



Early Childhood Education
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Home and Family Life Building, Room 129
November 7, 2024 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Present: Josie Zbaeren – LCC
Sue Akins-Fields – LCC
Jennie Bergman – LCC
Tamra Gilchrist – LCC
Deanna Sampson – Three Rivers Christian
Kari Johnson - LCC ELC
Michelle Mahitka – KSD
Dena Frye – LCC ELC
Michaela Jackson – LCC
Nikki Hemberry – Smart Start ELC
Recorder: Kalisha Harris – LCC

I. CALL TO ORDER 5:01pm Tamra Gilchrist (Jesse Watson, not present)

II. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Ice-breaker (Josie) – attendees introduce selves and share personal highlights for the Fall quarter.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Josie Zbaeren)

- a. May 9, 2024 – Kari moves to approve minutes. Deanna seconds the motion to approve. Motion carries forward to email minutes out for final approval due to not meeting quorum.

IV. LCC General updates

- a. Advisory Committee Process Overview (Tamra & Jennie)

All Academic & Prof/Tech programs are required to have an Advisory committee with a minimum of 5 industry and community partners. Tamra shares that there is new Advisory Committee Handbook that will be emailed out to everyone for review.

Jennie – we have an electronic application that can be sent out to new and potential members. They will then undergo an approval process so we can better track applications. Once approved, Jennie will send an email out with Ethics Training, which is required by the state. If you have been on the committee for a while, you will be contacted to re-take the training. If you didn't receive

something already, you will soon. You will then get a letter from the President approving you for 3 more years.

We will be reaching out to confirm contact information.

Over a 2-year cycle, certain topics will be brought to the committee to ensure we are staying current and get feedback. We are working on marketing material to distribute out to Committee members, to share with others for recruiting onto the committee. It is acceptable and even encouraged to have multiple members from each institution.

Josie – attended a forum in Vancouver where many licensers for this area were present. Josie is reaching out to make contacts to recruit more members onto our committee. Looking for ideas from other providers for contacts. Sharing names with LCC works well, then we can do outreach and make the connections to maybe have them attend as a guest and possibly join the committee.

Michaela – LCC applied for Career Launch Grant through Career Connect Washington. Currently, Cowlitz County is not on the map. If awarded, this will allow us to get our ECE programs the Career Launch funding for building programs. Additionally, once we are accepted, we can apply for capital funding. This grant will also enable Jennie to work on community partnerships and paid internships. This is a really exciting next step for our ECE program.

b. Early Achievers (Sue)

Funding is available. Josie & Sue are currently visiting sites to discuss Early Achievers. 15 Credits for Head Start, more for ECEAP.

c. Field Placement (Josie)

17 students currently placed for Fall. Looking forward to seeing what happens next quarter.

Kari invited Sue and Josie to come talk to staff about Field Placements and explanations. Anyone else interested in having them come out, please reach out as they are more than happy to come visit and talk to your staff.

d. PACE 4 – Child Development - LCC accepting PACE courses through DCYF for Credit for Prior Learning. (Tamra & Josie)

Josie – was asked to be part of the child development program through DCYF, which is community-based learning that can be used as ACPL (Academic Credit for Prior Learning).

Tamra – The training will be looked at to see which courses it aligns with to evaluate if it meets the credentials to get awarded the credit. \$30 per credit, which is the lowest in the state. This will get them the initial certificate without having to take the additional classes.

V. Student Success, Performance & Equity

LCC is an AA/EEO employer - lowercolumbia.edu/aa-eeo • LCC Clery Annual Security and Fire Safety Report available at lowercolumbia.edu/CleryASFR

JS/UC/MS Accessibility Checked 8/5/2025

a. Sharing data and discussion (Sue and Josie)

Tamra – every quarter we have an assessment day where we focus on looking at programs and focus on student success data.

Josie shares highlights and data from the LCC assessment day activities.

EDUC&204, overall success rate has dropped last couple of years to 83% success rate from 100%. Male success rate is at 33%, for 2023/2024.

It's been identified that we are missing males in our program, but are increasing people of color.

We have expanded outreach, this is largely credited to high school tours, having high school students visit campus, LCC visiting other childcare centers, attending community events, participating in and offering training and visiting other districts to recruit and retain students.

LCC ECE program is considering offering the initial EDUC105, EDUC107 & EDUC120 in Spanish – LCC is posing a question to committee to see what we think.

Tamra – would like to have further conversation, other colleges are offering the initial Certificate in Spanish. What does that look like for us. How do they transition from there.

Michaela – do we have IBEST multi-lingual support? This could help support moving forward and with transition

Michaela – Recently attended an ELL meeting, it was shared that those where Spanish is their first language, there is a significant delay having to translate everything in their mind to Spanish so they can fully understand, then translate back to English in order to answer the questions. This is worth noting and keeping in mind as we move forward with programs and further this conversation.

Sue – \$26,000 given from Early Achiever grant, wondering if it can be used for costs associated with multi-lingual support and offering Spanish only courses to satisfy this need.

Michelle –Large population of Chuuk students with only 1 interpreter in the district. AI translators don't work well enough to support the population. Michelle also shared that male enrollment at the HS is approximately 10 per year. It would be helpful if we came to the HS and did some career planning, particularly for those seriously interested in education.

Tamra – What does your employment environment look like as far as population of male candidates?? LCC ECE - 2 male staff, Smart Start - all female. Three Rivers - male director, 1 male school age instructor.

