

## Early Childhood Education Advisory Board

**April 28, 2014**

**Committee Members Present:** Rosemary Breckenfelder, Melinda Milkowski, Angela Shehorn, Donna Salvatore, Kristie Philips, Rita Samora and Kenneth Thompson

**Committee Members Absent\*:** Maricela Palma, Kerry Taylor, Virginia Holman

\*Members who did not receive the email due to our error: Josette Urioste, Lois Illick, Darla Hall, Christine Steele and Marty Rahl

**Guests:** none

**Minutes taken by:** Kristie Philips

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Decision/Action Item
<p>Additions to Agenda</p> <p>Approval of Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added new member to advisory board Donna Salvatore</li> <li>• Motion made by Angela Shehorn and seconded by Donna Salvatore</li> </ul>	<p>Board approved agenda</p>
<p>Program Review Checklist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department must meet the guidelines for Career and Tech Education. A list of items that needed to be addressed was given to members. The ECE program must provide evidence for each component. Many components are related to areas that are not covered within the ECE program, although documentation had to be provided.</li> <li>• There are no formal agreements with high schools. Although there are identified classes that students may take. Rosemary is currently working with East High School to have ECE 101 and 111 included in their classes.</li> <li>• The ECE Program was in compliance. Pictures and requirements were completed. There was not anything out of the ordinary to report.</li> </ul>	<p>This checklist was discussed among members.</p>
<p>Summary of Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosemary presented the Program Review Team all of the documents that were handed out to this group. A summary of the department was also given to them. It reflects the progress that has been made on all PCC campuses. All instructors are noted to all be qualified in EC. More classes are being offered on some campuses than before due to having more instructors.</li> </ul>	<p>Summary of Highlights was discussed among members.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hybrid courses were changed to meet 2 hours each week and 45 minutes on line. Students were surveyed to see if the classes were working for them. There was a combination of responses that stated that the 2 hours was enough time and others who felt 2 hours was not enough. Rosemary will continue to seek student feedback for each class to decide what the best format for students will be.</li> <li>• The ECE Accreditation decision has changed. It was decided not to move forward to seek accreditation for the ECE Program. PCC is supporting the Advisory Board's decision to not move forward with the accreditation.</li> </ul>	
Workplace Gender Balance Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of the review included a discussion on how to recruit men or other non-traditional students to the field. There are currently no men teaching the courses although there are several men currently taking the courses. There are currently 4 men in the program and 1 will graduate in May 2014.</li> <li>• Advisory Board members were invited to attend any ECE class at any time.</li> <li>• Several areas were discussed within the issue of men working in the EC field. Current efforts include: raising the conscience of gender stereotyping, informing students about appropriate language to use, identifying males to serve in leadership and mentoring roles. There is a current no tolerance policy about language used in the classroom. All discussions that would be received as possible stereotyping are stopped in class and addressed by the teacher. Teachers are aware of jokes or content that are not appropriate.</li> <li>• There is currently 1 male on the advisory committee. A male student was also invited to this meeting although he was not available today.</li> <li>• The group talked about the need to use promotion materials that supports men in the field. This included using supportive language and pictures of males.</li> <li>• Rosemary has talked to the GO Zone. She is asking that any student interested in entering the field be sent to her so she can talk about the program. She wants to address common misunderstandings about the field. Rosemary has also provided brochures for advisors. However, there are no pictures of men on them. Rosemary has gone to different schools to promote the program. She will also be attending 2 different events for career days and there will be a career day at the PCC campus.</li> </ul>	Suggestions for non-traditional students would be appreciated and please send your thoughts and ideas to Rosemary Breckenfelder or Melinda Milkowski

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angie asked what she can do to promote men owning childcare facilities. Possible opportunities to reach out to men were discussed. The idea to combine experience with education where men typically are found and have men presenting on how they have used their ECE education. It was also identified that men move up quickly in the field. Men who are interest in the field are informed of the shortage of men in the field and the probability that they would easily find a position because of it.</li> <li>• Ken asked if the non-tradition student and gender balance issue is usually addressed when people go into the profession and identified that we need to be providing role modeling for children. It was discussed that it is much easier when there is a successful role model who is there to talk about their success. It was also identified that there is a need to recruit transgender, gay, lesbian, and individuals with disabilities as well due to low representation in the ECE field. It was identified that educating others about this is the main thing that needs to happen. Rosemary is asking for ongoing ideas around what can be done to recruit and promote non-traditional students to the ECE program.</li> </ul>	
ECE 5 Year Plan and POS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a requirement of the plan that we revisit and update the plan often. It included our mission statement and what the plan includes. The needs of the community and trainings provided. The ECE Program meets the federal guidelines for Head Start. ECE networks with Adams State and continues to work toward integrating technology. Students are required to use the “Desire to Learn” program. It is noted that a lot of time is spent with students to teach them how to use it. ECE continues efforts to network with the library as they are committed to ECE.</li> <li>• Marketing is okay, but we can do better. ECE needs to offer information about the active learning environment. The program is working with soft skills (professionalism, being prepared, appropriate dress and appropriate comments); this is one of the biggest challenges that will continue to be addressed in the program. There is a professional conduct agreement that may be put in place to also address the issue. We have integrated the code of conduct in the classroom. Every course will include this next Fall. One current need is to meet with the directors of Childcare Centers to discuss professionalism.</li> </ul>	Rosemary reviewed and discussed the 5 year plan and also asked for any suggestions on how we can as a department supports the community.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECE Program wants to be sure each center is supporting students by enforcing an acceptable level of professionalism.</li> <li>• The document also addresses strengths, weaknesses, concerns, and progress that have been made. One issue includes lack of support for Early Childhood education at the university level.</li> <li>• Another issue is tighter regulation on student loans. In time, it is hopeful that more thought is put into the low pay and ability to pay back loans. Some of the current funding available creates more requirements for the ECE Program Director as well as a funding match.</li> <li>• The Hybrid learning focus was discussed. There are several issues with Poly-com. The students in outlying areas appreciate the idea of Hybrid Classes. There is an ongoing discussion about the student's thoughts about Hybrid options.</li> <li>• An update of the plan will be sent out to this group. Rosemary would like ongoing feedback on maintaining enrollment into the program.</li> <li>• Angie identified addressing some issues around low wages. This needs to happen at state and government level, but also needs to be promoted locally.</li> <li>• A motion was made to accept the current plan with corrections. Kristie made a motion and Angie seconded it. The plan was accepted by the group.</li> </ul>	
Brainstorm Strategies	Please send your ideas about how to improve the department, recruiting non-traditional students into ECE or Education, and thoughts regarding any of the information presented from the handouts that everyone received to Rosemary and Melinda.	Your ideas for our department would be appreciated prior to the end of July 2014 to implement for Fall 2014.
Next Advisory Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting will be held in September or October 2014. Time and place of meeting to be announced.</li> <li>• Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm</li> </ul>	