



To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz  
From: Barbara Leach  
Re: Advisory Committee Minutes

### Early Childhood Education

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 2, 2023

**Time:** 9:00am-10:00am

**External Participants:**

Kim Lamz – CCR&R Director – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care

Samantha McDavid – Family & Community Engagement Team Lead – DeKalb County Regional Office of Education

Shannon Alamia – Executive Director – Children’s Learning Center

Dina Alzeer – Higher Education Navigator – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care

Raechel Engel – Director – Walnut Street Daycare Center, Genoa IL

**Internal Participants:**

Jud Curry – Dean, ACSS/MS

Meryl Kleiner – ECE Instructional Coordinator

Anna Harvey – ADJ Instructor, ECE

Jessica Santillan-Reyes – Associate Dean, ACSS/MS

Emily Bowne – ECE Mentor, Interim Registrar

Kailey Bednarek – Administrative Specialist I, ACSS/MS

I. **Welcome**

- Member Introductions (Name – Organization – Position)
- Purpose of Advisory Committee

II. **Program Update**

- Review Previous Meeting Minutes (October 2, 2022)
  - Minutes Approved
- Program Enrollment, Completions, Revenue/Expenditures
  - College’s participation in the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) has brought increased attention and enrollment to the program
    - 62 students in FA23, up from 27 students one year ago
    - 30 current students are receiving ECACE scholarships
  - Discussion of need to maintain momentum and progress once ECACE Grant funds expire at the end of FY24
- Equipment, Supply, and Staff Needs
  - Increased enrollment allowed for the hire of three new adjuncts that bring additional diversity and experience to faculty pool

- Discussion on the College's commitment to fill and maintain the ECE Mentor position after grant funding ends
- New marketing materials and videos have been produced to advertise ECE
- Early Childhood Access Consortium and Equity (ECACE) Statewide Data
  - Statewide, grant funding and scholarships have contributed to a 22% increase in enrollment in early childhood education programs across the state since AY19

### **III. Curriculum and Student Outcomes**

- Curriculum update
  - Brief discussion about the reintroduction of the associate's degree
  - Discussion on the newly developed *Observation and Assessment* course and proposal for an *Exceptional Child* course
  - Sequence of course offerings has been updated to achieve more timely completion of Gateway certification levels, improving coursework and implementing Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)
- Discussion
  - Community members presented a need for workers with skills in social and emotional care and more convenient workshop locations
  - Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) can help bridge the gap for workers who have associate degrees in other fields but lack the coursework to get their teacher qualification; discussion on advertising strategies for PLA

### **IV. Industry Update & Labor Market Discussion**

- Discussion
  - Discussion on offering a certificate focused on business management for home childcare and childcare centers; potential to work with 4-C for recruitment
  - Discussion about potential for employer sponsorship and the need for additional staffing to help support onsite childcare initiatives
  - Participants shared current struggles within the ECE workforce, emphasizing staffing shortages, compensation and competition within the field, and lack of qualified candidates to fulfill positions in transition
  - Participants shared concerns about lack of qualified individuals to fill Director positions as current Directors reach retirement age

### **V. Work-Based Learning**

- Apprenticeships, Internships, Clinical, and On-the-job Training
  - Brief discussion on offering ECE students observation and practicum site opportunities with community members for SP24
  - Participants expressed support for completion of practicum through placement in current early childhood work settings
- Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant Opportunities for Employers
  - Work Study Grant can reimburse employer up to 50% of the costs to employ a Kish student after graduation

### **VI. Plans for Spring 2024 Meeting – TBD**