

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, May 29th, 2020 \* 11:30 am—1:00 pm**

**Zoom Online**

**Members Present:** Christyn Dundorf (Co Chair), Early Learning Consultant Group; Michelle Aguilar (Co Chair), ESD 112; Kahlea Croft, YMCA of Columbia Willamette; Amelia Shelley, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District; Debra Shope, ECOF; John Swartz, Kiddie Academy

**Members Absent:** Kristi Baker, SWCCC/ESD 112; Rashelle Chase, KinderCare Education; Andrew Garland-Forshee, Portland Community College; Jamie Heiberlein, PCC Faculty; Jane Lanigan, WSUV CDP; Jess Robertson, Alumni;

**Clark College**: Debi Jenkins, Department Head/Professor; Sarah Theberge, ECE Professor; Michelle Volk, Director of CFS; Michelle Mallory, Family Life Coordinator; Miles Jackson, Dean of Social Sciences; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees.

Co-Chair Christyn Dundorf called the committee to order at 11:35am and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

*The minutes of March 6th, 2020 were presented for approval. As quorum was not present, the minutes will be sent out via electronic approval. As of June 23rd, 2020 the minutes have been approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Committee will meet again on **Friday, November 13th, 2020 at 11:30am.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUCEMENTS**

Miles Jackson and Debi Jenkins made the following announcements:

The new college president will start next month in June. Her name is Dr. Karin Edwards. She comes from Portland Community College.

The college survived a $5.4 million budget reduction. 87% of the budget is salary costs, so there were layoffs from all different classifications throughout the college. The revenue projections from the state show that the college will likely face another reduction in the summer.

There has been some discussion not to hire any tenure track positions to save money, however the VPI and Miles really allocated hiring this position to support the BAS and teacher education as a high priority. The plan is still to move forward with this hire. Debi Jenkins explained they are going to wait through COVID so as to have a face to face interaction.

**HEALTH AND STATUS OF PARTNERS/INSTITUATIONS DUE TO COVID-19**

Debra Shope stated that EOCF has not been operating any of their childcares or programs since mid-March when the governor announced the need for quarantine. She spoke on the struggles and navigation of trying to complete their service delivery plan with headstart and ECEAP during a time when there’s no interaction with the kids. They have been providing some virtual activities as well as dropping off home learning packets. They have also been doing food services for families. Every week they have been delivering around 2000 meals. She also made a personal announcement that she was recently hired on at the Columbia Gorge Community College as an adjunct faculty. She is currently teaching an elective course that includes cooking with children. In the fall, she will be teaching a 3-credit hybrid course that involves child development. In winter, she will do another 3-credit course that is about guiding children’s behavior.

Christyn Dundorf has been working with programs mostly embedded with school districts. She has been working to support them with distance materials that are still play and inquiry based, which has been a significant challenge. Recently, most teachers have been on furlough one to two days a week. It has been interesting figuring out what they can provide to families that is play and exploration focused, without the necessity of paying for anything. Being able to use household items in order for their kids to learn, while also being sensitive to their safety and security is very important.

CFS is currently and has been open the entire time for essential workers and vulnerable populations. They have about 32% of their enrollment with 8 children and 2 teachers per classroom in 5 classrooms.

Michelle Aguilar spoke on their early achievers still doing virtual coaching. They are checking in with every licensed provider. She is also reaching out to the districts that are doing emergency first responder childcare. Monday-Friday, they are doing a virtual group socialization where they do stories, music and movement, and provide suggestions on what children can do at home. There have been over 600 participants from Oregon and Washington.

Amelia Shelley discussed the library district being closed. They are in the process of preparing to offer curb side service as phase 2 approaches. They are offering all of their online resources. There has been about a 200% increase in digital downloads of books and film. About 3000 virtual library cards have also been made. They are now also offering virtual programming, both synchronous and asynchronous. Story times, conversation circles, dungeons and dragons, book clubs, film discussions, etc. are all included in these offerings.

Debi Jenkins explained that Clark College is all remote through fall. However, for some professional/technical courses, they are doing distancing labs.

**ECE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT ON HOW TO CONTINUE WITH LAB**

Sarah Theberge spoke on how summer and fall quarters will be in remote learning, both of which have a lab component. Spring quarter has a practicum with an introduction class. Michelle Mallory postponed the practicum for summer and will have the learning experience begin in the fall. There was discussion about potentially having the lab in the childcare center while honoring the social distancing and proper protocols. However, the scheduling and logistics made it very difficult. They applied for some Perkins funding to bring lab instructors and faculty together to offer the mentoring to the students rather than students coming to the lab. They will brainstorm and create new ideas on how to mentor and facilitate online learning through a remote situation. The committee discussed the progress and great work through all of the challenges. It has been exciting to see all the new ways of teaching.

Christyn Dundorf inquired about a program out of the University of Washington called Coaching Companion that is a video annotation tool. It allows one to stop the video at any moment and add comments to it. Sarah Theberge spoke on a similar program called Early Ed U, which is run by the same group. Another program called the Virtual Lab School was suggested by PCC. There are some great resources with video learning tools.

Sarah Theberge also thanked Michelle Volk for her help in navigating the lab situation.

**CURRENT STATE OF THE BASECE AND PRE-PROPOSAL**

Sarah Theberge explained that in March, they submitted the Statement of Need to the state board that oversees the community and technical colleges. They were asked to make some revisions which altered their timeline a bit. It will go back again with these revisions in July. The program is currently waiting to hear back to receive more details on what revisions they would like to see.

In addition to teacher certification, the PESB (Professional Educational State Board) has its own set of questions and data form. That was submitted this month and the hope is to present the pre-proposal in July as well. The PESB also requires a professional advisory board that is specific to teacher training and bachelor of programs. They have secured some fantastic new members with regard to diversity and roles.

The hope is to get green lights from both parties to be able to move on and start the proposal writings which would include the curriculum, how the program will be offered, full time/part time, etc. in order to open the doors in fall.

There are a few factors that might impact the process of the BAS. One is the unexpected closing of Concordia University. This not only affects teacher certification, but also for the early childhood education student. It was the only university locally that offered a 4 year degree in ECE. With this closure, it is even more important to get this opportunity available.

Christyn Dundorf spoke on the requirement from many organizations and programs now asking for a bachelor’s degree. She thoroughly agreed on the need for a BAS program in order to provide the resources and opportunity for those wanting to go into this field.

Debi Jenkins also spoke on the need for childcare regardless of the remote working situation. There has been some discussion about larger corporations requiring their employees to work from home and not needing childcare any longer, however that has not been the case. If anything, it’s needed more.

Sarah Theberge requested any quotes or words of support for the committee that could be included in the statement of need.

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Amelia Shelley stated that many libraries are hesitant to invite children back into the library. They have a partnership with a library in China that is only allowing children over the age of 12. The big concern is how to keep children from contaminating and getting contaminated when they don’t have that high self-control from touching quite yet. It’s a challenge to keep children safe in the environment while also letting them be themselves.

EOCF does plan to have some kind of program by fall. A model would be business as usual, B model would be smaller class sizes with alternating groups, and a C model would be completely remote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53pm.

Minutes prepared SueAnn McWatters