



March 2021 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels

- Direct Education: Started new FoodWise Strong bodies class, 7 registered 3 attend regularly. We continue to look for participants. Taught 3 Pathways to Parenting class for Children's of Wisconsin, Started Yuck to Yum 3-part series, Taught Kids in the kitchen with Head Start students and recorded one for staff to share with families. Continue to offer programming virtually, with pre-recorded and live lessons available.
- Professional Development: Team is attending Healthy School Bootcamp. Team will be attending the state conference and begin 3-year planning and FY22 planning.
- Policy, Systems and Environmental change: Continue to Attend PC Healthy Weight Team meeting. Kelly Hammond is working with Community Health Planner Elizabeth Beck to merge Healthy Weight Team with the Fruit and Veggie Network. Hammond/Beck would co-chair the new coalition. HPPP (Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership) meeting was attended, Hammond is serving on the board as director.
- In an effort to improve access to foodshare benefits at local farmers markets, Hammond worked with local and statewide coalition that informed a new budget proposal in the governor's budget. This would secure around 180K annually to support EBT at Farmers Markets around the state. Rep. Katrina Shankland introduced the budget item.

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- Facilitated several 4-H Club zoom meetings and helped clubs leaders plan and organize community service activities and their club events. I help facilitate the market animal new member species in-person and zoom meetings held by the Market Animal Committee (MAC). The MAC workshop was open to youth who were new to the sheep, swine, or beef project. Older teens were offered the opportunity to teach in each session. Youth had the option to attend the training in-person (up to 10 in each room at the Jensen Center) or for the sheep and swine workshop they could attend over Zoom.
- I was part of a team planning and teaching at 4-H Winter Leadership Camp 2021. 45 youth from 16 counties, four from Portage County, participated in the two-day virtual camp. 86% of campers reported that the program helped them learn more about themselves and helped them appreciate the differences in other people and in leadership styles. When asked name at least one big thing they learned about themselves from this experience, teens reported the following: "I learned that I value defined roles and structure when building a team, and that while I am

comfortable in both a leadership and participatory role, I prefer a leadership role”, “One thing I learned about myself was that I may be under one personality category, but I also fit a little bit into other categories as well”, “I learned about my mindset and thinking with the Real Colors activity. I learned that I am a mixture of different colors and that all colors work together” and, “I learned how to write a good smart goal”.



Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- To further explore and to better understand a set of possible solutions for local housing concerns, Sandwick joined a local CAP Services colleague in attending a virtual symposium hosted by NeighborWorks America on *Shared Equity Housing: Creating Lasting Affordability and Community Ownership*. This symposium was also noted at February’s Community Initiatives Summit.
- Joined a local Employee Transportation Work Group and began supporting the group's current efforts to engage interested business leaders in efforts to learn more about the transportation needs and related concerns of companies and staff.
- Gathered and continue to review existing research on the effect of local tax and expenditure limits as well as a study of connections between property values and the provision of local public services in Wisconsin communities. Insights from this line of research will add to the richness of local educational programs on local development strategy and may inform the work of Portage County participants piloting a series of discussions prompted by Competitive Wisconsin, Inc.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Continued holding virtual StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Penny, and Hannah (Wood County) FoodWise. Forty-four community members are enrolled.

- Held a RentReady training in February with eight participants. This class marks one year of holding these training sessions. I work with clients on budgets and credit improvements after each class. We have placed fourteen individuals/families in non-predatory rentals. No defaults in the program so far.
- Working with partners from CAP Services and UnitedWay I scheduled our first Advisory Board meeting, on March 8, to support the Triple P parenting programming in Portage County. I will be leading the discussion groups with parents starting on March 30. It is a series of four 1.5 hour training sessions.
- Completed the state team curriculum titled Planning AHEAD (Advance directives, Home finances, Estate planning, and Arriving at Decisions for the end of this life. This is a six-part training on decisions that need to be made before the end of life. Scheduled first state-wide training to deliver this program as train-the-trainer on March 9 and 11. Portage County will be one of the three counties in WI to deliver this curriculum as a pilot test, beginning June 1, via Zoom.
- On February 19, I led the 1-day training to teach UWSP students how to be peer-to-peer financial coaches for the Financial Literacy Association (FLA).

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Assisted Lisa Henriksen with the Drainage District materials and processes, consulting corporation counsel and the county clerk's office on current policies and procedures.
- Providing continued leadership to the WI Fairs Advisory Committee, examining how the partnerships between multiple parties and local fair boards can grow into the future.
- Assisted staff in preparing and submitting programming checklists, interpreting current Extension policies and guidance.
- Serve on the Deans COVID Task Force, examining the changing dynamics with the pandemic and keeping our staff and program participants safe during this time.
- Worked with Lisa and Denise on preparation of the 2020 Annual Report, highlighting the work of local educators during a unique time.