the cities.
 - 27% of the Hispanic population lives in the City of Delavan, at least 1 in 5 Delavan residents is Hispanic.
 - The county's population is projected to increase by 28% over the next 26 years, reaching 117,833 by 2030.
 - The youth population will increase by 19%; but the population of elderly residents will more than double in that same time period (120%).
- January 31, 2005: CPAG approved operating guidelines, elected Chair James D'Alessandro of Williams Bay and Vice Chair Jacqueline Buleje of Lake Geneva, and held small group, program area discussions. Following these discussions, the group decided to make its initial area of focus the needs of the rapidly growing Latino community.
- March 7, 2005: CPAG members heard from the following panelists:
 - Sylvia Rodriguez, Latino-Hispanic Outreach Center, Lake Geneva
 - Terry Schuerman, Job Center, Elkhorn
 - Marcela Parodi, Human Resource Generalist, First Banking Center, Lake Geneva
 - Isabel Kluge, Project Management Specialist, Public Housing Authority.

These panelists described a number of issues that face the Latino community, especially the rapidly increasing community of new immigrants.



Panel discussion at CPAG meeting, March 2005

- April 18, 2005: CPAG members heard from extension staff regarding extension outreach programming with the Latino community at the local, state, and national levels. Gabriela Anaya, WNEP Coordinator, and Carolyn Belczyk, Department Head/4-H Youth Development Educator, highlighted several local outreach efforts, including:
 - a youth literacy/teen leadership project that will be piloted in Lake Geneva this summer,
 - outreach in Spanish and English by the Family Living and WNEP programs at area libraries, and
 - WNEP programming throughout the county with ESL classes, WIC, and other partnering agencies.

Anaya spoke about what she learned on her trip to Oregon this winter. She believes that their programming is successful in the Latino community because of their relationship building in these communities. Extension's contact doesn't need to be a staff member; it can be a volunteer. They have built a trust bond with the Latinos and therefore are able to provide the services they need. An investment by Oregon extension in hiring locally based bilingual programming assistants has definitely benefited the program. Belczyk distributed a handout outlining lessons learned by Oregon extension in programming with Latinos.

CPAG members brainstormed a list of potential Walworth County UW-Extension outreach initiatives.

The CPAG members reached consensus to have an additional panel discussion featuring representatives from local school districts who will discuss their programming and outreach to the Latino community.

- May 16, 2005: CPAG members heard from the following panelists:
 - Sarah Edens, School Psychologist, East Troy
 - Mike Hinske, Assistant Principal, Big Foot
 - Roni Telfer, Curriculum/Staff Development Coordinator, Whitewater
 - Mary Ellen Wright, School Social Worker, Elkhorn
 - Nicki Schoemperlen, ELL, Sharon and Dorothy Kaufmann, District Administrator, Sharon
 - Jacqueline Buleje, Family School Liaison, Lake Geneva School District

They addressed the following two questions:

1. What are the current programs, services, and initiatives to Latino students and families of each of the school districts represented?
2. How might UW-Extension and the schools work collaboratively to meet the outstanding needs of the Latino community?

Panelists identified many of the same issues. The school districts have a number of ways of serving and supporting their Latino students and families. Wright noted that many issues facing Latino immigrants are the same as those facing the broader Walworth County community, such as affordability and availability of health care.

- June 29, 2005: CPAG members discussed at length their findings regarding the issues facing the county's rapidly growing Latino community. The group decided to take a broader approach in examining issues, keeping in mind the needs of the Latino population in doing so. Consensus was reached to begin by taking a more intensive look at the health care issue, including the state of the health of Walworth County residents.
- August 23, 2005: CPAG members heard from Pat Grove, Public Health Director with the Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services, who presented an overview of what the Public Health does. She distributed several handouts addressing the state of Walworth County's health and noted that Walworth County is the 4th healthiest county in the state of Wisconsin. The number one leading cause of death in Walworth County is heart disease. She further noted that the Beloit Clinic is now providing services to low income individuals in Walworth County one day a week at Health and Human Services.
- October 25, 2005: CPAG members discussed reorganization for 2006. Four of the eight members with one-year terms were interested in being re-appointed for an additional two-year term beginning January 1, 2006. The four remaining vacant positions will be filled from the appropriate quadrants. Legal notices will be posted. The group indicated a strong desire to include two or more youth representatives.

The group discussed the following four issues/questions:

1. Reflect back on our first year, and name one or more things you've learned about UWEX or about Walworth County and its residents as a result of participating on CPAG.
2. Continue to reflect back. What programming advice would you give to UWEX staff and the members of the Ag and Extension Education Committee as a result of what you've learned through CPAG?
3. Take a look ahead. What are some of the emerging issues facing Walworth County and its residents that you believe CPAG should address in the coming year?
4. Help CPAG make a difference. What is the most effective way for CPAG members to provide UWEX staff and the members of the Ag and Extension Education Committee with programming advice and department support in the coming year?

NOTE: Detailed minutes of each of the CPAG's meetings are posted on the Walworth County UW-Extension website at: <http://walworth.uwex.edu>.

