

Multistate Research Activity 2012 Accomplishments Report

Project/Activity Number: NCERA215

Project/Activity Title: Contribution of 4-H Participation to the Development of Social Capital within Communities

Period covered: March 2011 to April 2012

Date of This Report: April 19, 2011

Annual Meeting Date(s): April 17-18, 2012

Members of NCERA215

Allen, Ryan (allen650@umn.edu) – University of Minnesota;
Baker, Barbara (barbara.baker@maine.edu) – Maine Cooperative Extension (Project Secretary);
Blyth, Dale A. (blyth004@umn.edu) – University of Minnesota; (mailing list)
Boyce, Sherry (sboyce@umn.edu) University of Minnesota;
Calvert, Matthew C. (matthew.calvert@ces.uwex.edu) – Wisconsin Cooperative Extension;
Colletti, Joe (colletti@iastate.edu) – Iowa State University (Administrative Advisor);
Chapin, Julie (chapin@msu.edu) - Michigan Cooperative Extension;
Edwards, Janet (edwardsj@wsu.edu) – Washington Cooperative Extension;
Emery, Mary (memery@iastate.edu) – Iowa State University (Project Co-Chair);
Enfield, Richard (rpenfield@ucdavis.edu) - California Cooperative Extension (Project Chair);
Erbstein, Nancy (nerbstein@ucdavis.edu) - California Cooperative Extension
Hall Barczewski, April (adhall@umd.edu) – Maryland Cooperative Extension;
Henness, Steve (hennesss@umsystem.edu) - University of Missouri Extension;
Johannes, Elaine (ejohanne@ksy.edu) - Kansas State University Extension;
Kinsey, Sharon (kinsey@aesop.rutgers.edu) - New Jersey Cooperative Extension;
LeMenestrel, Suzanne (slemenestrel@nifa.usda.gov) - 4-H National Headquarters (NIFA Rep.);
McGuire, Amy (almcguire@ucdavis.edu) - California Cooperative Extension
Mead, June P. (jm62@cornell.edu) - New York (Cornell) Cooperative Extension;
Nathaniel, Keith C. (kcnathaniel@ucdavis.edu) – California Cooperative Extension;
Schaller, Amy (aschalie@email.arizona.edu) - University of Arizona
Spears, Beverly (ba-spears@tamu.edu) - Texan A&M University (retired)
Tallman, Kelli (ktallman@iastate.edu) – Iowa Cooperative Extension;
Webster, Nicole (nsw10@psu.edu) – Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension;
Williams, Bonita (bonita.williams@vt.edu) – Virginia Cooperative Extension;
Zhang, Yaogi (zhangy3@auburn.edu) – Alabama (Auburn) Cooperative Extension

Brief summary of minutes of annual meeting:

Below is a brief summary of the decisions made during the meeting.

Decisions Made at the Annual Meeting of NCERA215: April 17-18, 2012

Meeting space:

Wells Fargo Conference Center
1560 Van Ness Ave, 2nd fl.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Attendance:

Richard Enfield; Mary Emery; Barb Baker; Matt Calvert; Steve Hennes; Keith Nathaniel; Amy McGuire; Annette Leeland; Nancy Erbstein and Jonathon London joined us to present mapping. Annette Leeland (aleeland@ucdavis.edu) – University of California, Executive Director for California Foundation

General Project Discussion:

Research Instruments and Research Questions Discussed:

Review of Youth Social Capital Assessment tool – Survey – California is using a final pilot version of Minnesota survey based on our mapping activities. Recommend other states get a consent waiver or write consent wording into the permissions used an event. **Ages 14 – 19. Hope to have 360 surveys from California.**

Review of Adult Social Capital Assessment tool – Survey - The tool is valid and reliable from Minnesota and we have our additional demographic and other questions tagged on the end. Participants ages 18+ are considered adults need to sign consent. **Hope to have 180 surveys (5 from each community) from California.**

Review of Youth Social Capital Assessment tool - Interview Questions – Triangulation: Interview questions came from our mapping pilot and some pre-piloting of interview questions helped develop it. Signed consent for 18 + 19 year olds and signed assent for those younger because we are recording answers. **Hope to have 72 interviews (2 from each of 36 clubs in communities) for the California study.**

