

**CCE Schoharie & Otsego Counties**  
**Family & Consumer Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

**Present:** Brenda Seery, Kelly Martin, Shelby MacLeish, Debora Gansinger Hall, Jessica Hill; staff Michelle Leveski, Nelta Miller and Liz Callahan

**Report from Executive Director**

- Liz Callahan welcomed new Healthy Connections Educator Nelta Miller and encouraged committee introductions
- Liz explained that beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> Otsego/Delaware SNAP Ed Educator Meagan Freeman will continue her work through CCESO beginning
- Liz outlined a USDA NIFA food security thru gardening grant transfer. The Committee discussed the opportunities to partner with SUNY Oneonta (including student service learning); SUNY Cobleskill (possibly composting education and a role for ag/horticulture students); and the potential for cross training (for geographic impact). Brenda and Kelly emphasized that there is lots of interest from SUCO staff in re-engaging with this program. Brenda Seery added her husband volunteers at St. Mary's food pantry.

**EFNEP Program**

- Michelle explained that there are lots of changes in the program. EFNEP can now enroll young adults ages 18 – 25.
- Michelle is conducting the parent/child cooking class series at CROP programs in five (possibly 6) schools. Nelta/Healthy Connections will also do some youth programming this year.
- Other outreach to schools includes class series at three Head Start sites, with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at the Middleburgh Central School, Cobleskill-Richmondville students in collaboration with Deb Gansinger Hall
- Very busy, very happy to have Nelta on board, will be a great asset to the program
- Michelle showed the committee EFNEP's new logo and brochure, and rebranding as "Building healthy habits"

**Healthy Connections**

- Nelta Miller explained that she is eager to build on her previous CROP program experience and connections. She noted that she is getting oriented the curriculum and shadowing Michelle.

## **Farm to School**

- Liz explained that the Association is waiting for the Farm to School grant announcements (October), and either way CCESO has learned more about the expanding Harvest NY 30% tracking resources and new curriculum development efforts.
- Deb talked about the impact of the program's food comparisons on students, and the synergy of coordination with ag teachers. She said that the students really love the program, and it offers the students the opportunity to experiment with recipes. The students will be able to connect agriculture with cooking.
- Farm to School programming may be a pipeline for EFNEP, opening ups opportunities to work with the 18 year olds coming out of Cobleskill-Richmondville.
- Jess Hill noted that although it can be difficult to get momentum going, the Rider School's existing/dormant raised beds might be a potential FTS and/or NIFA garden, and may be a way of getting the students and community involved.

## **Annual Meeting**

- Liz thank Brenda and Kelly for help facilitating the hosting of the Annual Meeting at SUNY Oneonta. Brenda offered to do a tour of Human Ecology Building for meeting attendees, and will invite the dean to the meeting.

**Mohawk Valley Gives** – Shelby encouraged PAC members to promote the opportunity to support CCESO through the Mohawk Valley Gives campaign