

Early Childhood Care Education

Advisory Board Meeting

March 9, 2018

Present: Jackie Bell, Jasmine Reynolds, Jill Loveless, Joe Nocera, Kathy Herrington, Michelle Forsythe, Stephanie Barnett, CheChe Price

Regrets: Amy Baker, Rhonda Combs

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. Introductions were made. It was noted 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. Review of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 25, 2016 as circulated.

Motion by: Michelle Forsythe

Seconded by: Kathy Herrington

Motion carried

3. Report on Enrollment, Program Assessment, and Placements

- Kathy Herrington stated that in 2016 The Early Childhood Council of West Virginia developed a statewide curriculum which makes transferability easier.
- Parkersburg is offering an on-line Bachelor of Science in Child Development.
- WVNCC has a Community Education 2+2 articulation agreement with West Liberty University. The director is Dr. Marian Douglas. The program trains individuals to serve as educators or facilitators in a community-based setting and/or as non-profit administrators. Many of the courses in the Community Education program include field experiences in the local community and/or community based settings. It was suggested that we need to aggressively market that agreement.
- WVNCC currently has an articulation agreement for Early Intervention with WLU and an Early Education agreement with Franciscan University. We are in conversation with Wheeling Jesuit.
- Kathy explained the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program which allows you to apply relevant learning, work and life experiences toward college credits

- Dr. Joe Nocera asked why enrollments at WVNCC are so low for this program. Kathy stated that in the past we have not had much marketing for the program. However, we do have a new marketing director and we hope to have more marketing. Michelle Forsythe suggested that perhaps the reason for low numbers is because the pay is low in this field. Jasmine Reynolds agreed that the pay is not there for childcare. Dr. Nocera asked if the college has considered work similar to K1-5 and open it up to elementary education. Kathy stated that we are working with WLU but there is still the state wide curriculum that has to be considered. There are also pre-school and special needs. If we change it, it will not work for elementary education. It cannot fit in or interface with all classes.
- It was suggested that we should go to competency titles instead of course titles. Kathy Herrington stated that WVCC has changed some of our course names so that they match up with the high school.
- The State wants concentration on early childhood and creating a pathway at high schools as an early entrance program. The West Virginia EDGE program is designed to award college credit for competencies students acquire by successfully completing recognized career-technical courses offered through public high schools and career and technical centers that have common course competencies as courses offered by the CTCs. This raised the question that if a student is able to obtain a certificate as teaching assistant at the high school level, why would they consider coming to WVNCC. The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program gives 40 credit hours and technical studies 12-15 hours. Kathy Herrington stated that ACDS may be phased out. WVU extension office has been teaching ACDS since last September and students could come to WVNCC and get their associates. The challenge for the community businesses is to get employees that are highly educated and trained for such low pay. Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT) is required for the pre-school classroom. Even if you have an BA, you still have to take the ECCAT.
- If we start offering online or hybrid courses, it may build up our enrollments. Advisory committee recommends to have classes more available in the evenings.
- Internships. Currently, students choose their own internships and normally choose the facilities that are closest to their home. If we do observation hours instead of internships, we can send them where we want them to go. This would be contracted with the agencies and the agency would provide a list of what they need from our interns. Michelle Forsythe stated that the best way to teach is to have the student observe a veteran person. Let the student come to us. In order to observe, a student must have a background check. WVNCC currently requires background checks for health science students which is conducted by CastleBranch. West Virginia Cares through DHHR provides background checks for \$55.00. The applicant/student pays the fee. If we were to include it in our programs, the college would be able to add it as a fee and include it as part of the Pell grant. The background check is good for 5 years. We could also make it a requirement to enter the program. The website is <https://www.wvdhhr.org/oig/wvcares.html>
- We could offer approved DHHR Child Care Center Licensing courses through our Workforce Development such as, Food Handling, Medication Administration, CPR, Communicable Diseases, Child Abuse, etc.

- Catholic Charities has a Child Care Resource Center. Cathy Knox is the Professional Development Team Supervisor. She is able to help individuals get on the West Virginia STARS Registry. You have to be registered before you can take any training courses that they can count.
- Stephanie Barnett (Adjunct Instructor) added that the observation piece could be easily included in her Child, Family and Community course. Internet Protocol Video (IPV) classrooms can be a challenge. Quality Matters certification is available to all who want to teach online.
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (ASQSE) helps with the stages of development, social emotional, parent interaction and resiliency and protection can be added to the courses.

Kathy:

I left the room to make copies of the curriculum.....not sure what was talked about. I do have the following notes:

Foundations of Early Childhood Education and Language and Literacy can possibly be an on-line classes. We do not have Health, Safety and Nutrition. Curriculum & Methods and Infant Toddler would be beneficial to have these classes.

Kathy asked for any additional comments and suggestions. No other information was provided. Ms. Herrington thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting adjourned approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Klepack
Administrative Assistant
Academic Affairs