Pilot Project Sites:

California - 360 youth surveys - California packets are available on ANR Collaborative Tools for other states to use as a template. The two guiding questions from our Multi-state project are used as the goal of the project. The project was funded in October. A graduate research student will start in May. Richard did training on the interview script - hope to get all surveys and interviews done by June if possible, but may continue in Fall 2012. All surveys will be sent to Minnesota. Will spend a lot of time during summer going over interview data (Keith, Richard, and Amy). Will submit an August report to UC to justify the release of the second half of funds in October. By winter, expect to have something to say about what we are

doing. Start of manuscripts and other publications at the next annual meeting if held this time of year in 2013.

Maine - 50 surveys – Maine packet is available on ANR and will be used in several different communities following CALIFORNIA process, with a secondary focus on question development.

Other states - If needed, these other states might help with a pilot: Wisconsin (Matt Calvert), Minnesota (Sheri Boyce), and Kansas (Elaine Johannes) – Scott thought 300-500 surveys would be enough for establishing reliability, etc.

Lessons learned that will be helpful for other states:

- Richard – We may record training for conducting interviews on Adobe Connect or some other platform. Other states can use directly or as a model. It is critical that all researchers in the states who will be involved in interviewing be trained using the same information.
- Steve – Preparation training helps youth or adult who conduct interviews (or youth-led trainings) with practical things, for example, do not fill up that dead space with talking.
- Richard - We've developed a scale to rank that clubs level of involvement on a 5-point scale – based on a number of community projects involved with to keep it simple. The research team member can check out the record book members (or club plan for the year) as a concrete way to measure. They are going to pick clubs to look for different levels on involvement.
- Barb and Mary (Steve and Matt & Keith) will develop a 2 by 2 scale for CALIFORNIA and others to use comparing non-involved to involved and bridging to bonding. Comparison of number of projects to quality with the 1-5 quantity and 1-5 quality to be overlaid.
- Steve developed a scale for a subset of the community – high priority or low priority of projects – had a rationale for how classified projects. This helps explain the public value of Extension so that legislators understand it. Add that to rubric for a score. Totaling it would be better than averaging it. You may find complexity and capacity of the program.
- Matt - We are all on the phone every month. With full transcription of interviews, any of us have the luxury to be fully engaged with the analysis part.

Funding: A considerable amount of the 2-day annual meeting was dedicated to preparing our message to potential funders.

Honing in our message was a 1.5-day workshop led by Annette Leeland, Director of the California 4-H Foundation. Ms. Leeland worked with the group throughout the 2-day meeting to help the group identify the project's High Value Outcomes and to prepare drafts of a one-page "Business Plan" and a "Master Case for Support." Both documents are posted on the project's UC ANR Collaborative Tools site and are available for all members to use in fundraising efforts.

Accomplishments - March 2011 to April 2012:

Outputs:

PROGRESS ON RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS:

Based on the results of the extensive Community Capitals Framework Mapping Activity conducted by NCERA215, project members in approximately a dozen states throughout 2010-2012 used the tool to map impact in communities. Pre-pilot activities in several states related to the survey and interview were also conducted. Our group worked with Scott Chazdon to make revisions to the Minnesota Social Capital Youth Assessment Tool, and a youth interview instrument was developed.

1. **Minnesota Social Capital Youth Assessment Tool** – in the summer of 2011, the assessment tool was revised and pre-piloted, and the tool was finalized and accepted by Maine and California IRB in Winter 2012.
2. **Youth Interview Instrument** – after pre-piloting in the spring, an interview instrument was revised and the instrument was finalized and accepted by Maine and California IRB in Winter 2012.
3. **Adult Interview Instrument – The adult survey instrument was revised and** accepted by California IRB in Winter 2012. This instrument is not being used in the Maine Pilot Project.

