



Early Childhood Education Advisory Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 4-5:15 p.m.
HOFL 129

Present:

Jeff Strange, Kelso School District, Teacher
Josie Zbaeren, LCC Faculty, Early Childhood Ed
Michaela Jackson, Dean of Education/ECE
Laurie Severson, Head Start/ECEAP
Madeline Busby, LCC Headstart Family Advocate
Ale Sanchez, LCC Education Advisor
Charlotte Giles, Faith Family Christian Center
Sue Akins-Fields, LCC Faculty, Early Childhood Ed
Kari Johnson, Director, LCC Early Learning Center
Traci Wood, Executive Director, Premier Choice for Women
Heidi Byers, LCC Student Representative
Halli White, Director, Wee Care Day Care
Sara Rushlo, P-3 Manager, ESD 112
Sara Hegnes, Executive Director, Wee Care Day Care

I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:02 p.m.

- a. Introductions

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Madeline Busby made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 29, 2025
- b. 2nd: Kari Johnson
- c. Vote: Motion carried

III. ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

- a. Duties and processes reviewed
- b. 3-year commitment with 2 meetings per year
- c. Ethics training access explained
- d. Pause for questions

IV. CALL FOR CHAIR NOMINATION

- a. Madeline offered to volunteer as a chair for this term.
- b. Sue Akins-Fields made a motion to elect Madeline as chair
- c. 2nd: Charlotte Giles
- d. Vote: Motion carried

V. EMERGING TRENDS

- a. Head Start is hiring center aids - HS diploma and Childcare Basics are required
- b. Federal background checks are taking a bit.
- c. Faith Family needs preschool teachers - they have the space and demand, but not the teachers. Ads are looking great! ECE is a career. Schooling and training are encouraged when career decisions are made. Interns are also being sought.
- d. LCC-Michaela: Would it be helpful to do a hiring coffee chat (small-scale job fair) for ECE? Would there be interest in spring?
 - 1. There was interest! Last time, there weren't many students in attendance. Open to hiring visits during a class in order to encourage attendance: Perhaps a hiring panel within class?
 - 2. There was a request to send job posts to Josie or Sue. They can post positions in Canvas, but students are often seeking part-time positions.
- e. Madeline: A Saturday job fair near graduation could pull full-time interest
- f. District transportation boundaries changed for Wee Care Day Care, prompting significant adjustments.
 - 1. Columbia Heights kids moved from Catlin to Longview.
 - 2. Wallace kids moved from Kelso to Catlin.
 - 3. The end of busing for Lexington students to the Catlin Center has made it necessary to buy two new vans and hire van drivers.
- g. There is a potential new DCYF licensor: Laura. Please email Izbaeren@lowercolumbia.edu with her contact information so she can be invited to the advisory committee.
- h. Emily has been invited to join and a new person may also be.

VI. LCC CURRICULUM CHANGES:

- a. We are attempting to make our program relevant to more than early learning. There is demand in related fields (progress centers/, after-hours programs/social service providers). We are shifting back to AAS-related courses, rather than WAC-related courses in an attempt to ensure program viability (interest to students), in combination with relevance to industry.
 - 1. Proposed revisions to our 2026 courses with Josie Z:
 - i) Replace Math 131/132 (10 credit combo) with Math 107 (5 credits) in order to have an online option to graduate. This makes our program available as a fully online option. There was some attrition due to the 2 quarters of campus-based math. Students could elect to complete a DTA in order to stay online.
 - ii) Social Science credits are being increased from 10 - 20 credits
 - iii) We have added General Psychology (PSYC 100) to our program (5 credits)
 - iv) Introduction to Education (EDUC& 205) w/ Field Experience has been added to the social science distribution list (5 credits)
 - v) Designing Inclusive Environments for Positive Behavior (ECED 155) (5 credits) will replace ECED& 170: Learning Environments
 - vi) Supporting Exceptional Needs and Behavior in Young Children (ECED 200) (5 credits) will replace EDUC& 204: Inclusive Education: Birth-21
- b. These changes reduce duplication, align with inclusive education, and support practicum changes.
 - 1. We will have 1 practicum course: ECED 261 for 5 credits (99 hours). We have removed 262
 - 2. ECED& 107 Health, Safety, and Nutrition was removed. Weekend scheduling was a barrier for students and the training is offered at child care facilities.
 - 3. Guiding Behavior (EDUC& 130) is required.
 - i) There are additional courses to choose from, including
 - (1) Infant/Toddler Care (ECED& 132)
 - (2) School-Age Care (EDUC& 136)
 - (3) Family Child Care (ECED& 134)
 - (4) Administration of ECE (ECED& 139)
- c. Outdated courses are being replaced. For example, WACs licensing requirements are covered by directors during orientations.
- d. Outdated language is being refined. For example, behavioral needs are not the same as developmental needs.
- e. We are broadening our scope to be relevant to industry, our community, families, and students in a holistic and inclusive manner.
- f. Reviewed and contrasted proposed NAEYC and LCC Global Skills (GS) learning outcomes with previous outcomes.
- g. Opened the floor for discussion and questions
 - 1. Jeff: New outcomes are elevated.

