

Agenda/Minutes
Early Childhood Advisory
April 25, 2018
Clock Tower Conference Room – CT 209
Meeting 4:00

1. **Welcome/Introductions**

Dawn Nasser, Rena Pate, Kelly Alvarez, Ana Nasser, Teena Alpers, Kea Cunningham, April Jones, Stacey Black, Suzanna Aguirre, Penny McConnell

2. **Open/Old Business-Kelly**

Discuss ECE Program

Spring semester courses we are offering 1 online and 1 evening class in addition to our 2 classes offered during the day. This is to meet the needs of those students that are in the field working. Interaction takes places as often as possible with children. Ana, at the conference we attended last week there were several instructors that said they do not and will not teach evening classes. This is a great opportunity we offer here. In the process of Entitlement many courses involve students to plan activities along with lesson plans and implement them at the CDC. One change Kelly has made this semester was to do a 2 hour course to allow time in the day for observations to be completed. We currently have four interns who are doing very well and will be looking for employment.

Kelly, Rena do you have any feedback from your Education students? They love going to the center and doing stuff with the kids. Students have great stories that they tell and she loves reading their papers. They have 16 observations they have to do. Ana, this is the best group of students we have had in years. Kelly, her students kept all of their scheduled times where normally students are leaving post it notes of needing to switch days or times.

College Express and Middle College Students

Our College Express numbers 33 total in Creative Learning. In the fall we will be offering Children's Literature. College Express students go to the CDC twice a week to interact with the children. Students were also able to go into the community to teach a 15 minute music lesson evaluated by the head teacher. Students were able to be involved in many of the college events on campus this semester. Many of the students will come back to the ECE program because of their experience with College Express.

3. **New Business**

Community feedback

We would like feedback from the employers as to what you want from the new teachers coming into your place of business. How can our program help you? We would like to work on a way to connect with other centers like Head Start, etc. on when there are new job openings. We would also like to see if you would like to be involved in the program for example coming in and speaking to the classes. Are there any ideas? Are there any courses that some of your staff still need to take? We would like to have the opportunity to bring the students out to visit your programs. Each spring semester we host and develop a professional development workshop. This past spring we were lost our main contact Lou Ann. If there are any ideas we can plan on having one this fall 2018. Teena would like to see something on behavioral issues. April, when she finished school there was so much she needed to know and inspections that needed done. Is this something you

can do a workshop on how to start? Kelly, we can work with Carol Nichols in small businesses. We could possibly have the Fire Marshal to come out and speak at the conference. Kelly, could possibly add this section to the Daycare Administration class. There could be designated speakers come in and speak to the classes on what needs to be done to get your own daycare running. All trainings have to be done by September 30th. Stacey, they moved that date again.

DCFS- Are there any changes with you this year? If you have to have a license from the city the background check issue may conflict because you can't get your city license without submitting a copy of your state license. Stacey has worked something out with the mayor and the city clerk that you are on the list waiting for your renewal. The home daycares and the centers background checks are separated now because they split them up between Springfield and Chicago. This seems to help the process go quicker.

Entitlement

We are still working on getting our ECE program entitled. This will help students reach credentials and put them in the Gateways System. This will help create a clear pathway for career opportunities and additional ways to meet DCFS job requirements. The list below are the credentials we want to aim for in getting entitled.

ECE-Early Childhood Educator Credentials
IDC- Illinois Director Credentials
ITC- Infant Toddler Credentials
FCC-Family Childcare Credentials

Hot topics at the conference

Preschool Expulsion- The rate preschoolers are being expelled is 3x's the rate of those in kindergarten through 12th grade. The boys are at 4.5 times more than the girls. African American children are twice more likely to get expelled than Latino and Caucasians. 40% are in the infant and toddler rooms due to social, emotional and behavior issues.

Virtual experience for classrooms in higher education

4. **Employment Opportunities**

Dawn, with your facilities if a student is almost done can you hire them or do they have to be completely finished? Teena, they have to be enrolled but their background checks have to have clearance so that is the hold up right now. Kelly, I heard the background checks are 3 months behind. Stacey, I had a lady that it took 6 months to get her cleared. Dawn, can this be done as part of the program? Ana, once they start their internship they need that clearance. Once they are in the system forever. Suzanna, is there another facility we can use for background checks other than Champaign? Stacey, no, the problem is the lady who works in Champaign also works in Kankakee.

5. **Items from the Floor**

April, the monthly directors meetings are in the early afternoon (1 pm). She is not able to attend but would really like to. Ana, generally that's when the directors can get away from their centers. This is the time they have chosen. Kelly, maybe we can mix up the months on when we hold the meetings. Ana, we used to have the meetings at different centers so that we could see the other areas.