



Early Childhood Advisory Board Minutes

Thursday, October 14, 2021

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

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, October 14, 2021
Members present: Anne Ryan, Angela Tufts, Dr. Kimberly Hartman, Andrea Kelly, Debbie Orifici, Carol Dinsdale, Brooke Tucker, Sonia Meier, Jamie Harmon, Barbara Scarsbrook, Gail Ramsdell, Maria Climes, Marilyn Browne, Suzanne West.	
Members excused: Croley Baird, J. Lang, Y. Malague, T. Monroe, E. Cote, D. Barker, S. Weber, Dawn Espinoza, Claudia Decker, Joseph Benavides	
Scribe: Marilyn Cirri	
Call to order: Angela Tufts, EC Advisory Board Chair at 8:31 a.m. Angela Tufts welcomed all attending and thanked all for being able to stay in touch. Anne Ryan said meetings seem to be more convenient virtually than physically even when we move locations and thanked all for coming. Angela thanked Marilyn Cirri for taking minutes and had all introduce themselves. Many attendees shared that they are graduates of SPC. She introduced Dr. Andrea Kelly, Acting Associate Dean from the COE, who attended today to discuss the COE EDI Committee.	
Previous Minutes Approved: <i>Motion by:</i> <i>Debbie Orifici</i> <i>Second by:</i> <i>Sonia Meier</i>	
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’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 of empowering diverse communities. <p>Anne Ryan shared that at the Summer Institute they did amazing activities concerning “Cultural Competence”.</p> <p>Jackie Lang and Anne Ryan went to a 2-day training in Hillsborough which was amazing. We continually review courses and update/add to. If anyone has an experience or insight, please share.</p>	
Program Updates: Anne Ryan reported there has been a steady enrollment. We continue to offer alternate assignments. This	



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semester we have 19 interns in EEC 2907. Thirteen of those are in Pinellas County.

New Business:

Andrea Kelly reported on the College of Ed Diversity Committee. Their mission has an ongoing focus to increase the number of groups of preservice teachers to promote equity for P-12 students. The EC Advisory Board is part of our partnership to promote this. The co-chairs are Dr. Caroline Young and Dr. Robert Raze. If you have any ideas, initiatives, or anything to share, please reach out to them.

Some of the Committee activities are – meeting with potential partners, focus groups, surveys, a speaker series, fine tune data sets and examine the COE curriculum on how we prepare pre-service teachers, and on Nov. 17th participating in the Great American Teach In.

Anne Ryan said on October 21, there will be the Rothman Backpacks drive through sponsored by Kane's Furniture. This is a virtual event and students are making thank you videos that the Foundation will compile.

Anne Ryan said the STEM Kits are almost complete. You will be able to check out for 4-6 weeks and use the resources along with the cameras included.

Anne Ryan has given out the DIY Light Kits – come with a remote control and LED lights inside. You will be able to make your own if you wish.

We also have Nikon cameras for individual projects – example is studying shadows by 3 year olds and they take the photos.

Outreach and Recruitment:

Anne Ryan said the JWB Scholarship continues their support of students in the AS, EDST subplans. Amount - \$1000 per semester and it all goes through the Foundation. Due to express classes, the Foundation always extends the due date for us.

The ELC Conference is slated for January 29, 2022 in the Arts Auditorium in Clearwater. There are plans for 3 speakers, about 45 minutes each and we will be able to have alternate seating.

TEACH continues to fund AS, EDST subplan and the grad program at UNF for tuition, books and stipends. Students from 16 Florida counties.

FLAEYC Conference Sponsorship is October 22-23.

Student Update: none



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Industry Updates & Discussion:

Jamie Harmon discussed emergent literacy requirements, the 3 courses available for 5 hours each, revamping phonological awareness, reading and scaffolding. They will be available by the end of this month. Everything is being virtually led at this time. Several options meet the requirements – send any questions to Gail or Jaime. Pre-K observer and Train the Trainer plus more will be coming soon. Sent survey to districts to collect info on class leads and contacts. Introductory meeting in November.

Brooke Tucker with the Alumni Update – she is in a graduate program, but staying on the Advisory Board as an alum. She thinks EC needs leadership. She has held every position child in ECE and feels for people to understand ECE needs/changes, that is the kind of leader that understands the profession to work for changes. Her goal is to get into the policy side of the field and coming with the tools to be successful in the next phase of giving back.

Anne Ryan said the experience is needed to be effective. Who will drive this? Needs people at the policy level to effect change.

Suzanne West – Numbers were low during Covid. Had to reinvent their online presence at St. Pete. They were already online in Clearwater. They held a program expo, like a one stop shop, however, did not have the best turn out as it was pouring rain. They continue to grow and expand while updating their standards. There is a need for trauma informed care education. Discuss with students the pathway and relationship with SPC and our strong program.

Sonia Meier said they adopted a new emergency rule about quarantining. Have not had any new cases since Sept. 1. The staff must quarantine, but children with no symptoms can come in. However, this is a challenge if staff are quarantining...The pandemic created a wait list, so there is capacity and space, but no staff. They held a Job Fair at Lew Williams for all levels and for several locations. If you walked in, you got an interview. Rethinking how to handle in the future as low numbers in 3-4 yr. olds so may combine age groups to be more cost effective and utilize staff. Ways to impact the community seem to be infant and toddler – need better wages and conditions.

Early Learning Coalition said Chancellor Mears was very encouraging about HB 419 and the effects on childcare and people taking notice.

Maria Climes is looking forward to our partnership with SPC. Sonia covered the highlights. Will send flyers to Anne Ryan to post.

Gail Ramsdell said they are all back and F2F. Definitely experiencing a staff shortage. No recent quarantines. At the beginning of the school year enrollment dropped. Have a new 3 year grant through the Pinellas Education Foundation and VPK-2nd grade involving 8 elementary schools and 5 preschools that feed into those 8. They are focused on building knowledge in early literacy so children enter school with

foundational skills. PKP back to school meeting held virtually – VPK standards and kindergarten standards



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reviewed.

Spring Meeting and Adjournment:

We hope to have blended meeting in the spring where some can see each other again and use Zoom also for those who have a hard time getting away. Meeting adjourned.