

Early Childhood Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting @ 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Date of Meeting:

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Members present: Anne Ryan, Angela Tufts, Dr. Kimberly Hartman, Debbie Orifici, Carol Dinsdale, MaryAnn Goodrich, Brooke Tucker, Sonia Meier, Jaimie Harmon, Dawn Espinoza, Barbara Scarsbrook, Gail Ramsdell, Carrie Culbertson, Debbie Barker, Yvonne Malague, Joe Benavides, Tawanna Monroe and Jackie Lang.

Members excused: Gino Cote, Croley Baird, and Maria Climes

Scribe: Marilyn Cirri

Call to order: Angela Tufts, Advisory Board Chair at 8:31 a.m.

Previous Minutes Approved:

Motion by:

Jackie

Lang

Second by:

Carrie

Culbertson

Mission and Goals: We align our projects and goals to the COE mission:

'The mission of the Education Community is to prepare future educators who will promote lifelong learning and empower diverse communities'

- In looking at 'empowering diverse communities' we have added, and continue to add, content that actively addresses anti-bias and anti-racist awareness and development of materials that students can use to achieve those goals.
- We'll address some of these plans this morning but please share any materials, ideas, connections that would assist us, as a group, in meeting this goal.

Program Updates & New Business:

- Rothman Literacy Event in April – virtual and drive through – hoping to have brief clips of 'thank you' from students/centers that have participated in the past. Child size backpacks and have ordered \$2400 worth of books. No date yet. Asking Centers to thank Rothman (Kane Furniture).
- STEM Kits will be ready for Fall Nikon Cool Pix cameras, books and materials. Anne Ryan will visit Centers and offer to leave STEM kit for a month to use.
- Children's Week Events, April 5-9 Brooke Tucker updates – Brooke talked about the virtual race challenge and elevating EC to do something fun and together. Willing to have any SPC students join their team. Sonia Meier has team also. Wants to build community and connections with SPC. <http://www.flayec.org/race-for-resilience>. Please get this info out to students.
- Project with North West Regional College, Derry, UK completed – on lockdown due to Covid. Used

private Facebook page and hope to do something next year.

- Continued focus on anti-bias and anti-racist materials for students in all EEC courses in alignment with the COE Mission/Goals. We are using webinars and articles from NAEYC and books/videos from TBF – other ideas?
- Please send any links etc. that you are using and we can compile a list as a committee project.

New committee members? Who are we missing? Tawanna Monroe feels we need to inspire more diversity among Committee members and places. Told a story about work and how different staff members tend to segregate. Anne Ryan asked, who is not at the table? Who can we invite in and not just to help the Committee, but give a different perspective? We need to think about as a Committee and share. Tawanna had her staff change seats, share childhood memory, discuss biases. Debbie Orifici said maybe we should video these moments and share with others. Told a story about child with beautiful skin at her Center. Recommended NAEYC book, *Each and Every Child Teaching Preschool with an Equity Lens*. MaryAnn Goodrich talked about the messages you get when you are a child, discussed book study to allow people to have courageous conversations and applauded Tawanna. Recommended book – *Why Do All Black Children Sit Together in Cafeteria?* There are many on the subject. Anne Ryan said it takes courage to open race conversations. Children assume if we don't talk about something, it is bad. Thinks a book study would be a good introduction. Angela Tufts said healthy St. Pete is having Courageous Conversation two-day experience. Angela shared the link - <https://elcpinellas.net/professional-development-institute/>.

Anne Ryan said this is a bigger conversation and we need to challenge ourselves. Yvonne M. mentioned involving some students to participate.

Anne Ryan discussed JWB- AS and BS EC in Pinellas County. Students receive approximately \$1000 per semester. She found some Centers didn't know about this. Share flyers. April opens Fall registration.

TEACH news - Anne R. reported we have 2nd highest number of students in state. We are meeting a need online for students.

COE Open House held February 18, 2021. It was a good recruiting event, however noticed that with no Early Childhood Conference in January due to Covid, it impacted meeting EC students. She is willing to call, meet or Zoom any potential students.

Subcommittee Reports: none

Student Update: none

Industry Updates & Discussion: Went around Zoom to share if anyone wanted -

Debbie Orifici discussed researching books before putting out there and using themes in curriculum.

Carol Dinsdale said she works at school 1 day a week with small groups. She made a bulletin board of pics without masks so parents could see what people looked like as all they have now is eyes with masks. Discussed how had to use eyes, gestures and body language more now.

Barbara Scarsbrook said they are still open. Assessing children in Fall, giving parents things to do. Trauma Informed Care still big. Prac certified course– 7 weeks with final week intense. Headstart going back full time, full days in August.

Jackie Lang and Tawanna Monroe participated in the 9th Annual Baby Talk which was totally different than in the past. Had a drive thru Baby Talk. Had a Food Truck, resources, books and bags passed out. There was a food pantry with boxes of food, an Icee Truck and balloons. Relevant info and participation was great. Would like to do in several different locations to impact more families. Topic was *Are You Listening?* More involvement for fathers and options for them.

Carrie Culbertson and Dawn Espinoza said they were 90% open. Their focus is on providers struggling for quality staff. They are encouraging staff for further education. Not sure if their community is ready for all online classes, but it is more convenient. Their secondary focus is on accreditation – MAP, Making Accreditation Possible. The numbers are low in Pasco and hoping coupled with TEACH funds, to increase. They struggle with the high Hispanic population and how to address equity. Dawn discussed their online management system where providers go for training and it has been very successful.

Sonia Meier – R'Club has had interim closures, more children with Covid. They too struggle finding quality staff which in turn impacts their potential capacity. Staffing is an industry crisis. The United Way "Day of Caring" is coming to 4 locations in April 2021. Working with Thrive by Five and an Antiracist Baby Campaign. They are participating in the resilience race – aka Club Resilience. Welcome to join their team at Lake Seminole Park on April 10th for all staff.

Jaime Harmon and MaryAnn Goodrich – have a new social studies domain to get professional development hours coming out soon online (May). April 27-28 the OEL is holding two half day virtual sessions for Integrating Promising Practices to Support Early Literacy. Here is the link - <https://www.flchild.com/transitionsummits/>.

This is MaryAnn's last meeting as she is retiring, not disappearing. She wanted to thank everyone. She is having a hard time leaving, but she is not leaving Early Childhood. Many of the members of the Board shared their feelings and wished her well in retirement.

Gail Ramsdell – they are experiencing many of the same things. It has been a tough year for staff. They have struggled with enrollment. They are gearing up for summer VPK. The opened virtual VPK during the beginning of Covid – students are starting to go back to face to face. Registration is starting for the next school year and staying positive. Gail mentioned Cornelius Minor. He talks about how books teach children what is normal so we have to really think about the books we share with children and be sure all children see themselves in the books we read. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSV1cddHiCs>

Debbie Barker from DCF – no updates from DCF.



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Adjournment

Anne Ryan wished MaryAnn Goodrich fun on her cruise and bring back cultural info to share. She is thinking about diversity and making consolidated effort to make some plans with people on the Board. She is concerned about staff shortages.

Hope to see everyone face to face in fall!

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Scribe:

Marilynn Cirri