

## **Early Childhood Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019 8:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Joseph Benavides, Ana Cabezas, Eugene Cote, Claudia Decker, Carol Dinsdale, MaryAnn Goodrich, Amanda Houston, Camille Eckrem, Yvonne Malague, Sonia Meier, Twanna Monroe, Debbie Orifici, Anne Ryan Barbara Scarsbrook, Brooke Tucker, Susan Weber.

**Absent or Excused:** Debra Barker, Gail Ramsdale, Maria Climes, Angela Loring, Croley Todd Baird, Kimberly Hartman, and Jackie Lang.

### **Welcome:**

Anne Ryan opened the meeting with welcome and good morning! She will be mindful of the time as she knows all have to move on to the business of caring for children. Anne mentioned that the SPC Marketing Department completed a photo shoot at Pasadena Community Preschool and shared some of the photos on a PowerPoint Presentation. Anne mentioned the previous photo shoot at St. Jerome's Early Childhood Center and mentioned that St. Jerome's has a new Director, Phyllis Steele. She also thanked Gino Cote' and the Pasadena Methodist Church Preschool for hosting today. Anne asked if we would go around and introduce ourselves.

### **Introductions:**

Anne Ryan, Academic Chair at SPC for College of Education. Anne's quest this semester is to find a way to fund pop up STEM stations for Early Childhood that are mobile. Marilynn Cirri, Admin Assistant for College of Education, Joe Benavides, Career Outreach Specialist at the Clearwater Campus, Ana Cabezas, representing Pinellas Technical College, Gino Cote', Director of Pasadena Methodist Preschool, Claudia Decker, Operation PAR Director, Carol Dinsdale Behavior Curriculum from Calvary Kids Care, MaryAnn Goodrich VPK Facilitator from Office of Early Learning, Amanda Houston, Professional Development Advisor for Pinellas ELC and Camille Eckrem, Professional Development Trainer for Pinellas ELC, Yvonne Malague, Director of First United Methodist, Sonia Meier, Director of Early Childhood Ed for R' Club, Twanna Monroe, Director of Infinite Potential

Learning Center, Debbie Orifici, Lead Teacher at Pasadena Community Church School, Barbara Scarsbrook, Director of Education with LSF/ Headstart, Brooke Tucker, Assistant Director with Gingerbread School and Susan Weber, Director of Professional Development with R' Club.

**Read and Approve Minutes:**

The minutes from February 28, 2019 were read and approved.

**New Business:** FLAEYC Leadership Summit was cancelled due to Hurricane Dorian. The FLAEYC Board of Directors has voted to reschedule the Annual Conference at one of two possible times:

- October 23rd – 27th *or*
- October 30th – November 3rd

FLAEYC staff are currently in contact with hotel and event venue partners and will make additional announcements soon. Depending on availability the Conference could be in Tampa or Orlando. Info will come from Chris Duggan.

**Child Care Wages:**

Using targeted zip codes for high concentrations of school readiness children, this program is available for select counties for child care teachers. See the attachment for more info where you can earn \$200-\$3000 depending on education level. The contact is Amanda Houston at the Pinellas Early Learning Coalition.

Pinellas County Zip Codes:

34689	33781	33765
33755	33709	33764
33756	33705	33778
33760	33711	33773
33713	33712	33704
33714	33770	33701

## **Fall Enrollment:**

It is growing. We have the new certificate. The Early Child Development Certificate, CHDEV-CT, has 28 active students working on 36 credits. This Certificate meets the Florida Office of Early Learning Tier 3, Advanced Credential requirement. The program is financial aid eligible and for many, the best part is, it does not require any math or science. The CHDEV-CT is embedded in the A.S. degree.

Enrollment in blended courses is decreasing and the online enrollment is growing. We try to make the online courses the best we can. One of Anne Ryan's goals is the 'pop up STEM stations' that can travel and finding the funds to make this happen.

More students in Educational Studies in Early Childhood are going to teacher certification (Birth to Age Four) and other areas including graduate school and positions within the Early Learning Coalitions. She would like to develop a way to showcase career opportunities.

The **Early Care and Education Conference** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-4:00 at the Clearwater Campus in the Arts Auditorium with breakout sessions in the ES Building. The "Ooey Goey Lady," Lisa Murphy will be the keynote speaker. Kim Clary, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist and Autism advocate will have special sessions. To register, visit [elcpinellas.net/trainings](http://elcpinellas.net/trainings). For more info, contact Shannon Dennany at 727-400-4431. See flyer.

