



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCT. 29TH, 2019 5:30 P.M. LCC MAIN BUILDING, ROOM 149

I. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. ATTENDEES

Sara Hegnes, Wee Care Day Care
Nikki Hemberry, Smart Start Early Learning Center
Carmen McClain, ESD 112/Child Care Aware
Megan Shea-Bates, Broadway Learning Center
Jennifer Smith, family childcare provider
Ann Williamson, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Enrollment update

Enrollment data provided by LCC's Institution Research Department. Fall Quarter 2019 enrollments in Early Childhood Education (ECED) at 122, up from 90 students Fall Quarter 2018. Ann Williamson shared with the board that 50 students received Earlier Achiever Grant funding this year. Last year LCC had 10 FTEs, requested additional funding and received 18 FTEs this year. She also shared that LCC is seeing more interest in the ECED program and believe this is due to addition of applied bachelor's degree BAS-Teacher Education that ECED feeds into.

b) Labor Market data

Labor market data from Labor Insight, a job posting research data bank, was shared with the group. An occupational analysis was pulled for the positions of Preschool/Childcare Teacher and Teacher Assistant for Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis and Clark counties. There were 151 postings in the past 12 months for Childcare Teacher and 186 for Teacher Assistant with projected growth of +17.2 and +18.3 respectively.

Board discussion about the amount of turnover the early learning field continues to experience and critical need for infant care and high demand for toddler care. Some childcare centers only have a month of care open for infants and more families are having to rely on grandparents or other relatives for child care. Many families are hiring nannies, especially those families that work in shifts.



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c) Program updates

Ann told the group LCC's para educator program continues to be on hold as the state decides what to do with requirements. House Bill 1115 only funded two days of training rather than the required four days of training, which is a difficult model for school districts because it was set up as a refund model and districts will struggle to cover costs.

The Public Education Standards Board (PESB) ruled that LCC's EDUC&101 Para educator Basics meets training requirements, Ann told members. EDUC& 101 has gone through the state Common Course Numbering process. Students can choose to participate in required training through their district or take LCC's course as a part of the degree path. Ann shared that Clark College recently sent out a survey as they plan to begin offering an applied bachelor's degree for kindergarten through third grade teacher education. LCC faculty support Clark's efforts. Centralia currently offers a bachelor's in education as well.

LCC's first BAS-TE has a cohort of 23. A second cohort will start Summer 2020 and an information session is scheduled Nov. 14th and a date yet to be determined in December.

Sara Hegnes shared with the group that she was working with a student who currently has her ECED Associates and had planned to continue at the University of Washington prior to LCC getting the BAS-TE approved. She is now planning to pursue her bachelor's at LCC.

Board discussion about the importance of combination of online and hybrid courses that include the rich experience of face-to-face education. Ann told the group that LCC's initial certificate and two of the stackable certificates are now fully online. She praised Josie Zbaeren's work and responsiveness to the needs of LCC's partner organizations. Online classes fill quickly.

Ann provided an update of the Guided Pathways initiative and efforts to keep students on track and moving toward completion. ECED is somewhat ahead of some other programs because of the pathways that had already been established.

d) WAC changes

Member discussion about changes in regulations that govern licensed child-care centers and child-care homes in Washington. The changes went into effect August 2019 and require all staff in child-care centers and licensed homes to earn college credit for "early childhood education certificates" authorized by the state.

Child care workers will have five years to earn the minimum required number of credits, ranging from 12 for assistant teachers and those in similar positions to 47 for center directors and assistant directors. Home-care licensees will need an initial 12 credits, followed by eight more credits, equivalent to a center's "lead teacher" requirements.



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Discussions continue regarding competency demonstration, what equivalencies will look like, and licensed centers that participate in STARS education.

e) Marketing discussion

New and updated web pages were shown to the group and Professional/Technical pamphlets were shared. Members would like to see marketing materials for ECED. Ann asked that members consider working with LCC on a marketing plan for print materials as well as video production. Members suggest adding this as an agenda item for the Spring 2020 meeting.

f) Employer survey

Spring 2019 Employer Survey results were shared with the group. Ann told the group only 10 responses were received; asked how to get better response. Board discussion about the need for some one-on-one contacts, phone calls, to get better response. Suggestion to notify providers ahead of time that survey is coming. Megan Shea-Bates suggested notifying principals of upcoming survey and asking them to share out with lead directors; let people know how many questions are on survey and how much time it should take to complete when survey is sent out; consider having the survey link provided to Ann or Josie that they can send out, providers will recognize who e-mail is coming from.

Fall 2019 survey was completed by employers at the meeting.

g) Member news

Carmen McClain shared that ESD is transitioning into the latest version of assessment tools for rating programs; high quality indicators are to be announced soon; continues to recruit program teachers to be in ECED classes and is aware of one center that has every teacher enrolled; ESD 112 will be offering STARS classes, a best practices series, early next year, most likely in January.

Carmen also shared that the Cowlitz Tribe is becoming more inclusive, allowing all federally recognized first nation children to participate in grant program, including blended families with first nation children and children who are not eligible for benefits. They will be hiring an early learning coach with extra support for child care centers to increase quality of the program.

Nikki Hemberry shared that her center currently has 144 students. They opened half day kindergarten three years ago and are getting phenomenal reports from first grade teachers about the children that have attended her programs, saying students are advanced above where they need to be at the start of first grade.



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Megan shared that the Longview Early Learning Partnership (LEEP) is starting a half hour later to better serve participants and increased opportunity to hear from early childhood teachers about what they need. Broadway school received a grant from Rotary to implement baby doll circle time and Sanford Harmony curriculums. It has been a great success and they are planning to expand.

Sara shared that her centers are also pursuing getting the Sanford Harmony curriculum. Sanford Harmony is a social emotional learning program for Pre-K-6 grade students designed to foster communication, connection, and community both in and outside the classroom, and develop boys and girls into compassionate and caring adults.

Group discussion about Longview School Bond and planned changes; would like to see a walking path from Northlake to LCC and Mark Morris to connect high schools with opportunity for students to get credit for going into the ECED classroom; opportunity for high school students to get the required volunteer hours needed prior to graduation.

Sara shared that she is looking for someone to join Wee Care Day Care's administrative team, to oversee programs, implement changes with new WACS, offer support and work on best practices.

Ann shared that the first Family Promise program designed for families with young children experiencing situational homelessness a safe shelter and assistance with basic needs has been completed. There were 14 people in the program and the program graduated the first family into stable housing.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

a. Kelso High School Open House

Kelso High Schools Career and Technical Education program is hosting an open house to showcase their new facilities 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1st. Students will be demonstrating skills they are learning that align with industry standards.

b. Career Expo

Kelso Longview Chamber and the Cowlitz STEM Network invite employers to participate in an event for 8th, 9th and 10th grade students from all school districts in Cowlitz County. There are 80 free spots for businesses to come and share information with students from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14th, at the Cowlitz County Conference Center.

c. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): TBD



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V. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.