Activities:

Milestones:

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS:

California Project for \$ 47,584: In October 2011, Keith Nathaniel & Richard Enfield were notified that their grant proposal (Contributions of 4-H Participation to the Development of Social Capital), submitted in May 2011, to UC ANR for consideration through the ANR's competitive grants program was funded at the full amount requested in the original proposal. Four UC ANR strategic initiative panels reviewed 109 letters of intent to identify strong substantive connections to the initiative priorities, and invited 67 to submit full proposals. Of those, 58 submitted proposals and 21 projects were approved for funding. Keith Nathaniel is the Project PI and Richard Enfield is the Project Co-PI.

The funding will permit California to conduct a full scale pilot project throughout the state, which will allow the collection of data and analysis of the revised Minnesota Social Capital Youth Assessment Tool, as well as the youth interview instrument. Maine and possibly Wisconsin will also be conducting similar pilot projects in order to have diversity of participation and results for analysis.

In addition, the grant proposal will serve as a model or template for other project states that may have opportunities to submit proposals to their institutions or other funding agencies. *Documents are posted on the project's UC ANR Collaborative Tools site and are available for all members to use in fundraising efforts.*

Maine acquired Sustainable Youth, Communities, and Families Program Work Team funding for \$120 mileage to pilot the survey and performing the mapping activity in sites throughout the state in 2012.

Impacts

Activities:

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH/EXTENSION/OUTREACH EXCHANGE AMONG COLLEAGUES:

1. **March 2011, Rural Youth Development Training, DC:** A version of the project's mapping instructions was included in the Engaging Youth: Serving Communities (EYSC) Project Evaluation Toolkit, at the training. As a result of the Rural Youth Development training, Engaging Youth, Serving Community project sites across the country currently involving 21 states are expected to use the social capital mapping tool to document project outcomes.
2. **April 2011, DoD/USDA Family Resilience Conference, Chicago, IL:** Barb Baker, Matt Calvert, Mary Emery, Richard Enfield, and Sharon Kinsey presented a workshop giving hands-on practice on the Mapping Activity to approximately 30 people from across Extension and DoD. This workshop was accepted through a peer-review of the DoD/USDA Conference Committee.

The abstract read: Recognizing and utilizing community assets, such as social capital (bridging or bonding relationships) is beneficial to at-risk communities. A USDA research group aims to demonstrate how social capital is fostered and supported through 4-H. This presentation shares ways to document positive youth contributions through community mapping through active learning. The PowerPoint used in the workshop is available on-line at:
<http://www1.cyfernet.org/FRConf2011/ws/2011-Baker-Capturing.pdf>

3. **May 2011, Urban Extension Conference, Des Moines, IA:** – Sharon Kinsey presented a poster on the project at the conference on behalf of the project. The conference is targeted to Cooperative Extension staff that work in urban/suburban communities throughout the United States. The poster was entitled: *Exploring the Contribution of 4-H Participation to the Development of Social Capital.*

The abstract read: Although some benefits of 4-H participation are well documented for youth, little is known about the specific impact of 4-H participation on individual social capital development as well as on community social capital. 4-H programs foster youth-adult partnerships that encourage active participation in community-oriented activities.

Sharon also met with Jan Flora at the Urban Conference discussed our project and his and Cornelia's work on social capital.

4. **May 2011, National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) Monthly Call:** Elaine Johannes shared our project with the multiagency group. She presented briefly on the concepts of Social Capital and the work she is involved in on approaching the child obesity issue through community coaching. Liked it. Contextual intervention vs. knowledge based. The AFRI manager wants to be kept up with our project's research.
5. **October 2011, Steve Hennes and Mary Emery attended the Community Capitals Framework Institute in Des Moines, IA:** Mary presented the tool last year and this year, Steve showed how we use it for the Engaging Youth, Serving Communities (EYSC) program.
6. **November 2011, American Evaluation Association Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA:** Barb Baker, Mary Emery & Keith Nathaniel presented a 90-minute Workshop entitled - *Capturing Cooperative Extension Program Contributions using the Community Capitals Framework*. This workshop was accepted through a peer-review of the Extension Education Evaluation Topical Interest Group (TIG).