## **The City of St. Petersburg Scholarships –**

Preschool Specialization Certificate OR the Infant/Toddler Certificate  
(4-course sequence/one course per session)

Scholarship recipients must be currently employed at least 20 hours with a St. Petersburg Children's Center or Child Care Home in the following St. Petersburg zip codes: **33701, 33705, 33711, and 33712**. Contact – Lea McCray.

How to Apply:

Step 1:

[https://spcollege.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://spcollege.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)

Step 2: Complete the General SPC Foundation  
Scholarship Application

Step 3: Click the *Opportunities* tab and select City of St  
Petersburg Scholarship

Step 4: Answer the questions and upload a recent  
paycheck stub or an official letter from your employer

Step 5: Click Apply

## **Juvenile Welfare Board –**

JWB has a new CEO – Beth Houghton, former CEO for St. Petersburg Free Clinic. JWB funding goes towards Ed Studies – Early Childhood Bachelors students and AS students at about \$1000 per semester. 28 students in the spring and covers Pinellas County only. 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, JWB is looking into revising their “done” policy and having them not be eligible for funding for a semester. Students must work 20 hours a week and have one letter of reference. Talked about the thank you letters students wrote. Debbie Orifici was one of the recipients and talked about how much the funding meant to her as she was mentally exhausted with a family, working full time and going to school with homework and deadlines. To know that this agency supported helped keep her going.

<https://blog.spcollege.edu/education-information/scholarships-make-a-difference/>

<https://spcollege.academicworks.com/opportunities/17630> - **Deadline Extended to October 30, 2019**

## Juvenile Welfare Board Scholarship

The purpose of Juvenile Welfare Board Scholarship is to provide assistance to eligible early childhood educators seeking to obtain an A.S. or B.S. in early childhood education at St. Petersburg College. Qualified applicants must be working full time (20 or more hours a week) for a licensed professional early childhood care and education center in Pinellas county and have a GPA of 2.0 or better.

---

**Award**  
Varies

**Deadline**  
10/30/2019

### Supplemental Questions

1. I attest that I am currently employed a minimum of 20 hours per week in a licensed early childhood setting within Pinellas County.
2. If Yes, please list the name, address and license number of the center.
3. Please upload a recent paycheck stub or an official letter on director letterhead stating employment at a licensed child care facility in Pinellas County.
4. I understand and acknowledge that if my employment is terminated, I am responsible for reporting the termination to SPC and that any future receipt of scholarship funds through the Juvenile Welfare Board Scholarship will be forfeited.
5. I attest that I intend to remain employed in a child care setting which serves children ages 0-5 years for a minimum of one year after I complete the Scholarship Program.
6. [Show 3 more](#)

**TEACH Scholarship** - <http://www.flchild.com/professional-development-workforce-initiatives/t-e-a-c-h-scholarships/>

## T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Description:** The [T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program](#) provides scholarships for early care educators and center directors to work towards earning an Associate's degree or credentials in early childhood education. It is funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation Office of Early Learning and involves a three-way partnership for the sharing of expenses by the caregiver receiving the scholarship, the sponsoring child care center or family child care home and T.E.A.C.H. The majority of tuition and books costs are paid for and most T.E.A.C.H. participants receive a per-semester stipend for travel or for internet access as well as a bonus for caregivers and directors who complete their scholarship contract. In most scholarship models, reimbursement to the early childhood program or family child care home for release time given participants.

**Criteria:** Depends on the individual scholarship applied for. See their website for more details.

**Contact: Deadline:** no deadline

TEACH will cover no matter how student coded. AA degree going into Ed Studies and still needs math, science or foreign language – TEACH will cover. Ed Studies is very popular with the military families – we have students with spouses based in Texas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.

**SPC Early Childhood Info Session on Monday, Nov. 18 at Gibbs** from 5-7:30 pm in the SA Building, Room 114. Let your folks know to come see what is available. Goodies and give aways.

## **Thrive by Five, ELC Pinellas:**

This initiative has a new head and they are reorganizing communities. What can we do as a full community to make sure children have what they need? How do we help Kindergarten staff understand who is coming into your classroom? It is challenging and hard. Twanna Monroe spoke about the bridge from pre-K to K teachers to give them background information on where children are vs. where they say they should be. Better understanding of the children's' backgrounds and challenges to help them adjust to their new environment and expectations.

## **PKP 2019-2020:**

MaryAnn Goodrich spoke about the ELC 3:00 Monday meeting rescheduled to Sept. 16. Consistent leadership in Pinellas and things are moving forward. There is a collaborative plan for pre-school and kindergarten meeting. "Stay in your lane and do what you do. Where children are and not what we've determined."

