

COLLEGE OF
MARIN

Early Childhood Education Advisory Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, October 9, 2020

Attending: Peggy Dodge, Kelsey Lombardi, Vanessa Franco, Betty Rappaport, Susanne Kreuzer, Marty Daly, Karen Robinson, Terry De Martini, Genevieve Sollecito, Tanya Myers

Current view from the field. Changes with COVID-19:

The committee discussed many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic including difficulties in finding and staffing substitute teachers, generally inconsistent staffing, wearing PPE, retirements, coping with anxieties, smoke/polluted air, furlough and cuts, adjusting to a float-staff model system, creating smaller headcounts for each class, arranging schedules to provide more than 1 adult attending 12 children, creating classroom pods with separate playgrounds. It was stated that in many ways heat and smoke has been more difficult to deal with than the pandemic. On the contrast, several reported that retaining teachers has been relatively easier than support staff.

Childcare providers are on the front-line and are jeopardized due to COVID-19 risks. Susanne Kreuzer, with Help Me Grow Marin, stated they are conducting workshops to help support any who are interested. The committee agreed it's important to remind childcare providers they have the skills already in dealing with mitigating the spread of viruses. They are best prepared in adapting with the pandemic, and this is a time to be proud.

An additional challenge has been to keep a connection with the families to understand the status of the children arriving to the program in the environment where mitigating COVID-19 risk takes the center focus. Before, staff were able to hold more conversations with parents about the status of the child at the time of drop-off or pick-up. Now, more effort toward intentional connection with parents is needed.

ECE Program updates and announcements:

Peggy reported that College of Marin ECE class attendance has increased. Students still prefer night classes. Zoom classes poses new aspects to adjust to such as lack of student video usage, and only a photo/avatar or nothing visible in the Zoom meetings. For most classes in ECE, instructors are holding a synchronous meeting once a week. The committee discussed how educators are promoting student

engagement by taking advantage of break out rooms and chat box features in the Zoom conferencing application.

Peggy and Karen spoke about the student support and mentor program, Mapping Academic Pathways for Success (MAPS) which promotes community building for students.

Peggy announced the Fall 2020 Early Learning Summit hosted in partnership with MCOE would feature training by WestEd and funded through MCOE. These two-part online trainings are a college credit option for ECE students.

Change Core Skills Certificate to Certificate of Achievement:

Peggy asked for a vote of approval regarding the ECE Core Skills Certificate awarded at COM to become Certificate of Achievement (COA). A skill certificate is not recognized by the California Community College Chancellor's Office, whereas, a Certificate of Achievement is recognized by the Chancellor's Office and is documented on the student's college transcript. The COA will require no changes to the curriculum or class offerings. **Committee members unanimously approved for the skills certificate program to be submitted to the State office seeking approval to change it to a Certificate of Achievement.**

Revisions to the existing ECE COA:

Peggy and Karen spoke about the current Certificate of Achievement and changes needed for this program. The COA coursework leads to an associate's degree and aligns with the teacher permit requirements. The committee discussed CSU transferability classes. ECE 222 (Curriculum and Strategies for Children with Special Needs) is now a 3-unit class. The program will be 43.5 units as opposed to 42.5 units. With CAP alignment and need for additional instructor's time, the program must go through the approval process again. **Peggy asked the advisory committee to approve revising the ECE COA. The committee approved.**

Child Development Training Consortium Update:

Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC) made significant changes including no funds for program coordinators. Per unit funding was increased, and a percentage of this is to support college personnel to promote and oversee the program. COM is contributing to sustain the support. COM agreed to allow for a Local CDTC Campus Administrator. Peggy asked for the approval for using 17% of the funds from the grant for the administrator role. She will continue to act in that role. New payment to COM is based on \$46/eligible unit submitted by student's application. COM will be able to issue grants of \$35/eligible unit after successful completion. **This was agreed upon by the committee.**

ECE Community Workforce project update:

Two cohorts of students have completed 12 units for the core skills certificate with support of Maricruz Aldana through CAM. Multiple funding sources includes Strong Workforce grant and Perkins grant. Some of this funding was cut, therefore the 3rd cohort planned for Spring 2021 will not happen.

The funding cannot help with the general education, but with a not-for-credit class added into the program, AEP grant can apply to help support students to pursue their teacher's permit. Counselling 101, ESL or a computer class could be the obvious not-for-credit class to fulfill this requirement.

The committee asked if it matters if the not-for-credit class is with our Community Ed or is there a way to collaborate with a CBO program to meet the requirement?

Most agree that a Spring launch while online classes isn't the ideal time.

Future Agenda Items:

The group would like to consider a director network to centralize support, pool resources, offer best practices, address the issues programs are having and build equity.

Bring students into the advisory committee meetings. Have a better representation of diversity.