

St. Petersburg College Early Childhood Advisory Committee Minutes 4/11/14

Present: Anne Ryan, Susan Weber, Krista Fusari, Patti Lister, Sonia Meier, Brett English, Yvonne Mae, Bonnie Fletcher, and Laura Woodard

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Anne Ryan welcomed those present. Each person introduced themselves and shared what agency they were associated with and their job title.

2. Call to Order:

Brett called the meeting to order

3. Read and Approve Minutes of Spring Meeting:

Yvonne made a motion to approve fall minutes. Sonia seconded the motion and they were approved.

4. Old Business:

- Discussed and reviewed the informational materials for SPC Early Childhood Program. As a marketing strategy committee members were encouraged to get the new folders out to the public.
- Anne reported that the enrollment was holding steady. Statistics showed that although 90% of the Early Childhood students live in county, they prefer online classes for summer. Therefore, there will be only online classes offered this summer.
- Anne reported that two Director classes would be offered in fall – Foundations for new Directors and Leadership and Administration for Directors seeking renewal
- Scholarship-TEACH was described by Anne as “alive and well.” She expressed a desire to market this very valuable program. She stated that there was 6 million dollars for Bachelor Degrees on hold and 3 million available currently. Tuition is fully funded for A.S. degrees with employer participation. We were encouraged to spread the word regarding the availability of scholarship money.
- Anne reported that A.S. commons is up and running and has worked out well

5. New Business:

- Anne expressed concern that the Department of Labor Targeted Work Force List was unable to list childcare workers because a minimum wage of \$10.75 was the requirement to be on the list. Clarification is needed as to how that number is arrived at. Is it an average and how could we achieve that number so that an A.S. student could see preschool teacher on the Work Force List?

- Innovation Grant and follow-up: Money was applied for a workshop presented by Wolftrap S.T.E.M. Through the Arts. Goal was to bring in an artist and get new curriculum ideas. Workshop took place at Tarpon Campus.
- There are starter projects being followed up at Bright Horizons Children's Center at All Children's over the summer. Work will be displayed
- Advising: To help students meet the requirements for A.S. Degrees, it would be beneficial to for students to speak with Anne first.
- Anne explained that the Early Childhood Department would be moving to the Clearwater campus so that all education programs are located in the same place and would be able to share resources. There will be a dedicated room with space to allow the hands on activities that are essential for early childhood education.
- The floor was open to suggestions as to how background screening could be obtained through the college so that students could fully interact with students at centers as part of their training.

6. Community Sharing:

- Yvonne mentioned the upcoming Autism Conference. A discussion ensued regarding raising awareness of parents in early childhood centers regarding this subject. We discussed the value of community screening of children.
- Handouts were provided for the Lew Williams Center for Early Learning Project and Sonia discussed her involvement and presented some history and goals for the center.
- The upcoming Unplugged event in Largo Central Park was discussed with a plea for volunteers. Responses were given to try and obtain some teachers to volunteer. It was then suggested that information be placed at the unplugged event on how to contact organizations that had early childhood resources.
- The question was asked if SPC students could observe screenings to help them better understand some of the underlying causes of challenging behaviors in young children. Brett replied that students could contact her to observe screenings with the therapists.

Fall Meeting – EpiCenter, Dinner, Tuesday September 9th

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Woodard