In 2016, Paul provided one-on-one Organizational Development programming to eight organizations. Each facilitated process started with a preplanning meeting between Paul and leadership from the organization. After an organizational assessment, a process was designed to accommodate each organization’s specific needs and goals.

Longer-term outcomes were measured through an on-line survey sent at the end of the year to the eight organizations. Survey responses indicate that as a result of Paul’s facilitation, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that their organization has been strengthened, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that their organization has been more strategic in fulfilling their mission, and 89% agreed or strongly agreed that their organization has an increased capacity to address community issues and opportunities. One survey participant commented that “Paul is very tactful. He values comments and concerns people have, and balances these with an outside opinion, which helped to move our group forward.” These outcomes are consistent with the results from similar surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015.
Pesticide Applicator Training: In January, Stephanie held a Pesticide Applicator Training for 23 producers. Farmers learned about laws and regulations regarding restricted-use pesticides, safe handling procedures, dealing with emergencies, worker protection standard and how to apply an accurate and safe amount of product. The pesticide applicator training program is important not only to the well being of the farmers, but also to consumers, neighbors, communities and the environment.

Meat Quality Assurance Training: Sixty-four youth enrolled in youth livestock projects along with over forty parents attended this training. The workshop’s purpose is to increase participant’s knowledge on how their management and handling of their market meat animals affects the quality of the meat products at the completion of their projects. This year’s topic is animal health products and included reading labels and use, medications, injections, and residues. The youth learned how being responsible stewards of their animals and treating them properly is very important to improved productivity and meat quality.

Local 4-H Members Attend Presidential Inauguration: A group of 31 Wisconsin 4-H youth participated in a civics education experience in Washington D.C. that coincided with the 2017 U.S. Presidential Inauguration. 11 of those youth were from Washington County. Brianna served as an advisor for the group. This non-partisan experience guided youth on a real-world tour of America’s democratic process as they developed valuable citizenship and leadership skills. Youth visited monuments and the Newseum, an interactive museum focused on the history of the First Amendment.

Before attending the inauguration, participants held mock campaigns, elections, and town hall discussions on issues facing the country today. They also did a service project and networked with other youth from throughout the country. Youth shared what they learned from this experience and will use in the next 3 months: “I learned that staying informed and involved in your government is essential.” “The media is important, everyone views things differently.” “My voice matters, and many voices together will be heard.”