CPAG Findings:

- Following their exploration of the issues facing the county's rapidly growing Latino population, the CPAG members identified the following "quality of life" concerns:
 - Documentation/immigration
 - Language/English Literacy
 - Health care for those receiving medical assistance
 - Cultural Understanding
 - Transportation

- At their final meeting of the year, CPAG members discussed four points and reported back the following on each:
 1. Reflect back on our first year, and name one or more things you've learned about UW-Extension or about Walworth County and its residents as a result of participating on CPAG:
 - That there are issues facing the Latino community, including rapid growth; there are unmet needs, and the immigrant community, especially, has many challenges facing them including issues of legal status (3).
 - Extension is involved and has knowledge in many program areas (2).
 - There is a lack of coordination between community organizations.
 - About Public Health and its value to county residents.
 - There is a lack of affordable housing in many areas of the county.
 - There are many issues in the county that are beyond Extension capabilities.
 - About health care issues

 2. Continue to reflect back. What programming advice would you give to UW-Extension staff and the members of the Ag and Extension Education Committee as a result of what you've learned through CPAG?
 - Increase coordination of services. Develop a database to enhance communication among agencies providing services to the Latino community.
 - Inform the greater Walworth County community about extension and its many programs through press releases in local newspapers and in the "Week" in its events column.
 - Connect with schools in more ways, i.e. through the Family School Liaison, increased publicity, and more effective use of volunteers.
 - Do not duplicate services already in place.
 - Explore additional areas of need in the county such as aging, population, youth needs, etc.

3. Take a look ahead. What are some of the emerging issues facing Walworth County and its residents that you believe CPAG should address in the coming year?
 - Provide community leadership development and training opportunities.
 - Work to develop youth/adult partnerships.
 - Explore issues facing the Walworth County agricultural community
 - Explore issues related to the need for parks and green space (2).
 - Evaluate and understand existing UW-Extension programs
 - Explore issues related to the Aging population, such as health care, transportation, etc.

4. Help CPAG make a difference. What is the most effective way for CPAG members to provide UW-Extension staff and the members of the Ag and Extension Education Committee with programming advice and department support in the coming year?
 - Year-end report with recommendations presented to the Ag and Extension Committee at a meeting; to engage the members of the Ag and Extension Education Committee in a discussion regarding what is expected from the CPAG; to meet jointly with the Ag and Extension Education Committee to address issues and programming needs. (2).
 - Create a database and increase communication among agencies serving the Latino community.
 - Continue to identify a problem or issues, then bring in resource people to share information, which helps the group formulate suggestions.
 - Establish a youth court.

CPAG Recommendations:

CPAG members made the following recommendations based on their findings:

- UW-Extension staff should collaborate with the schools and agencies in the county who regularly serve the Latino audience.
- UW-Extension staff should go out into the community to provide programming at locations that are comfortable and convenient to the audience, thereby removing transportation and other potential barriers to participation.
- Members of the CPAG should be encouraged to attend the Board of Supervisor's Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on January 10, 2006, to begin their exploration of issues facing the Walworth County agricultural community. The meeting that evening will address the economic value of agriculture in the county.
- A subcommittee of CPAG members should draft and present the group's annual report to the Ag and Extension Education Committee at its January 16 meeting and engage the members of this committee in discussion regarding their expectations of the CPAG in the coming year.
- CPAG should actively seek youth representatives and develop youth/adult partnerships.

Examples of UW-Extension Programming and Outcomes as a Result of CPAG Actions:

- Un Libro, Un Niño Youth Literacy/Teen Leadership Project: As a result of contacts made through the Community Partner Advisory Group, Carolyn L. Belczyk, Department Head/4-H Youth Development Educator, collaborated with Sylvia Rodriguez, Lake Geneva Latino/Hispanic Outreach Center, and Jacqueline Buleje, Family School Liaison with the Lake Geneva School District, to plan and implement Un Libro, Un Niño, a pilot youth literacy, teen leadership project, which was conducted in August, 2005.

The project matched 15 Latino youth in grades 1-3 with 15 teens in shared reading and related activities. The youth took home five books, wrote and illustrated their own short stories, which they shared with their families, and participated in a wide variety of story-related activities. Among other goals, the project sought to increase English literacy among the youth and to increase cultural understanding among the teens (both needs identified through CPAG panel discussions).

Project outcomes are as follow:

- 100% of the teens involved report that their participation in the project helped them develop their leadership and teaching skills to some or to a great extent. 86% report that the project helped them develop their Spanish language skills to some or to a great extent.
- 100% of the teens believe that the project helped Latino youth develop their English literacy skills to some or to a great extent.
- 93% of the teens report that the project helped them develop increased diversity awareness and greater cultural understanding to some or to a great extent



High School mentor, Juliana Delgado, shares reading with Un Libro, Un Niño participant Noel Vargas.

Funding for the pilot project came from a number of sources, including the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, the Walworth County 4-H Senior Leaders' Association, and donations from area businesses and organizations. One of these donations, in the amount of \$175, came from the First Banking Center in Lake Geneva as a direct result of contacts made by Belczyk through the CPAG panel discussion.

- 4-H Clovers, an after school 4-H club meeting at the Latino/Hispanic Outreach Center: In part as a result of a programming recommendation made by CPAG at its April meeting, UW-Extension, in collaboration with the Latino/Hispanic Outreach Center and

the Lake Geneva School District, has started an after school 4-H club that meets each Monday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Center in Lake Geneva. The club includes five participants from this summer's Un Libro, Un Niño pilot project, three additional 3rd and 4th graders, and six high school youth leaders. Members are becoming acquainted with 4-H and are exploring a variety of 4-H projects and activities while continuing to improve their English literacy. The club addresses two of the CPAG's recommendations: 1) collaborating with the schools and agencies in the county who regularly serve the Latino audience and 2) going out into the community to provide programming at locations that are comfortable and convenient to the audience.

CPAG Annual Report Team:

James D'Alessandro, CPAG Chair
Jacqueline Buleje, CPAG Vice-Chair
Hoss Rehberg, CPAG Member
Nina Ruskey, CPAG Member
Carolyn L. Belczyk, UW-Extension Dept Head/4-H Youth Development Educator

Contact UW-Extension at W3929 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121; call 262.741.3190; Fax 262.741-3189;
or visit the UW-Extension website at: <http://swalworth.uwex.edu>

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