

WVNCC Early Childhood Care & Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2019

Present: Jasmine Reynolds, Joe Nocera, Kathy Herrington, Crystal Harbert

Regrets: Jackie Bell, Rhonda Combs, Michelle Forsythe, Stephanie Barnett, CheChe Price, Alisha Curtin

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. Introductions were made. It was noted again that Jasmine Reynolds is a WVNCC graduate. Stories of successful graduates, such as Ms. Reynolds, should be part of our attraction to the programs we offer.

2. Report on Enrollment, Program Assessment, and Placements

- Kathy Herrington stated that the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) met on 4/15 to discuss next steps for the ECCE degree programs. Highlights included:
 - It was decided that we would all offer 9 credit hours of ECCE credit for students for “Foundations of EC Education”, “Healthy Environments”, and “Infant/Toddler” who have the ACDS credential. WVNCC already offers 19 for courses, including our internship, and an additional 6 for their OJT hours under an “Occupational Development” AAS degree, so we need clarification on how they came up with the hours and if we are all to have the same. They also said that the ACDS has changed their curriculum and we may want to look at that to see if our agreements need updated
 - It was also decided that the Associate degree programs might offer 9 credit hours for the CDA for “Healthy Environments”, “Child, Family & Community”, and “Foundations of Education”. WVNCC gives 12 for coursework and 6 for the internship. The CDA apparently has two tracks: Infant/Toddler, and Preschool
 - They also discussed EDGE credits from the high schools, and suggested that we aware 7 credits to students who have completed EDGE courses in Child Development. WVNCC is already offering 12. Currently, if high school students complete this program at their high schools, they can get a permanent certification in WV as an Assistant Teacher (Pre-K)
 - The Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT) test is required for the pre-school classroom. Even if you have a BA, you still have to take the ECCAT.
 - K. Herrington asked about whether students could petition for additional credit under the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) process that has been put in place from the state level to award college credit for work experience for either the ACDS or CDA, no clear answer
 - It was also reported that teachers with a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education who take an additional 18 hours of specific EC courses can then get a permanent authorization to be an early childhood head teacher under a new collaborative agreement for Pre-K
 - Marshall University now has a BA in “Birth – Pre K” and Elementary Ed with an EC add-on with student teaching in Pre-K

WVNCC Early Childhood Care & Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2019

- WVU-P now has an elementary ed with an EC concentration and students take the Praxis core test for EC, and the BAS in Child Development. WVU-P reported that our students could take their courses online concurrently while being a WVNCC student if they had “transient” status approved by our registrar. K. Herrington did not think that would be a problem
- WV Rocks , a web portal developed by the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) has been designed to be a collaborative effort between all WV higher education institutions who offer the Regents BA or the Board of Governor’s AAS. The majority of the courses are 100% online and are offered in an 8 week time frame. Currently 3 community colleges and 5 4 year colleges participate. WVNCC’s VP of Academic Affairs and VP of Student Services are working to add us to the list of participating schools.
- J. Reynolds asked if students had to be enrolled in the Board of Governor’s program to take these courses or if they could also take if they were enrolled in an EC program at a state school. K. Herrington will check on this and send Jasmyne (and others on the advisory committee who could not make the meeting today) a copy of WV Rocks.
- K. Herrington talked about the difficulty in getting students to sign up for STARS on their own, as she has asked them several times to follow up with this and they have not done it. Dr. Nocera said he would take them to one of our computer labs during his class and have them sign up that way (Language & Literacy in the fall and Observation & Assessment in the spring). J. Reynolds said to make sure students know that if they sign up on the career pathways plan, they have to obtain 45 hours of CEU’s in 3 years to renew, and at this point it might be safer to just sign them up on the registry for now. However, they can use college coursework toward these hours, so perhaps if they are full-time students, their coursework will provide them with the required hours even before they graduate
- We had a discussion about when background checks need to be done. According to Jasmyne Reynolds, the agency has to have them done before students can do their internships; at her agency, she gets \$40 from the students, then her agency writes the check and sends in the request to WV Cares designating them as an intern or a volunteer. Then the agency pays a \$20 fee to access the background check, which includes 24/7 monitoring of the students’ activities and notifies the agency if a problem comes up after they begin at the agency. She said that most of the early childhood agencies handle it this way. K. Herrington reported that she checked with WV Cares about having WVNCC sponsor students for their background checks, but even if our institution does that, the agency would still have to pay the \$20 to access the information and it seems like Jasmyne’s process would work well with student interns at other locations. Some EC agencies even pay for the background check for interns but that is up to the specific agency. Some agencies apparently don’t require background checks at all for interns as long as they are not left alone with students, but each agency’s policy needs to be followed. Another complication is that the only place to get the WV Cares checks done are Morgantown, New Martinsville, and a few other distant locations. Northwood Health Systems may be applying to be a WV Cares participant but that is not for certain at this point, although it would be great to have somewhere closer for people to go to get this done. The website is <https://www.wvdhhr.org/oig/wvcares.html>
- K. Herrington reported that she put together a document that will be given to incoming students beginning next year regarding criminal background or activities which may preclude an

WVNCC Early Childhood Care & Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2019

individual from being able to pass a background check and do an internship or gain employment in early childhood. This will better inform them about whether they should enroll in this program or not, rather than getting all the way to the end and realizing they can't finish the program (attached).