Anne Ryan said she will use this distribution list to send on information so all will have the latest.

## **The One Goal Conference – mark your calendar for April 2020:**

Sonia Meier and Anne Ryan attended this conference and spoke about presenter who provided videos showing teachers watching children figure things out. This sparked some ideas about having Pinellas County centers have a presence during the **NAEYC– Week of the Young Child Conference** on April 13-17, 2020. Anne Ryan would like to gather info as a county as NAEYC has a Facebook page where it could be displayed. Daily themes to focus on and put it up to show what great things we do for children.

<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview>

Sonia Meier talked about different activities and what they mean as a teachable moment for parents when they see their children are playing. Many parents just see kids playing and don't understand there is a reason behind what the play means and that the activity has a connection to learning. Evidenced based standards based on activities look cute, but have a deeper purpose and meaning. Share what we know so parents realize and understand.

<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/>











For Technical Support  
(800) 357-1072  
support+oelStandards@fcim.org

Home	Family Resources	School Readiness	VPK	Parents	Providers	Coalitions	Statewide Initiatives
🏠 Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards							
About	Standards	Concepts Across Standards	Families	Resources			

Select the domains and age ranges you would like to view from the options below.

**Domains** ▲

 I. Physical Development	 II. Approaches to Learning	 III. Social and Emotional Development	 IV. Language and Literacy
 V. Mathematical Thinking	 VI. Scientific Inquiry	 VII. Social Studies	 VIII. Creative Expression Through the Arts

**Community Sharing** - If you have any info you would like to go out, please send us the flyers or links to share.

Sonia Meier shared info on Pinellas County Licensing Meeting. Eckerd Connects was looking for help with emergency care when removing children in an emergency setting and places to take them for a few days. They partnered with ELC and got 6 slots and a waiver to mix age groups to help keep siblings together. This was approved as a permanent regulation. 110 children served with 20 sets of siblings while ratios were maintained in

the mixed group setting. More infants and toddlers and it has been very successful. We need more – the City of Largo is trying to get funding. JWB was at the meeting and expressed interest. Discussed regulations about 18 year olds and good standing rules – now 18 with a HS diploma and have asked Pinellas County to reverse the decision and go back to 18 and enrolled in HS or GED or Certificate of Completion (language) so they can work Monday- Friday in after school programs.

Susan Weber started in November working with the “Read to Me” City of St. Pete program hiring students with a certain GPA or above at \$10.00 per hour for children’s language and literacy program. Students are not left alone. When finished with a book- children get to take them home. Ten slots were funded and students recruited from Boca Ciega, Gibbs and Disston.

### **Early Learning Coalition:**

Amanda Houston spoke about reassessing the program to recruit and train future teachers as they did not get a lot of interest and will be revisiting in the future. There were too many barriers with training dates at ELC, visits to Career Source Pinellas, transportation issues and scheduling. Career Source was originally to send students to the program, but didn’t work out as well as hoped.

Mary Ann Goodrich talked about the former Angels Program and discussed trying to return to that model. They need someone to resurrect and take hold of this program and turn it into recruitment. Cost and liability is an issue. This is needed throughout the state.

### **Readiness Rates:**

MaryAnn Goodrich wanted to discuss Readiness Rates and the two areas that have the lowest scores – phonological awareness and language/vocabulary. OEL is offering 4 classes that are free, 2 hours each for .2 CEUs. Looking at ways to work with children and vocabulary that are explicit. Training in phonological awareness – Emergent Literacy and Pre-school grant. Reaching out to become trainers? Send Maryann an email if you are interested.

[Maryann.goodrich@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Maryann.goodrich@oel.myflorida.com)



New head of the Office of Early Learning is Shan Goff. She was previously with the VPK program – she always has a plan so “stay tuned.”

The Readiness Rate is set in January. The law requires accountability and Star Early Learning is the online tool used to assess children in the first 30 days of Kindergarten. Children take it by themselves on a computer. The assessment is adaptive, meaning that questions get harder or easier based on how children respond. The computer “knows” which question to ask next based on a child’s previous response. One problem though is if children have no access to a computer or know what a mouse does, their scores will be skewed. Some concerns: it is in a game-like format, similar to apps children may use. This data drives decision making on what is needed. Please email MaryAnn with any questions.

Anne Ryan thanked everyone for sharing and attending today. Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

**Spring Meeting date: TBD**