

**Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee
Spring Meeting**

4.21.16

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Present: Anne Ryan, Gail Ramsdell, Twanna Monroe, Jackie Lang, Debbie Barker, Sonia Meier, Gino Cote, Ann Hofmeister, Yvonne Malague, Claudia Decker, Susan Weber, Karen Vuurens
 - b. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 8:25 by Anne Ryan
 - c. New members will be joining the group in the fall. If anyone knows of someone else, we are looking for people that can provide a well-rounded perspective on early childhood.

2. Read and Approve Minutes

3. Old Business
 - a. State mandated change to A.S. degree – A.S. degree is now reduced to 60 credits so students wishing to earn the A.A. also will need one additional math and one science with a lab. The A.A. also requires foreign language (requirement can be met with high school foreign language) Anne advised that students connect with an advisor when they start since 30 credits in the degree are general education courses and there is no specific Advisor just for the A.S. in ECE. Karen asked how students apply for the certificate. Anne stated they can ‘apply to graduate’ on the SPC website.
 - b. City of St. Petersburg Certificate Scholarship – Karen teaches the courses at the Midtown Campus. New City cohort group beginning this Fall will be enrolled in online courses – just waiting for finalization and then flyers and information sessions will begin.
 - c. JWB Certificate Scholarship – includes both the Infant/Toddler Specialization Certificate and the Preschool Specialization Certificate.
 - d. T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships – The scholarship is administered by the Children’s Forum and they have been refunded with increase to \$10 million this year. The increase will allow for additional monies to the participating center along with increased stipends etc for the students. T.E.A.C.H. will pay for the Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies/Preschool Education. There will be a Masters degree in Early Childhood Leadership, fully online and funded by T.E.A.C.H. It will be through UNF. That program will begin in Fall, 2017 and the Children’s Forum is working on the criteria for selection. Ann asked if information would be available and Anne said the Forum has a whole new website and information will be added as it is finalized.

4. New Business

- a. City of St. Petersburg Certificate Scholarship Cohort II – will be starting this fall and will now cover both the Preschool Specialization Certificate and the Infant/Toddler Certificate.
 - b. Do You See What I See? Project – Received a mini-grant and purchased two, Nikon cameras. Eighteen VPK children at the R’Club ELA E Lemon St in Tarpon Springs had the opportunity to be ‘photographer for the day.’ At the end of the day, the students would tell about their pictures and the teachers would write it down. Seventy black and white photos were enlarged to 8X10 and are on exhibit at the Leepa-Rattner Museum on the Tarpon Springs Campus. A reception was held for children and parents on Friday night, April 15th and was well attended.
 - c. Collaborative Online International Learning Project (COIL) – Many students will not have the opportunity to study abroad, and COIL provides a framework for faculty in different countries to collaborate on an online assignments. Connected with National University of Ireland/Galway and shared documents. Students in the early childhood programs in both countries surveyed their early childhood settings about technology. Created a discussion board for the students to talk about similarities and differences in early childhood. They are working on reflections now. It was a worthwhile experience. They are thinking about children’s literature next.
 - d. Currently trying to rework Educational Studies/Preschool Education Birth to aAge Four so that coursework focuses on this age group. This is a non-certification program and students can continue to work in their early childhood setting. Karen is in charge of that. Karen advises enrollment is approximately 80 students at this time. The College of Education is currently not admitting to the PreK/Primary teacher certification program at this time.
5. New Rotation of Courses – If it’s a fall course it will always be offered in the fall. Online there will always fall, spring, and summer courses and they will remain the same. Trying to get more video online and make it the best it can be. Ann asked if there was any training available on using the online platforms. Anne said there was lots of training on engagement. Anne always does online chats, usually in the evening.
6. Community Sharing
- a. Jackie Lang – Excited the city is on board with early childhood with funding, support, and resources.
 - b. Debbie Barker – Continues to field phone calls to help people know the courses they need to meet their goals. Continue to offer instructor-led courses but have had to cancel a lot due to online courses. As new online courses are being added there are more interactive pieces being added. In the online classes students are not as successful. Exam sessions are always full. They are offered two

Saturdays a month. The Child Growth and Development module is being completely revised.

- c. Twanna Monroe – They have been participating in RIE and are going to collaborate with the Lew Williams Center and share some of the strategies.
- d. Sonia Meier – Trying to get all of the schools accredited. They have 4 so far.
- e. Susan Weber – Working with Twanna with RIE strategies for the ones and twos and working with PAR I Can Problem Solve with threes and fours. Brett came out and suggested a Becky Bailey book for a book study and then they will do Conscious Discipline. The staff is excited.
- f. Claudia – Trying to recruit staff and a lot of the work is with the mothers and it's difficult. It takes unique staff to work there. They are now NAEYC accredited.
- g. Yvonne – They are going to connect with a class at Campbell Park. They will go once a week and eat lunch with a child. They have been accredited this year as well.
- h. Gino – Is taking one of the Florida online courses. What is the status of TSG? It has to be completed for the State this year.
- i. Gail – Currently registering for VPK.

7. Fall Meeting Date – TBA

8. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 10:05