- Dr. Joe Nocera asked about converting some more of our courses to online or hybrid formats. Foundations of Education is already on line, and he would consider developing Language & Literacy and perhaps Observation & Assessment for online or hybrid for next spring. K. Herrington will check into this.
- We discussed again whether we could offer approved DHHR Child Care Center Licensing courses through our Workforce Development such as, Food Handling (3 hours, renewed every 2 years), Medication Administration (3 hours, renewed in 1 year and then every 2 years after initial training) CPR (2-4 hours, renewed in 1 year and then every 3 years), Communicable Diseases (2 hours, renewed every 2 years), Child Abuse (2 hours, renewed in 1 year and then every 2 years). J. Nocera has done some of this before and may be willing to do it again. J. Reynolds asked if it could be done on a Saturday over 4-6 hours or a Friday night for 2-3 hours and then Saturday offered at WVNCC every year for employees of local child care agencies for a fee. Instructors may have to be approved at the state level to meet licensing requirements.
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (ASQSE) helps with understanding the stages of development, social emotional, parent interaction, and resiliency and protection, and students should be exposed to these in their courses if possible. Dr. Nocera said he is already doing this in ECCE 214, Observation & Assessment, and Jasmyne Reynolds said she does this twice a year with children at her facility.
- Enrollment indicators showed 40 students enrolled in the ECCE program here in 2018 and 60 enrolled in Elementary Education to transfer to WLU. Only 5 were enrolled in the Early Intervention at WLU but WVNCC has just updated the articulation agreement for this program and will encourage marketing of it in the coming year. We had 11 graduates in 2018 in ECCE or related programs.
- The Pre-Pac assessment exam that students took last year showed that although all but one out of 10 students passed the exam, there were weak areas identified in "Professional Practices & Standards" and "Family & Community Involvement". J. Reynolds asked if K. Herrington could get any more specific information on what specifically is measures on these content areas.

K. Herrington thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting adjourned approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herrington, Program Director, Early Childhood Care & Education

WVNCC Early Childhood Care & Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2019

HUMAN SERVICES/PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIAL WORK AND EARLY CHILDHOOD & EDUCATION PROGRAMS CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK & DRUG TESTING

Students with a criminal record or who have issues with addiction should be aware that they may not be able to successfully pass a background check or mandatory drug test, which would make them ineligible to work at the vast majority of agencies who serve clients in the field of human services or education. Although the College can't technically require a student to pass a background check or drug test to take classes at WVNCC in an open enrollment program such as Human Services, Psychology, Social Work, Early childhood, or Education, it is possible that you could invest time and money in completing your studies at WVNCC and, at the end of the 2-3 years, you would not be able to get into an Internship or be able to secure gainful employment in the field. If we did not clarify this for you now, before you begin classes in those fields, it would be misleading you and would not be fair.

In short, any crime for which you have been convicted within the last 10 years (and for some offenses at *any time* in your past since the age of 18), may result in you not being eligible to work in human services/psychology/mental health/ or child care. Below is the specific information we provide students in Human Services regarding their background and which offenses generally make them ineligible to work in the field.

"Applicants may not be approved, employed, utilized, or considered if they:

- *Are under indictment or charged with any crime until the charges are resolved*
- *Are on probation or parole for a felony conviction*

Applicants will usually not be approved, employed, utilized, or considered if they have ever been convicted of any of the following:

- *Abduction*
- *Any violent felony crime including but not limited to rape, sexual assault, homicide, felonious assault, or felonious battery*
- *Assault or Battery*
- *Child/adult abuse or neglect*
- *Crimes which involve exploitation of a child or an incapacitated adult*
- *Domestic violence or spousal abuse*
- *Felony arson*
- *Felony or misdemeanor crime against a child or incapacitated adult which causes harm*
- *Felony drug related offenses within the last ten (10) years*
- *Felony DUI within the last ten (10) years*
- *Felony forgery*
- *Hate crimes*
- *Health Care or Insurance fraud*
- *Kidnapping*
- *Murder/homicide*
- *Neglect or abuse of a caregiver*
- *Pornography crimes involving children or incapacitated adults including but not limited to: use of minors in filming sexually explicit conduct, distribution and exhibition of*

WVNCC Early Childhood Care & Education Advisory Committee Meeting, April 19, 2019

material depicting minors in sexually explicit conduct or sending, distributing, exhibiting, possessing, displaying or transporting material by a parent, guardian or custodian, depicting a child engaged in sexually explicit conduct

- *Purchase or sale of a child*
- *Sexual offenses including but not limited to incest, sexual abuse, or indecent exposure"*

Source: Early Childhood Field Placement (Internship) Manual. (2018). .

Although it is your decision, if you have a criminal record for any of the above offenses, we would recommend that you consider another major if you want to pursue a course of study at WVNCC that can lead to gainful employment. If you need anything else or want to discuss this further, please contact me or one of the other faculty who teach in these programs.

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