

Early Childhood Advisory Board

Thursday, February 28, 2019 EPI2-308 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Present: Barbara Scarsbrook, Director of Education at LSF Children and Head Start, Ana Cabezas, Pinellas Technical College – Early Childhood Education, Camille Eckrem, Professional Development Trainer for Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas (ELC), Joseph Benavides, Career Outreach Specialist @ Clearwater Campus, Anne Ryan, Academic Department Chair @ College of Education, and Marilynn Cirri Administrative Assistant.

Anne Ryan led the meeting explaining numerous Early Childhood events scheduled today that conflicted with this meeting. Tonight is the Baby Talk Workshop at ACH John Hopkins Conference Center and the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference is in Orlando. Anne will email the minutes from today and any other flyers out to all. We like to be mindful of everyone's time, but there are so many things going on right now to share, we may want to consider another meeting.

Introductions:

Joe Benavides introduced himself to the group – he is the Career Outreach Specialist that represents Clearwater Campus, behind the scenes regarding degrees, internships and employment. Joe helps students get ready for interviews, helps students improve soft skills and communication.

Anne Ryan – Academic Department Chair at SPC for the College of Ed –her goal today is making sure the right people are listed as contacts for making connections and helping students move upward.

Camille Eckrem – introduced herself as the Professional Development trainer representing ELC. She is attending as a representative of Angela Loring.

Barbara Scarsbrook, Director of Education Lutheran Services Head Start in attendance.

Ana Cabezas representing Pinellas Technical College's Early Childhood program.

Marilynn Cirri, Administrative Assistant – EPI alternative cert program, recertification, autism and vocational classes at SPC.

Anne Ryan will be working on curriculum changes this summer at the Clearwater Campus. Please be thinking if there are there any other names that the group would like to put forward for the Board? Today we will be completing a Workforce survey.

Read and Approve Minutes:

Minutes from October 4, 2018 meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

Scholarship monies are flowing. There is a crisis in Early Childhood and it has been recognized. Students can apply for a TEACH scholarship even if their agency doesn't participate under an individual CDA. The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is a widely recognized credential in early childhood education administered by the Council for Professional Development.

New Business:

The Early Learning Coalition and Career Source are working together on national CDA with Early Childhood Development Initiative (40 clock hours). Works to strengthen policies and country strategies around enhancing the skills, preparation, training and employment conditions of those who work with young children. Students are covered for background screenings, additional training, meaning teacher retention for agencies. Those interested need to go through Career Source initially and must have 480 hours of experience. Contact Tina Fetzer at 727-548-1471.

- The creation of solid competencies and standards that guide the work of early childcare workers
- The development of career pathways with diverse entry points/levels and a clear progression route for the workforce
- Systems for continuous feedback and coaching that ensure workers receive opportunities to improve their practice
- Improved status, salaries and working conditions for early childcare workers

Thrive by Five – goal to transform early childhood by aligning resources in Pinellas County so every child ready for kindergarten. Thrive by Five project pulls together partners from the private sector, local businesses, our Chamber, the City, along with childcare providers and health care providers, allowing us to really create a comprehensive kindergarten readiness movement. Healthy development in the first five years of life includes: physical health and well-being; social competency; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communication and general knowledge. In the early years, a child's healthy development sets a trajectory for long-term health outcomes.

Juvenile Welfare Board – Marcy Biddleman, CEO, is retiring.

JWB funding goes towards scholarships for Early Childhood students in both the Bachelor and Associate programs. If they have other funds, monies go into a book line of credit at the bookstore allowing not only books, supplies, but can be used towards computers.

If a student fails a class, they are no longer eligible for the scholarship. JWB is looking into revising their policy and having students not be eligible for funding for a semester with the ability to re-apply for future semesters. Current scholarship deadline has been extended until March 25th, 2019. Anne Ryan will send out info in email.

Advanced 36-hour Tier 3 credential – This 36-credit certificate is part of the A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. Students earning the Certificate will gain skills and knowledge to provide quality care to young children in early childhood care and education settings. The Certificate also meets the Office of Early Learning Career Pathways requirement for the Florida Advanced Early Care and Education Credential (FAECEC).

MAJOR CORE COURSES

Complete 36 credits

1	ENC 1101	Composition I	3
2	SPC 1608	Public Speaking	3
3	PHI 1600	Studies in Applied Ethics	3
	EEC 1223	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
	EEC 1308	Early Childhood Planning and Management	3
	EEC 1512	Caring for Infants and Toddlers	3
	EEC 1600	Guiding the Young Child	3
	EEC 1603	Early Childhood Development	3
	EEC 2271	Introduction to Working with Young Children with Special Needs	3
	EEC 2300	Developing Cognitive Activities for Young Children(Math, Lnge Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health)	3
	EEC 2312	Developing Creative Activities for Young Children	3
	EDF 2085	Diverse Populations	3

¹ Completion of this course with a minimum grade of "C" satisfies 3 credits of the General Education Communications (core) requirement.

