

**4-H State Advisory Board Executive Mtg**  
**March 11, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Elizabeth Weaver – Vice President, Rachel George - President, Vicki Contini - Secretary; Chuck Todd - Treasurer; Nancy Derringer – WSU State 4-H Program Associate Director; Jana Ferris – 4-H Staff

The State 4-H Advisory Board Executive meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by President Rachel George.

State 4-H Director Report

Nancy Derringer reminded us that the State 4-H Advisory Board needs to be more diverse. This is true for all of Extension. Jana Ferris said that it would be easier to recruit if there was a consolidated mission. We will be penalized if we don't show we are trying to reach parity. One aspect of the State 4-H Advisory Board could be stated as subject matter skill sets providing the organization for subject matter. Just workshops on how you teach what you are doing versus youth development, etc. Jana has a committee that looks at developing risk management and ag's risk management that is the same across the state.

WSU no longer has specialists that work with hands-on discipline skills for different livestock, family living (food/nutrition, clothing & textile), etc. This is something the Advisory Board could do. Some of the roles are program advisors based on present experience, liaison to other groups in community, helping us get to know other groups and get them involved in 4-H. Federal statistics require us to reach 1 in 5 at risk/minority youth by 2027. We need to figure out how we are going to do that. Yakima is getting ready to hire someone. There are people who are involved in low-income families, latino communities, emigrant families, and others that might be able to help us reach these groups. The Advisory Board could expand and change to meet this need or it could become more of an advisor for the club program.

When fundraising you need to know someone to get into the door of those that control the funds. We need to step up and raise the money for additional fundraising. We don't have money to advertise, etc.

Nancy said that we will continue to have a club based program, but there are some new and different things we need to do.

Rachel George said it seemed like some coordinators are so focused on research and getting tenure that they are not very involved in local recruitment. Nancy said that faculty have the responsibility for outreach, but some do a better job than others. Volunteers could be used for specific tasks. 4-H needs to go out and give presentations to groups asking for specific volunteers. The philosophy behind tenure is that once you have it you can try risky things. 4-H needs some endowed positions, but you need a

couple hundred thousand dollars to do this. We won't be able to change the system but we can change smaller things.

What does the Advisory Board want to focus on? The current liaisons with subject matter groups need to become more involved with their subject areas. The Covid crisis has caused people to be more creative and to share with others. We need to get position descriptions and an implementation schedule so liaisons know what is expected of them. Someone also needs to touch base with them periodically and confirm that they are doing what they were asked to do.

We could consider "standing rules" for a standard agenda and meeting structure. Having the leadership of the Advisory Board change every year is confusing. Rachel George felt there was a need for standard operating procedures and standard evaluation for committees. Jana Ferris said that these would help to avoid bias.

It was felt that the Advisory Board needs to change to help recruit members, leaders, etc., and also provide overall club support.

Jana mentioned that in some organizations like the YMCA the boards aren't involved in day-to-day operation. With no state help we need to get back to the local level.

Chuck Todd reminded the board that workshops need to be 30 minutes or less if possible or no longer than an hour.

Proposed Agenda for next Advisory Board meeting should include:

- Create a committee to revise by-laws and standing rules with a date for presenting the draft to the Advisory Board
- The mission and vision of the Advisory Board
- The direction of the Advisory Board
- Create committees for project specific education, awards for clubs/volunteers, State Council meeting

The Executive Board was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,  
Vicki Contini, Secretary  
Washington State 4-H Advisory Board