

MINUTES

Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting May 31, 2017

Present: Dr. Penny McConnell-Dean of Liberal Arts, Nick Chatterton-VVEDS Director, Kelly Cervantes-VVEDS Special Populations coordinator, Suzanna Aguirre-Liberal Arts Administrative Assistant, Dave Kietzmann Vice President Instruction & Student Services, Kelly Alvarez DACC Lead Instructor, Dawn Nasser Academic Counseling, Ana Nasser Director CDC, Odette Watson ECCAA Rep, Stacey Black-Daycare Licensing DCFS Representative, Dr. Stephen Nacco-DACC President, Rena Pate-PT DACC Instructor, Anita Kotcher-GRHS Instructor

Absent: Stephanie Potts, Dianna McBride

1. Welcome/Introductions

Kelly wants to thank everyone for coming to the meeting today with your busy schedules.

2. Old Business:

a. Enrollment Update-Kelly, we don't have exact numbers here today but I know that our classes are doing really well. All of the classes that I have offered at night I usually get about 23 students enrolled. I started offering the night sections so that we could reach people in the working field and give them an opportunity to take classes. Same with my online course I had 18 for the spring semester. I offer one online each semester and I rotate them each semester to give them a variety. Penny, Kelly does a good job of switching her classes up for those who cannot make it to campus due to their work schedule. Their online classes are hybrid so they still have to come to campus to meet with Kelly and she does a good job in working with their schedule when they come out. In the past the Children's Literature was tried online they learned the correct strategies on reading to children and videotaping themselves and everyone could watch which was nice. Online courses overall have good enrollment.

b. College Express/Middle College-Kelly, for our College Express numbers I had 7 students in my morning class that were middle college, between DHS and county schools there were 34 total students in the morning and afternoon classes. Most of the students passed with a C or better. There was only one student who failed due to lack of turning in assignments. Several have already talked about enrolling for my fall classes. The good thing about this program is it gives the students a chance to determine if the field is right for them or not. The best experience and the student's favorite part is when they visit the Child Development Center and interact with the kids. The ones who cannot make it to the center on a consistent basis are the afternoon College Express because the children are napping when the county schools are here. We have been able to occasionally have the older children come over to our classroom and we set up activities for them to do. 24 students and 20 different stations were set up. They go several times throughout the semester, they will learn how to make their own activity plans and try it out with the kids at the CDC. This helps them adjust their activities as needed. They are making their own lessons plans and learning how to put the standards in their plans. Even with them being College Express kids they are learning about the standards. We also did the College Express Exhibit

where the students were able to show case their work. Nick, I think the enrollment numbers speak for themselves about the quality of the program. It's always a lot of positive feedback. I hope that with the teacher shortage that a lot of these students start to trickle in and want to be Paraprofessionals and Teaching Assistants and maybe on into full fledge Certified Educators. Kelly, as far as employment wise, Ana gives higher priority to those students who have taken Early Childhood courses for student worker positions at the center.

c. Kelly, internships for the fall there are 4 students already registered and that is the most I have had in a semester. Ana, would like to say that within the last 2 years there is consistency with internships coming to the CDC. That shows how much the program is really growing going from 2 in the summer.