2. Laurie: Performance standards: How is infant and toddler incorporated for audits/reviews?
 - i) JZ: Relevant Assignments are peppered throughout the program
 - ii) MJ: A crosswalk can be made available to populate all relevant training for ages 0 - 3. This is going to be helpful for our knowledge as well..
3. There are additional practicum courses available: 120 and 105 still have 33 hours of practicum. 261 has 99 hours. Students determine the age group that they would prefer to work with. For now, 120 and 105 are specifically early learning, however.
4. We appreciate our advisory! Behavioral issues were brought up in an advisory meeting, which sparked recognition that SEL and Trauma-Informed Teaching could benefit from support courses that scaffold into it.
5. As LCC explores new BAS Degrees, Behavioral Health is among the options being evaluated and ECE could be a feeder for that.
- h. **Motion to approve** degree description and program outcomes as presented in the meeting packet.
 1. Moved: Jeff Strange
 2. 2nd: Laurie Severson
- i. **Further Discussion: Elaborate on outcomes for EDUC 246 - English Language Learners.**
 1. Even though the course was approved, there were no end-of-program outcomes.
 2. We updated our outcomes to address the needs of multi-lingual children and how they learn, encouraging integration of culture, families, and childcare workers.
 3. The strategies that we use with English-speaking students may not help non-native English speakers gain confidence.
 4. Clarification was appreciated.
 5. A testimonial was shared by Sue, who offers iBest support in the 246 course. In order to stay relevant, the program continues to adapt.
- j. Big 5 meets all the needs of communication and language.
- k. **Reminder of motion and 2nd**
 1. Vote: Motion approved
- VII. Motion to approve course changes as outlined in VI a-b: Laurie**
 - a. 2nd: Halli
 - b. Discussion invited: NA
 - c. Vote: Motion Carries
- VIII. Jeff made a motion to accept new courses as presented. Discussion invited:**
 - a. 2nd: Sara Hegnes
 - b. Vote: Motion carries
- IX. Career Connect WA through ESD 112**
 - a. LCC applied for a Program Builders grant designed to create Career Launch focus on endorsed programs.

1. We selected ECE, EDUC, Automation, Instrumentation & Robotics (AIR), and Welding.
 2. We would like to build partnerships with ECE industry.
 3. ECE Internships are common and will be tracked.
 4. LCC will be hosting forums in the related programs. Agreements will be similar to what they do now.
 5. For those who cannot do paid internships, we will have volunteer agreements.
- b. Goals:
1. LCC gets Career Connect/Career Launch status
 2. Employers get to
 - i) Partner with LCC and help train student candidates
 - ii) Preview the skills and aptitudes of interning students
 3. LCC Students get
 - i) Paid learning opportunities in their field of study
 - ii) Resume confidence with relevant work-based skills

X. Wrap Up

- a. Reminder: LCC's Early Childhood Education program is available **fully online** asynchronously (not at a scheduled time). We removed campus math to ensure that we can market this as a fully online degree with the program built out, showing only online options.
- b. CTE dual credit articulations are popular and going quite well.
- c. Offered ethics training breakout.

XI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, from 4 – 5:30 p.m.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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