Role of The 4-H Advisory Committee
The 4-H Advisory Committee is a committee appointed by the County 4-H Team. The 4-H Advisory Committee is a group of community leaders who work in cooperation with the County 4-H Team to provide advice on growing and leveraging the 4-H program in the community.

Functions & Responsibilities of the 4-H Advisory Committee

Program Planning and Evaluation
- Identify characteristics of youth living in the county (age, racial, gender, ethnicity, social and economic situations and place of residence, etc.).
- Identify needs, interest and attitudes of youth in the county.
- Be aware of state and national issues that impact and relate to youth in countywide communities.
- Identify youth-serving programs and organizations in the county (focus of the program, audience served, potential for cooperation in programming and how to avoid duplication of services).
- Provide advice to the County 4-H Team when creating the annual county 4-H plan-of-work.

Affirmative Action
- Help develop, plan and implement programs to support affirmative action guidelines relating to Extension 4-H youth programs.
- Assist Extension 4-H Team to provide a balanced county 4-H youth program that reaches diverse audiences.

Program Implementation
- Help the County 4-H Team implement the county 4-H plan-of-work.
Program Evaluation

- Utilize 4HONLINE reports to evaluate the effectiveness of 4-H program in reaching today’s youth and to help establish future priorities.
- Share evaluation results with others who influence continuation of funding and support of 4-H programs.
- Help open doors to ensure that a variety of program opportunities are available to all youth in the county.

Public Relations

- Inform people in the community about the benefits of 4-H program participation.
- Serve in an advocacy role with community leaders, government officials, business people, schools and media and encourage their support of the 4-H program.
- Help new and under-served youth and families develop an awareness of 4-H.

Membership & Selection

Factors to consider in forming an effective 4-H Advisory Committee:

- **Age** – Make sure to include members of various age groups in your community ranging from recent alumni to experienced 4-H volunteers.
- **Racial and Ethnic Diversity** – Advisory Committee membership should reflect the demographics of the county they are serving.
- **Gender Diversity**
- **Geography** – All geographic areas of the county should be represented.
- **Experience** – Previous involvement in the 4-H program may be advantageous, however, limiting the members to only those with previous experience excludes potential to reach new audience and availability for new program offerings.
- **Socio-Economic Status Diversity**
- **Interest and Affiliations** – It is valuable to recruit members with a variety of interests and knowledge (business people, media representatives, teachers and elected officials).

Effective 4-H Advisory Committees:

- Establish clearly defined goals and objectives to support the mission of the 4-H program.
- Actively promote openness to and acceptance of the diverse range of people, with the goal of inclusiveness.
- Provide members with a clear list of functions of their roles as 4-H Advisory Committee members.
- Include opportunities for every member to provide input.
- Operate in cooperation, collaboration and partnership with the County 4-H Team.
- Set and follow an agenda for each meeting.
- Capitalize on the skills, knowledge, talents and resources of all of its members.
- Actively participate in all aspects of the 4-H program including planning, implementation and evaluation of 4-H successes annually.
- Promote the 4-H program to all potential youth and adult clientele and stakeholders.
- Enhance the image of the 4-H program by serving as positive role models.
- Maintain open, frank and honest communication among the membership and with the County 4-H Team.
- Keep the concern for physical, social and emotional well-being of 4-H youth at the forefront of all decisions that are made and actions that are taken.

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