3. New Business:

a. Program Entitlement/Pathways-There will be lots of changes with the program coming. We are currently working on getting our Early Childhood program Entitled through Gateways. Getting our program entitled will help our students be employable. There are now higher regulations for anyone who is working with kids. Phase I of IL standards is to embed into courses and will get their required credentials. It used to be 357 competencies that you used to need and now they have broken them down to 56 or 57 required competencies. This is what I have to embed into the courses for our program. This will help with completers and they can see the credentials they are earning, what they need to finish and where they are at. We are going to try to get entitled for a level 4 and also for the Infant and Toddler credential. This time next year I should have a lot of information because by then we should be entitled which will be very helpful to our program. Ana, the way Kelly has been doing things with are program are what the standards are we just basically have to format it differently. ICCB requirements are wanting all colleges to be entitled and will help students get a job quicker after completing. This will help us tremendously in promoting our program. Once we are entitled they help you create pamphlets. We will make changes to our website and have more available to hand out to agencies and employers like Head Start and IGrow. Nacco, what kind of jobs do they get? Each credential is different. Here at DACC their associates in Early Childhood they can be a head teacher, director. Also other agencies like head start take those students with their degrees. They help their own employees further their education. This also helps in Stacey's area with DCFS. They usually require a bachelors but this definitely gets them on the right track when completing their associate with us. Home visitors is in big need right now and I have been approached from IGrow looking for students. April Jones lives in Hoopeston and is running her own daycare. Another student is Tierra Taylor has her own daycare here on Vermilion St. She is in the process of starting her second daycare in Paxton and has talked about opening a third daycare. One of April's teacher's aides is a current DACC student working on her internship. The hope is that her aid can become a director for one of April's daycares. Nacco, what about articulation for a bachelor's degree how are those transferable? Currently we are articulated with Eastern's ABC program. All of our classes for our associate's degree will transfer to their program. Their program is set up for them to have five semesters left until they can complete their bachelor's in Early Childhood. They just don't get their 04 license which allows them to teach K-12. Nacco, what about transferring our elementary ed classes? Not, all of our courses transfer for elementary ed but not all of them will. Greenville does have a state approved elementary ed program we are

looking into working with them. Penny, the courses that do transfer into the education programs are Nature of Teaching Profession, Child Development, Educational Psychology, Exceptional Child and Elementary Games. The Early Childhood program is not designed to be a transfer program. Nacco, it's an AAS degree. Penny, we are looking into other opportunities but it won't get them into the school systems. The one that could happen is at Greenville because they are a state approved education college. There is one student right now that Greenville is taking 82 of her credits. She isn't going into early childhood she is going into a health program. That state licensing is where it gets tricky. If students know they want to be in the education field our Education: Paraprofessional option K-12 which will lead them to teaching assistants in the school district. All of the ABC program classes are offered online except one class. Odette, Head Start requires that 50% of the teachers have a bachelor's degree. Dawn, a lot of students do the DACC associates and then do the general bachelors degree.

b. Curriculum Guides during entitlement there could be some changes that may affect the order of our classes. Ana, Kelly, and Penny met with Diana Christianson about our program. She reviewed our courses and said they matched very well and didn't think we needed to add any additional course. She did mention that our science or math option would have to be math for their electives. So there shouldn't be too many changes to that.

c. Collaborations - Kelly is trying to reach more of the community population to see who needs our students and how can we collaborate with them. Some employers need their employees to take classes but they are not able to attend our day classes due to work. If we know an employer has so many people they can send for a particular class we can put that class on the schedule as online or maybe an evening class. Odette, we currently have classroom aides that are working towards their CDA's. We can only hire teachers with either their associates degree or bachelor's degree due to the fifty percentile regulation to meet every year. Head Start does give additional training dollars for financial support to those teachers seeking their associate's degree. Currently a pool of classroom aides working on their CDA's as well as a pool of teacher's who need to move on to their bachelor's degree. So there is definitely a need. Kelly, the director's meetings help give an idea of what is in need in the community. Also the directors share information on issues they are currently experiencing in the workforce and what they would like to see from those coming out of the program. Kelly had her Daycare Administration class go out and job shadow different directors for a great learning opportunity and they were able to use for their observation hours.