² Completion of this course with a minimum grade of "C" satisfies 3 credits of the General Education Speech requirement.

³ Completion of this course with a minimum grade of "C" satisfies 3 credits of the General Education Ethics requirement.

This is eligible for financial aid where the 12 credit Certificates are not. Must take Comp within the first 15 credits and math within the first 30 credits at SPC. If TEACH is covering, they do not get involved in how coded at SPC. Get first 36 credits with 24 in general ed (Comp, Ethics, Speech, Diverse Pops) embedded in the AS degree (no math). So many options, it does create confusion in Early Childhood.

Ana C. asked if being marketed?

Anne R. has not seen anything as yet.

Joe B. said trying to leverage Perkins grant funds to market pathways that have not received any exposure.

Increased Enrollment – driven by Head Start initially now more by Early Childhood Bachelor's degree. TEACH funding graduate programs now. Students can see a “career path” and opportunities.

Anne – COE opened 11 new class sections and pulled information showing 330 active early childhood students. 135 were in the Ed Studies Early Childhood bachelor's program.

Community Contacts for Field Experience:

No placement office for this. Students must call and get placement for own hours. Trying to keep a creditable list of preschools, agencies and centers that are willing to host students for their hours. If you have names/contacts, please send to Anne Ryan. Some great places – Pasco-Hernando Today Care on US 19, and Discovery Point, Springhill. So far, students have not had a problem with anyone finding a placement for hours.

Early Childhood Conference - Camille E. – Great feedback from the one on January 19th. About 140 people attended. Suggested dates for next year – January 11 or 25, 2020 with possibly Dr. Barbara Sorrels as keynote speaker. She is the Executive Director of the Institute for Childhood Education, a professional development and consulting firm for those who live and work with children. They talked about St. Jerome's in Largo and their outdoor center and did a presentation. Camille felt that being able to see real places and what was going on made it valuable.

ECE Graduation celebration – 35 people attended the Friday night before the official graduation for spring. Anne had arranged a photo booth and fun event to celebrate their achievement. Graduation for summer is May 18, so special celebration will be May 17 hopefully if security available on campus.

ELC Storybook Village Event April 6, 2019 at Boyd Hill Nature Park – last year we had table and made bookmarks. Community schools bring their favorite books to life! It has to be a craft we can manage outdoors. This year may be stamping blank bookmarks with their favorite book theme. There is also a 5K run Kids Dash Run and Walk.

<http://elcpinellas.net/raceinformation/>

Playing Unplugged, Largo April 6th, 2019 - This special day brings two great events into one single day for children of all ages. This event will include the popular Playing Unplugged! and well-known Touch-a-Truck events. From big trucks and boats to kids crafts and games, this event has something for everyone. Largo Central Park will be

filled with hands-on games, discovery stations and play environments promoting the importance of open play and creativity.

Childcare Wages Florida – rewarding with cash stipends as they move up. Palm Beach County and certain zip codes. \$200-\$3000 more each year. Details on flyer. Early Childhood is a top crisis – difficulty in attracting people into profession, keeping them in the profession. State monies being awarded to this initiative. Encourage continuing education for child care teachers by improving child care quality, reducing turnover and encouraging education for EC teachers in birth to 5. Four counties participating: Broward, Hillsborough, Manatee and Pinellas. The tax base is lower here with retirees, tourists and agriculture. Signs of improvement – scholarships, increased wages and Thrive by 5. More companies adding childcare as a benefit.

Joe B. – stated he is now board member at Suncoast YMCA. If there is anything he can do, offered his services. Covers Hernando, Citrus, Pasco and upper Pinellas.

SPC and COE support eco system in Lealman area with Dr. Hafner.

Head Start – Barbara S. – new CEO and Director, Bob Bails oversees LSF's 5 grants. New piloted (in two classrooms) curriculum now in 93 classrooms. Big financial commitment for an expensive curriculum. Gives baseline and can be more creative depending on teacher expertise/knowledge. Children are constantly moving in and out of programs in Head Start. Linear curriculum has seen an increase in scores, decrease in behaviors already. Mentor coaches going to Splash at Gaylord Palms this year. Maybe the childcare crisis has pushed the movement forward?

COE April 5th – Pat Roper and Anne Ryan skype with Patrick Booth and DT/MT advisors on programs.

Meeting adjourned: 3:42 p.m. Hope you can attend the Workforce meeting next. Thank you all for coming.