

## **Minutes from ERS4 Quarterly Teleconference July 14, 2004**

States participating on call: Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Also participating Wells Willis, Sylvia Montgomery, and Earl Merrill.

Topics for discussion: Website Issues, Youth Evaluation, Diet Recall, and Checklist Questions

Sylvia discussed the status of the website issues. Since the launch of the new agency website, installation and upgrade files have not been available. Changes have been made to these pages internally to include the files necessary to maintain ERS4, however CSREES is in the process of reviewing pages to make them available to the public. While we realize states are in need of certain files, we ask that states remain patient until these files are available. We have also tried to send these files as attachments to state coordinators, however, because of recent and past viruses from attachments, they are being blocked by our server. We are working diligently with our communications team to make these available. September update -- the files are now available on the website.

Donna Vandergraff gave an update on the youth evaluation component of ERS5. A document was sent out to the youth evaluation team that summarized the goals. A website was also developed from Wisconsin so that states could share sample evaluation tools or instruments and the testing that has been done to assure validity of the tool. States that have shared so far include Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. A document developed in 2001 was updated in March and June regarding 5 impacts for the youth component that would correlate with the logic module. The final version of this document has not yet been sent out.

Thoughts on the evaluation component:

\*Measure nutrition education programs for youth irrespective of program funds used for the intervention.

\*Core outcome indicators amendable to what EFNEP now has to summarize data and capture it.

\*Need to consider whether to have a subdivision that looks at knowledge and attitudes versus behavior for core elements (FRM, N, FS). Valuable to be able to distinguish between a change in knowledge versus a change in behavior.

\*Want to aggregate responses in a way that is meaningful to users for your reporting needs.

\*Outside funding sources want to know impacts beyond behavior. Want to know if youth share knowledge with family. They are more apt to fund if they know youth are sharing information. Also self-esteem is important to funders.

\*Need to establish a mechanism that can be easily tweaked later. Don't want to create a framework so restrictive on the front end that it prohibits ability to expand later.

\*Can we divide five impacts into knowledge and behavior? September update -- did separate the 5 categories into separate knowledge and behavior impacts, for a total of 10 indicators.

Earl has been modifying the youth evaluation tool and is close to completion. Can be used within ERS and externally as a stand-alone. Can find a question based on age and topic area.

Still need to assess types of output reports for the youth evaluation component. If anyone is interested in working on this, please send an email to Wells and Sylvia.

Diet Recall:

This database is working well. Component is near completion with the exception of the diet summary report. The IHEI wants users to put in detailed info about themselves including physical activity to provide more nutrition feedback. This is something we can take a look at for our needs.

There will be changes to the federal dietary guidelines. Feedback will be needed on the current graphic. This will definitely affect our impact reports.

Behavior Checklist Questions:

Five additional questions have been added to the master question database. These questions are available but due to the issues with the current website, they are not accessible at this time. Now available. There have been attempts to send the file as an email attachment, but again due to certain blocks from the server, it did not go through. Please note that the aid messages will not be available through the system, but via website. This is because the aid messages are appropriate for stages of change. The messages are longer than the standard 5-choice questions and require more character space than is available on the system. All of this information will be available on the website once it is accessible.

Questions from Callers:

How are poverty guidelines updated?

A link to HHS poverty guidelines has been linked to the EFNEP website in the past. This link will be made available again via the EFNEP and ERS4 websites. In the meantime,

Wells Willis will be sending the link to all coordinators during this teleconference. <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/04poverty.shtml> For reports from other years, just change the 04 to the year of interest, i.e. 01, 03, etc.

Can 4 th graders that were in the program as 3 rd graders be enrolled in the program again?

Yes. Consecutive years of enrollment is not an issue within the software, nor an issue with youth participants. Curriculum should not be the same, but rather build on past skills. .

How do we go about measuring amount of change in youth?

States can use pre/post tests or other strategies. Not a pre-set degree of improvement. Variation is expected from state to state. Use of the new tools in the youth module will provide some consistency in how impacts are measured, and provide more commonality in interpretation of results.

Do we have a tentative deadline on when ERS5 might be available?

In 2005

Will there be time to review existing foods database?

The foods database can be corrected or expanded at the local level. For ERS5, the database will be greatly expanded, with more foods and many more nutrients .

Currently we don't enter anyone into the database that doesn't have children. Are other states doing this?

Responses from most on the call indicated that this is the standard. Some suggested entering them as volunteers. Others suggested teaching them, but not counting them.

How many states are using the ERS with their FSNEP program?

Oklahoma , Oregon, and Michigan all use the system with their FSNEP program. Others may also use, but this was not the forum to get a full count.

How do we define "other public assistance programs"?

This is not for Federal food assistance programs but there are other needs-based programs that may not be available in all communities. The focus is on services that have an income eligibility criteria.

Would you like to see 'other public assistance programs' include referrals to food pantries?

Food pantries could be emergency based rather than needs based. The assumption is that if a participant is enrolled in one of these programs, they are also eligible for EFNEP. This may not be the case with food banks. However if a local foodbank does only distribute based on income eligibility, then they can be considered a “public assistance program”. There is no one-size fits all, but a requirement based on the assessment of their limited income.

Note: In ERS5 states will be able to add their own food or public assistance programs.

What is considered a lesson?

Oklahoma just defined a lesson and will send out to all coordinators.

In ERS5 lesson and contacts will be asked.

The next teleconference will be in October. Date and Time will be announced.

End of Conference Call