d. Updates on Programs and Regulations - Odette, for the first time this summer they are having summer school for a select group of children. Classes will be held at the Family Community Development Center all summer long. Locations will be held at Fair Oaks, Westville and Hoopston Head Start centers and will run until September. All classrooms will move from 4 days a week to 5 days a week with 6 hour long days. Some things we need from the teachers is an assessment tool we at Head Start call CLAS (Classroom Assessment System). We have to go through a three year federal review cycle. We just finished our three year cycle and so now we get a year break before we start the review cycle again. The CLAS tool used is where a federal certified officer comes in and conducts two 20 minute observations in the classroom. They look at how the teacher has the classroom organized, the activities that are planned, how they follow the child's lead, how they take the child into higher thinking process, how they introduce new

vocabulary. There is actually part of a test that counts how many words they heard the teacher introduce to the child. One issue we have with children in poverty is the lower level of vocabulary compared. Studies show that children in poverty tend to be exposed to less vocabulary than children who are not in poverty. We are always looking for those teachers who are extroverts. With the research Head Start alone has done with three years of CLAS assessment they have found that their teachers who are extroverts tend to score higher. That teacher has to have that ability to ask that open ended question and get that feedback loop and get that child to ask that child questions and dialogue back and forth. We tend to see that as a difficulty even with our 4 year teachers who are coming in to get that child to go back and forth and to communicate with you. Repeating words and using scaffolding techniques are things that we are finding we need to buckle down and train and prepare our teachers to do in the classroom. Kelly, very excited to hear that because that is exactly what goes into play when they go over to the center. She has worked with the teachers at the center and she asks them to do on the spot training with them. We do the open ended question and the critical thinking constantly in the classroom. Really glad to hear that is what Head Start is wanting and hopefully that is what is producing after they leave. Ana, can tell the difference in those students who are doing their internship that that's what they are doing. Janna McCollum over at the U of I used to be in charge of the Early Childhood maybe we could contact her for our classes to volunteer if that's possible. We can have that extra testing not just the environment but learn the language part. Odette, one issue we are having, Behavioral Management. We are getting more and more angry little ones. We use the method called conscious discipline along with parent trainings in conscious discipline. We are finding that there are teachers who are having difficulty with managing those behaviors because it goes beyond redirecting. Also teachers need to learn not to take heightened behaviors from children personally. Kelly we have a lot of those skills in our guidance class but it's also embedded in every course and they definitely are getting that hands on experience when they go over to the center. We do trainings each semester so we will be thinking of how to do more trainings on positive guidance and things like that. It's all about understanding a child's behavior more than needing to have the patience because there could be other areas of why this child is angry or acting out so finding solution is important.

e. Professional Development Trainings-Kelly, we host trainings each year free to anyone who needs approved training hours. This year we partnered with CCRS and held the Let the Healing Begin: Trauma and Its Impact on the Brain and Body conference. Guest speaker was Karen Crawford Simms, MAMFT, LMHC. A lot of the county schools came out for this conference. Odette, all of our home base teachers also attended. Last year the conference was on Youth, Technology & Today's Trends. Guest speakers were Christine Feller who is the Internet Safety Specialist and Ron Wolflick who is the Commander of the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Odette, we would like to see some trainings on special needs children. Kelly, we have done a conference on autism. Maybe there can be some more conferences focused on delayed speech. Stacey, changes coming are that the federal government is requiring any facility who gets paid by the state or provides care must attend multiple trainings by September 30th. This just came out at the end of March so there are lots of classes to be done. There is a rumor that instead of all of them needing to be done by September only some of them are being required to be completed by that deadline. Ana, this will affect student workers at DACC. Some students are already qualified at other schools. From now

on the students will have to have the trainings done before starting work, no grace periods. Odette, we are currently doing these trainings already. Do they have to go through the Gateways approval process? Stacey yes it does or you won't get paid. Effective July 1st any center director needs an associate's degree. One person on site has to have their associate or higher at all times. This is the requirement now instead of only needing hours and it will affect our community. There are higher expectations rolling out across the board. On the positive side these requirements will weed out those daycares who are just "babysitting" and get those who really want to be in this field.

f. CDC Learning Lab discussed throughout meeting of what they are doing

g. DACC website-did not discuss, will move to the next advisory meeting

4. Employment Opportunities

Nothing at this time until training changes are made.

5. Items from the Floor

Nothing from the floor

Minutes submitted by:

Suzanna Aguirre