VI. K12 General updates

a. Preschool lab (Michelle Mahitka)

They just completed their first round of preschoolers today and will be at Catlin for Tiny Pups for the next trimester. Tiny Hilanders doesn't run during Winter due to cold/flu season.

b. Child Development classes (Michelle Mahitka)

All is going well, last year they had 150 students. This year there are closer to 200, so enrollment is up. FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Club took 5 kids to nationals, all placed. Students are working on projects, one is doing Birthday boxes for homeless students, containing everything they need to celebrate their birthdays.

c. Partner Updates

Nikki – TK has brought enrollment down. Being a Private School, they don't have the funding that can really support a family, it's more supplemental. Smart Start ELC is able to offer part time, lesser hour positions, which is great for mom's or anyone looking for less than FT work. Unfortunately for many programs, most are looking for FT. She is looking for avenues to find people coming out of LCC programs, it's important to have educated teachers in their school. Nikki shared that Smart Start ELC does have one current KHS student as an employee.

Dena – supports Mental health and is hearing staff say they are not “trained in this”. There appears to be a gap, is there an offering of continued education to help with those gaps. Infant/Child Mental health course, would be great to have a booster class to help expand on this knowledge. Feeling like she's doing a lot of staff support, dynamics have shifted and people need supported and reminded not to push the lesson, importance of self-care, continued education or support.

Nikki – agrees that the need for classes that will help expand that infant/child mental health knowledge.

Deanna – Agrees with all that has been said. Their TK program has fallen apart this year and they've had to let people go. It's been hard to balance staffing and enrollment, particularly as a private school. People are leaving to work in other school settings or leaving education altogether. She questions whether parents weigh the education and experiences that students are getting at a free program vs. a private program.

Josie – is involved with Coordinated Enrollment through Cowlitz County and can ask that Directors of different programs be invited to those meetings. It's possible that they are making contact with districts but not some of the other, smaller programs. She will reach out to Mindy and have her send out invites to other providers in the area.

Kari – was able to hire several people this summer. Looking at strong employment right now. Two are currently in ECE program, one looking to enroll.

VII. OLD BUSINESS (Michaela & Tamra)

- a. EDUC 246 approved Linguistically Diverse Education for endorsement in ELL (BAS-TE)

Michaela – is working on the approval process for ELL in the teacher prep program. They have to have 30 credit hours in that endorsement area, which is hard to do in 2 years. There will be 2 pathway degrees that will offer LDE. It's a diverse program that expands all learning, not just EC or K12. As the demographic of our community becomes more diverse, our programs have to stay relevant so that the teachers we're preparing to work in our community, are ready. Submissions are due Dec 20th in order to get on the March agenda. The intention is to have our ELL Endorsement for next Fall quarter.

Michelle – has her Masters in ELL! KHS program is expanding and wants to know, is there a course that can be offered at the HS that would help prepare students for changes associated with the ELL endorsement??

Michaela – There is a menu of “articulate-able” courses, ELL is not included at this time. Michaela will send the menu to Michelle.

Tamra – Perkins Grant is looking at pathways from HS to college and what does it look like. We are working on dialing this in and making sure programs are well-developed.

- b. Exploring CTE, connecting with Kelso and Longview Schools.

Michaela – Students in CTE can get college and HS credit at the same time. Due to the way the framework is built, it was paused. Dual credit framework has to meet both HS curriculum but also college requirements. CTE is not running start, instead, the intention is that student stays in HS while learning a trade. The HS gets to maintain FTE's, but student still gets the dual credit.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Curriculum Updates: (Josie Zbaeren): Josie provided an overview of proposed changes to the ECE AAS degree and program for committee consideration. Changes include the addition of EDUC 230 Social Skill Development and Trauma Informed Teaching and the need to replace ECED 263 with EDUC 246 Linguistically Diverse Education.
- b. EDUC 230 approved – Social Skill Development & Trauma Informed Learning replacing ECED 225 on planner.
Tamra asks for motion, Kari moves to approve. Dena seconds. Motion is approved.

- c. Replacing ECED 263 Professionalism with EDUC 246, exploring revising 261, 262. Seeking the “best” outcomes from the 261, 262, 263 series and placing them in 261 & 262.

Tamra asks for motion, Nikki moves to approve, Kari seconds. Motion is approved.

This information will also be sent electronically to the rest of the committee for additional review and approval.

- d. 3 Rivers Christian 4-year-old school choice (Deanna Sampson)
(Discussed above)
- e. Review membership (Tamra)

IX. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. Early Learning Conference held at LCC (Josie)
March 8th 8:30-12:30, invites will go out in January
There will be a Keynote speaker and 6 breakout sessions.
- b. Community members share

X. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE)

- a. May 8, 2025, 5:00 TO 6:30 HOFL Room 129
Discussion around timeframe to meet. Is it easier to meet earlier in the day, earlier in the quarter? Most of the group agrees that 4pm would be better.

Tamra – asks everyone to consider whether they’d be able to serve as co-chair.

XI. RESOURCES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK –

ADJOURN 6:36pm – Tamra Gilchrist

Lower Columbia College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendment Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and Washington State's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW and their implementing regulations. All inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Vice President of Foundation, HR & Legal Affairs, 1600 Maple Street, PO Box 3010, Longview, WA 98632, title9@lowercolumbia.edu, Phone number, (360) 442-2120, Phone number/TTY (800) 833-6388.