



**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Alan Thompson Library, Room 130  
May 25, 2022 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.**

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**ATTENDEES**

**Confirmed/Present:** Michelle Mahitka, Tamra Gilchrist, Carmen McClain, Kari Johnson, Josie Zbaeren, Sara Hegnes, and Jenny Smith

**Virtual:** Michaela Jackson

**Declined/Absent:** Jenn Smith, Bill Ofstun, Stephanie Patterson, James Murphy, Ann Williamson, Asha Riley, Megan Shea, Laurie Severson, Veronica De Jesus

**I. CALL TO ORDER - Sara Hegnes (Chair) - 4:35 p.m.**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS:**

- a. Sara Hegnes, Chair, WeeCare Daycare
- b. Tamra Gilchrist, Lower Columbia College, Dean
- c. Josi Zbaeren, Lower Columbia College, Instructor
- d. Kari Johnson, Lower Columbia College Early Learning Center Director
- e. Carmen McClain, ESD 112, CCA
- f. Michelle Mahitka, Kelso High School
- g. Jenny Smith, Lower Columbia College, Minutes
- h. Michaela Jackson on zoom, Lower Columbia College

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Didn't get minutes. We will review both series of minutes for the next meeting.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**a. APPROVALS**

- i. K12 CTE CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION - per Tamra Gilchrist: We are a combined advisory. We are higher ed and k12. Certifications and CIP Codes will need to be approved by January, so it is appropriate to address this in fall.
- ii. COURSES AND CIP CODES: See "Terms" in the Resources section.

**V. INDUSTRY UPDATES**

- a. What new initiatives are you hearing about?
  - i. DCYF has released childcare basics online. So far, it seems Spanish is available. Enhancing Quality in Early Learning (EQEL) has been released as well, and it satisfies the requirements for an assistant teacher certification.
  - ii. On October 8, there will be a Conscious Discipline training for STARS. Megan Bates will be doing the training. Clock Hours available. It's at the Early Learning Conference.
  - iii. Extra help in the classroom is a need currently because when helping 1 child, there is distraction from the remainder.
  - iv. Connections with local resources and supports/referrals helps connect children and families with support - is that part of the curriculum?
  - v. Kelso is trying to adopt education framework that is similar to Woodland. Woodland has two years of ECE.
  - vi. LCC is piloting a CTE course on campus that is a skill center model. If students aren't ready for Running Start, they could potentially take a high school course on campus in order to familiarize students with the college, the curriculum, and the ECE field.
- b. How can LCC help?
  - i. Childcare Basics is available through the Early Learning Portal with behind-the-scenes training that has to happen. This may be broken down into regional requirements. An in-person option would be helpful.
  - ii. Childcare Basics and EQEL together is equivalent to 105/107? There is a question of whether this training will be accepted by the college?
  - iii. The cost of STARS for new employees can be prohibitive, \$190 ish. Having this in the classroom in a foreign language is beneficial for many students.
  - iv. It would be nice to have alignment around trauma informed care. What do supports look like with respect to policy and procedures? The amount of trauma in the last year or two has been significant.
  - v. With respect to increasing attendance, it may be helpful to look through the ECED course outcomes and see where SEL and Trauma Informed Care are aligned. Maybe look into guest speakers?

## **VI. Education (LCC and K12) UPDATES**

- a. Curriculum (Fall)
- b. Labor Market - Tamra Gilchrist -
  - i. Preschool/Childcare is in high demand and wages average around \$14.50. As a result, more staff is needed. If the lower wages continue, there may be a lapse. Could decreasing licensing expectations help meet demand?
  - ii. Covid, vaccines, and illness have created a deficiency in staffing that has contributed. It will take time to recover.
  - iii. State subsidies will increase in July

- c. Facilities, Equipment, Technology (Fall)
- d. Student Success/Performance (Fall/Spring):
  - i. There are some students that are seeking employment and training in the high schools. High school students are doing well in classes and act as mentors.
  - ii. Inclusion is a big topic - We are seeing trans gendered employees and students that request "they" pronouns. Questions come up, but training is ongoing and helpful.
  - iii. Professional development for the community may connect cultural values and familial values with inclusive academic expectations.
- e. K12 Updates
  - i. Sara Hegnes: Trauma Informed Care in ECE - Discussion - See Industry Updates
  - ii. Michelle Mahita - KHS Program: Tiny Hilanders Preschool Program Lab - We are expanding from 6 preschoolers to 10 in fall (capacity). High-schoolers get hands-on experience working with young children.
  - iii. Josie Zbaeren - Grow your Own Strategy: Apprenticeships for para-educators - Para-Ed pilot where woodland pays 50% of tuition. As students register for apprenticeship (para 1, para 2, para 3), 3 spots will continue to get the tuition reduction through LCC.
  - iv. Questions about adding secondary education to our TE program?
- f. LCC Updates-Report out
  - i. High flex classes seem to be working well. High flex was born out of an inability for some students to attend classes physically. It increases options. This has been successful for some instructors.
  - ii. Early Learning Center is working on accreditation. Initial accreditation was approved, and the site visit is coming up soon. We are building staffing and waitlists for children, which is exciting. Practicum students are back in the classes and it is great to see.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Sara Hegnes is intending to step down as chair and we appreciate her service to our Advisory Committee. We will be seeking nominations and/or volunteers to host this position
- b. Invite to ECE for Ann's retirement too.
- c. Input on encouraging attendance and recruiting committee members: Bringing in a training may help for ECE advisory recruiting (clock hours?)

**IX. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- a. Jun 1, 2022 - Education/Healthcare Career Fair
- b. Explore your Future (in Spanish) happens this summer

**X. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): October, TBD**

XI. ADJOURNED: 6:05 p.m.

XII. RESOURCES

- a. [ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK](#)
- b. [LCC: Professional-Technical Advisory Committees Meeting Minutes](#)
- c. [The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332](#)
- d. [College Advisory Committee Procedures](#)
- e. [K12 CTE Advisory Committee Procedures](#)
- f. Terms:
  - i. **V-Code:** Vocational (V) Code. This is tied to the certification code and dictates the K12 courses that a teacher is certified to teach. The teachers' education or industry experience is reviewed to determine the V-codes for certification.
  - ii. **CIP Code:** Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code. A federally accepted course and program code that identifies courses taught throughout the United States, this includes CTE courses. CIP codes are aligned to V-codes that clarify which courses the teacher has been certified to teach in K12. CIP codes are also used for reporting purposes from the district to OSPI and college to the SBCTC.

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**ACTION ITEMS/RECOMMENDATIONS/QUESTIONS**

- LCC - Investigate offering in-person options for regional requirements of Childcare Basics (V.b.i)
- LCC - Investigate equivalencies between Childcare Basics and EQEL, and determine if the equivalencies extend both directions (V.b.ii)
- LCC - Offering Childcare Basics (STARS?) in Spanish could be both a community service and advantageous to local institutions. (V.b.iii)
- LCC - Introduce or highlight alignment around trauma informed care. Outline what supports look like with respect to policy and procedures (V.b.iv and V.a.iv)
- LCC - Advisory attendance may be impacted by having a guest speaker who can speak to SEL and trauma informed care. (V.b.v)
- Will LCC be offering secondary education options in the foreseeable future?

PREPARED BY: Jenny Smith