



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Home and Family Life Building, Room 129
November 29, 2022 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Present:

Tamra Gilchrist, Dean of Instruction
Michaela Jackson, Director of Bachelor Degree programs
Josie Zbaeren, ECE Faculty
Laurie Seversen, ECEAP School Readiness Specialist
Jesse Watson, LCC Early Learning Center and Alum
Sue Akins-Fields, LCC Adjunct
Michelle Mahitka, Kelso High School, Family Sciences and Childcare
Kari Johnson, LCC Early Learning Director
Carmen McClain, ESD 112, Early Achievers Coach
Jenny Smith, LCC BAS Program Specialist - Minutes

Virtual: Stephanie Patterson, Apprenticeships

Absent: Tanya Hutton, Asha Riley, Bill Ofstun, Megan Shea, Rebecca Barkman

I. CALL TO ORDER - 5:36 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. **March 1, 2022** - Carmen McClain: Motion to approve, Kari Johnson 2nd - **Approved**
- b. **May 25, 2022** - Kari Johnson: Motion to approve, Carmen McClain 2nd - **Approved**

IV. INDUSTRY UPDATES

a. What new initiatives are you hearing about?

- i. Stephanie: Apprenticeship para ed update: Partnered with PESB who will be the program sponsor. They will be aligning the structure. LCC is the groundbreaker. The program received 500k Grant for their growth and expansion. Green River Center of Excellence will also be partnering. Prep

program (pre-apprenticeship) can partner with an actual apprenticeship program in order to be recognized. It opens doors for HS students to go into the ECE pathway.

- ii. Big thank you to Stephanie for the past work in the Woodland apprenticeship program
- iii. Carmen: Hiring and retaining directors has been a challenge. Lack of preparation is a barrier. Some have self-reported that the degree that they have hasn't necessarily prepared them for the director role.
 1. Instructional Leadership isn't something that directors express confidence in - Supervision and coaching could present an opportunity for a professional development partnership with LCC
 2. TG mentioned connecting with directors to offer support
 3. A leadership academy may be in order. Jamie Wells with the Center of Excellence could be a resource. So could Clark and Centralia.
 4. Getting directors together to support each other is an idea, but there are already a lot of demands on their time.
 5. If we can get them into advisory, we can get feedback from them, and we can produce better-quality employees.
- iv. Videos of Student Performance - Pros/Cons
 1. Possible misconnect putting observations in practice. It was challenging during covid, but workarounds were created. Now all observation hours must be completed in a classroom environment again.
 2. There were both positive and negative results from online observation requirements
 3. Scheduling/finances are an issue when work is being missed. Completing field experience where students are employed is a helpful strategy. But there is something to be said for diverse training locations too.
 4. Coaching Companion could allow students to understand content through modeling and demonstration.
 5. Several programs over the years have shown significant gains and improvement within their center.
 6. Skill demonstration isn't the same as writing about classroom management
 7. Early Achievers have to videotape themselves. There is a significant struggle when that is required. We are using Coaching Companion and if possible, that experience would help students acclimate.
 8. Pedagogy is scored by two different scorers and video recording themselves will help them become more comfortable with self-observation
 9. Release forms would be required
 10. Early Achievers did videotape during one of the classes, and it was interesting.

- 11. There is expanded awareness from self-evaluation through video.
- v. Getting people in different centers allows for a broader understanding, but there is some inconvenience to losing staff.
- vi. WAOL has some administrative training that meets WAC qualifications

b. How can LCC help?

- i. Kids are coming into programs with delays and referrals. It is surprising how many don't know how to do screening and referrals. Instructors can recognize the need but don't necessarily know how to process it.
- ii. Know the questions and how to work with the school district. Each school district is unique as is their criteria.
- iii. There could be a disconnect with reporting because the teacher may not own this role. Someone else entirely may have it. Resources vary so significantly that advocacy is harder too. A resource page could be helpful.
- iv. Regardless of degree, it takes approximately 3 years to learn the job. There is a learning curve

V. Education (LCC and K12) UPDATES

- a. Curriculum (Fall) - There is an increase in enrollment. ECE 107 has been updated
- b. Labor Market - MJackson -
 - i. The highest need is school-aged children in Cowlitz County
 - ii. Nearly 60% of respondents indicate they are using unlicensed care. This report is for 2021 though.
 - iii. There are no vacancies because of staffing. Waitlists are through the roof
 - iv. Infants and toddlers may be under-represented.
 - v. If we had more slots, would more licensed childcare be used?
 - vi. Reporting isn't necessarily reflective of demand
 - vii. The majority of childcare workers are working for minimum wage
 - viii. If wages go up, it will impact families.
 - ix. The Working Connections threshold has changed and more numbers are eligible. Headstart hasn't changed their qualifications though, so it's harder to qualify.
 - x. Para HR calculations use a number of positions open, and the number hired = meeting demand. Considerations for turnover aren't calculated.
- c. Facilities, Equipment, Technology (Fall) - A new vocational building is being designed. Estimate it will be functional in 4+ years. The Ed classrooms will go in that building
- d. Student Success/Performance (Fall/Spring):
 - i.
- e. K12 Updates
 - i. Michelle Mahitka: KHS is working to expand the program but has no planning period. Fall and spring are the ideal time for health classes. Another course is hopefully going to be approved soon. They are hoping to add additional courses and limit students taking courses repeatedly.

The goal is to mimic the Woodland apprenticeship process. ECE courses are over capacity. Freshman generally gets bumped, but space becomes available as they continue their education.

- f. LCC Updates-Report out
 - i. Programs of Study presented for ECE for both Kelso and Woodland: Are we maximizing the number of credits that students can get from HS Partners? We would like to keep students engaged and moving forward even if it is on campus.
 - ii. CTE Dual credit looks far different than what we use.
 - iii. Michelle Mahitka will send the student program to Michaela and Tamra
- g. New Education (para) Pathway has been approved by the curriculum committee. We are looking for state board approval for fall 2023
- h. Restraint will require some additional training or specialty training.
- i. This is another path into BASTE program with para stackables - Stephanie would love to advocate if the desire is there.
- j. We are working on cleaning this up.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Trauma-informed care has been evaluated. There are two more scheduled. DCYF has a special designation (packet)
- b. There will be incentivized training, but can we use the components

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Chair recommendation - Overview presented
- b. Jesse Watson expressed interest
- c. Kari Johnson Nominated Jesse Watson - second Stephanie Patterson - Approved unanimously

VIII. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. Education Career Fair - coming in late February

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

X. ADJOURNED: 7:10 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Qualify candidate experience using screening tools designed to identify assistive resources and referral documentation practices with district deviations. Encourage candidates to identify authority. Courses? Chapters? Additions?
- Tamra: Leadership Academy in partnership with Centers of Excellence or Clark/Centralia Colleges

PREPARED BY: Jenny Smith

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