

Early Childhood Education
Advisory Committee Meeting
October 25, 2024



Early Childhood Education -MINUTES
October 25, 2024, at Noon
Zoom

Members Present: Clover Spears (Committee Chair), Talent Development Manager, EOCF; Michelle Aguilar, Child Care Aware Manager, ESD 112; Jamie Rodrick, Faculty, Portland Community College; Deepika Ilavarasan, Owner & Director, Kiddie Academy of Vancouver Fisher's Landing; Kelsey Hudson; Samantha Reisz, Scholarly Assistant Professor of Human Development, WSUV; Ella Fultz, Owner & Operator, Gathering Tree Early Learning, LLC

Guests:

Members Absent: Rachel Hay, Assistant Program Manager, Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families; Melody Patridge, Vice President, Innovative Services NW

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Kathrena Halsinger, Interim Dean of SOFA, Clark College; Michelle Mallory, Instructor, Clark College; Sarah Theberge, Instructor, Clark College; Michelle Volk, Director of Child and Family Studies, Clark College; Don Ludwig, Instructor, Sociology Dept. Chair & Behavioral Sciences Division Chair, Clark College; Niira Krupnick, Career Services, Clark College; Courtney Hoover, BASTE Chair, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:05 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on Friday, May 16th, 2025, at Noon

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on May 10th, 2024, were approved.

ETHICS TRAINING

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Committee Ethics Training.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Committee Orientation.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Don shared that the College welcomed Dr. Terry Brown as the new Vice President of Instruction. Don shared that the College welcomed Coco Hoover as the new Department Chair for the BASTE program.

Don discussed that the College is hosting town hall meetings regarding safety in preparation for the upcoming election.

Don shared that two people from the executive cabinet have transitioned out.

Michele Volk shared that the current Early Childhood Education Supervisor has chosen to return to the classroom as a lab instructor, so the program has hired a new program supervisor.

Kathrene has shared that College enrollment has increased slightly and there are more face-to-face students.

Sarah shared that all the Early Childhood Education courses are full and the enrollment in the program is robust.

Program Goals and Discussion/Work Plan

Sarah requested committee feedback regarding the development of the 2024-25 work plan.

Sarah inquired about trauma-informed care resources in the program courses.

Michelle noted that the program is brainstorming ways to incorporate trauma-informed practices and is seeking committee feedback on goals and embedding them into the work plan.

Industry Feedback

Jamie inquired about specific training the program has received around trauma-informed practices. Jamie recommended Trauma Informed Oregon which offers various trainings and offers informational practices.

Sarah noted that each faculty member of the program has individualized experience and expertise to trauma-informed care knowledge.

Michele Volk noted various trainings and continuing education in the past.

Jamie is in support of trauma-informed care for boundaries, perspective, and resources for students.

Deepika is in favor of embedding trauma-informed care into the program and shared a recent trauma-informed care training conducted by Tracy Collins. Deepika and her colleagues found it very useful for further knowledge of children's behavior and parent-teacher interactions. Homelessness, emergency preparedness, and head trauma. Incoming teachers could benefit greatly from further education on the scope of the study.

Michelle shared that her workplace offers a twenty-seven-hour training on TIC through their trainers and Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants. It is a statewide training for early learning professionals.

Michelle Volk mentioned that Heidi Sohn at equitymattersnw.com was a remarkable trainer in areas of diversity equity and trauma.

Samantha shared that WSU has experienced an enrollment decline. The Early Childhood Education program is offering hybrid courses and an online format since the program has slightly decreased.

Samantha is in favor of the development of trauma-informed practices.

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Sarah asked the committee if there are goals the program should create that support the pressing needs children and families face in the community.

Michelle Mallory discussed the next steps would be to see how the program can embed the advisory discussion into the work plan and present it at the spring meeting.

Nirra shared some challenges with the access to Reggio-inspired programming, being collaborative, and child-led allows for excellent trauma-informed care, but Head Start/ECEAP outcomes do not always leave access to that pedagogy and often those programs really have a strong need for that trauma-informed care.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores