

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, November 13th, 2020 \* 11:30 am—1:00 pm**

**Zoom Online**

**Members Present:** Michelle Aguilar (Co Chair), ESD 112; Kahlea Croft, YMCA of Columbia Willamette; Jamie Heiberlein, PCC Faculty; Jane Lanigan, WSUV CDP; Amelia Shelley, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District; Debra Shope, ECOF;

**Members Absent:** Christyn Dundorf (Co Chair), Early Learning Consultant Group; Kristi Baker, SWCCC/ESD 112; Rashelle Chase, KinderCare Education; Andrew Garland-Forshee, Portland Community College; Jess Robertson, Alumni; John Swartz, Kiddie Academy

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

Co-Chair Michelle Aguilar called the committee to order at 11:33am and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF ZOOM RECORDING:**

SueAnn McWatters confirmed with the committee that they are aware of the recording of the meeting. The industry members and Clark staff gave approval for the recording.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

*The minutes of May 29th, 2020 were presented for approval. Jamie Heberlein motioned for approval, Michelle Aguilar seconded. Jane Lanigan abstained and the rest of the committee unanimously approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Committee will meet again on **Friday, May 21st, 2021 at 9:00am.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUCEMENTS**

Michelle Volk stated that they are at 53% enrollment at CFS. They have expanded for one school age classroom to meet the community needs. She formally thanked Michelle Mallory and Sarah Theberge for the pivot to remote for family life and ECE lab. They have both done an exceptional job leading remotely.

Miles Jackson spoke on the college operations. The college received confirmation that we will stay in remote operations and having most instruction online for winter and spring quarters. There will be some exceptions on courses with labs.

Sarah Theberge secured some Perkins funding in order to continue to think about how to provide lab instruction remotely. She thanked Jamie Heberlein and Jennifer Vernon for sharing resources. While she has disliked being remote, the support and collaboration has been amazing. The community has really come together to share resources with one another.

Debi Jenkins asked Debra Shope and Amelia Shelley to connect. Nikki Brown Clown is doing nationwide story times. She is an African American woman. They have sought her out to do virtual story times with children across the nation. She currently has a contract with ECOF.

**COVID 19**

Debra Shope stated that EOCF has been up and running classrooms. They are at about 50% with face-to-face delivery. The other 50% has been online virtual. They are also still doing a lot of food delivery.

Sarah Theberge asked Debra Shope how many teachers have been furloughed or lost their positions. Debra stated that zero teachers have been furloughed or laid off. Everyone has been able to stay on payroll. Although they are fully staffed, they are still short staffed because staff might be out due to COVID like symptoms. Every morning, they are required to do a COVID check. They are also adhering to a 72 hour “break” for subs to be able to teach at different locations.

Jane Lanigan spoke on the CDP (Child Development Program) being closed this academic year. There is a task force looking into reopening next fall.

Michelle Aguilar shared that ESD 112 has closed most of their childcare programs. There is no enrollment and a lot of consolidation. They do still have ECAP and early head start programs. They do still have some providers who are closed. Most have tried to reopen, however a majority of them are struggling because they don’t have enough children. There have been a lot of COVID relief grants for licensed childcares.

Kahlea Croft shared that the YMCA had to close down one of the Orchards facilities, not necessarily due to COVID, but the lease was ending and because of COVID numbers. It wasn’t sustainable to keep it running. Luckily, the Sprinkled Meadows facility had low enough attendance and the ability to increase 20 kids to a classroom. They were able to combine and merge both centers with only 5 families leaving. It is difficult for the staff because they are serving 9 different schools and 3 different school districts. With the bus restrictions, they have chosen not to do transportation.

Amelia Shelley shared that the libraries made the decision not to open due to the governor’s announcement about more changes occurring. They are continuing to do curbside and running about 50-60% circulation. They are down 18 positions.

**STATUS OF BASECE**

Sarah Theberge spoke on the BAS degree. Two major hurdles have been accomplished since the last meeting. They presented in July to the PESBB that oversees teacher preparation programs in the state. After a few questions from the board members, they unanimously approved the proposal. A number of revisions were presented to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges in October, which led to an approval of the statement of need. We are now able to move on to the curriculum and program development process. The first step will be to hire a tenure track full-time faculty position with experience in pre-school through third grade teaching experience. The minimum requirement will be a Master’s degree and the preferred will be a doctorate. She is putting together an advisory board for the BAS degree that is required from the PESBB.

**PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

Michelle Mallory explained how the program looks at the outcomes each year. One of the standards that we focus on is building family and relationships. It would be very valuable to the program to hear the kinds of skills and challenges that teachers and early learning professionals have when engaging with families. There are currently two courses that focus specifically on working with families; child family and community and family partnerships. The committee members discussed and spoke on what they have found important or would like to see more of.

* Seeing the individuality and diversity of each family
  + Bridging; helping students to critically look at their biases as they hear and see different scenarios
* Empowering families to be the first and foremost teacher
* Stressing how they can get parents involved and let go of preconceived notions of what childcare “should be”
* Communication directly between parents and staff; creating moments of connection

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Jamie Heberlein is in a similar situation as Clark College. The childcare programs in the area are opening. Groups no larger than 20 are allowed. The issue is that many providers have had to close due to funding. As far as the college goes, their enrollment is up 6%. The entire college of PCC is completely remote, no labs or face-to-face. Most of the classes are pretty full as well.

Debra Shope shared that ECOF is in a double review year.

There are many different workgroups on how to make Early Achievers with a more racial equity lens. What will be most impactful for providers and families? We want to recognize that there is not one model that will be perfect for every person.

Amelia Shelley stated that they have been working closely with Debi Jenkins on reframing their programming in early literacy to become more inclusive with the non-dominant cultures.

The YMCA has a new CEO. There are a lot of changes occurring. They are working on finding more relationships in the community as well as better ways to serve the community. What does that look like in building relationships and building more partnerships with other organizations? The health and wellness center is trying to partner with Share to have a mobile food truck to be able to reach out to lower income families. There has been conversation about having more classes in the communities since they are not able to do after school programs IN the schools.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51pm.

Minutes prepared SueAnn McWatters