The abstract read: *Participants will: - Gain insight into the efforts of a Multi-State USDA Integrated research and extension project focused on gathering impact on positive community contributions made by 4-H youth programs; - Be introduced to the community capitals framework (CCF) and put into practice this community mapping exercise as a means to demonstrate program impacts. Participants will be introduced to a community mapping activity based on the Community Capitals Framework (CCF) developed by Cornelia and Jan Flora at Iowa State. The mapping evaluation process addresses the seven capitals, including human, natural, social, political, financial, built, and cultural. This demonstration will provide participants with a qualitative program evaluation tool that can be applied to all Extension programs. This tool will benefit individual Cooperative Extension Agents/Educators and community leaders as they plan, deliver, and evaluate programs.*

7. **March 2012,** Training of CPCO coaches by the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy, Center for Engagement and Community Development

8. February 2012, Elaine Johannes completes mapping with Get It, Do It program in seven communities in Kansas to promote health outcomes. *The spider mapping activity was very useful in affirming visually what the partnerships have accomplished and how the towns have improved thanks to their work. We had most of the map in the Social-Human Capitals quadrant of the papers. However, a bit of the activities and changes took place in the Built and Financial Capitals also since most of the partnerships improved physical activities places and locations.*

MISCELLANEOUS GROUP TRAININGS:

1. May 2011, Call/Webinar on “Securing Funding” with National 4-H Council for members of NCERA215.

Milestones:

- A core team formed from a network of researchers and educators across the land-grant system continues to meet monthly and work toward goals, so that the impact of these activities will reach rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- Expanded use of Internet communication tools to share and collaboratively analyze data collected across the land-grant system.
- State and local financial support was acquired by participants for getting to the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.
- Completion of an annual project report documenting research and outreach activities for the third year of becoming a NCERA program.

Indicators:

The list of members has remained steady with strong participation from the core group; others become engaged for specific aspects of projects (i.e. survey); and others who will disseminate and implement our research instruments for the final project.

Publications:

1. ***New Directions Publication*** – Thematic Issue – Community Impact of Youth Engagement – to be used to kick-off the national distribution for data collection. An outline of the proposed special edition has been sent to Gil Noam, Editor. He indicated interest and group is revising proposal from the notes he sent. Target Date: Fall of 2013.
2. ***Journal of Extension article*** – Keith Nathaniel and Sharon Kinsey submitted an article to JOE in in spring 2012 and in June 2012 the article was accepted for publication.
3. **White Paper** - Mary Emery and Matt Calvert are working on a simple theoretical rationale to connect the community development spiraling up concept with how youth get involved in that process.
4. **4-H News & Views** - Sharon Kinsey submitted an article on the Social project to the 4-H News & Views, a NAE4HA Publication.

5. **Community Development Practice** – A draft article is being circulated for final editing based on the mapping activities conducted in 2010 - 2012 and the companion instruction booklet for conducting mapping activities.
6. **Engaging Youth: Serving Communities (EYSC) Project** - Arnold, M., Calvert, M., Newman, M. (2011). Engaging Youth: Serving Communities (EYSC) Project Evaluation Toolkit. Washington: National Institute for Food and Agriculture & National 4-H Council

Future directions:

- Continue, and if needed, expand the Survey Validation Pilot beyond California and Maine in order to obtain enough completed surveys from 4-H Youth Members to determine if the social capital constructs hold up and the survey is a valid and reliable instrument.
- Conduct an adequate number of one-on-one interviews in California (and, if needed, expand to other states) in order to conduct data analysis of the interviews using NVivo software to determine if the results are helpful and meaningful for triangulation and to the overall project.
- Continue to develop our funding strategies utilizing the new information developed in our one-page “*Business Plan*” and our “*Master Case for Support*,” both of which were developed at our 2012 Annual Meeting. The possibility of a large grant encompassing all states and/or a number of smaller regional (several states) or even single grants will be explored.
- The nationwide project will be rolled out to participating states when the draft youth survey has been deemed valid and reliable after our pilot projects have been completed and the survey data analyzed, the interviews have been deemed to offer useful information, and the research protocol has been shown to be fitting for the project.
- The project’s members will continue to prepare and submit publications to journals and will be working on the possibility of a special issue of *New Directions for youth Development* on Youth and Community Social Capital.
- The project’s members will continue to seek out workshops at appropriate conferences to inform colleagues throughout the United States on the project and findings.

Authorization: