

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Time: 9:00-10:00am

External Participants: 9

Kim Lamz – CCR&R Director – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care
Kendra Nenia – Higher Education Navigator – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care
Dina Alzeer – Higher Education Navigator – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care
Jax Carrillo – Higher Education Navigator – 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care
Aaron Confer – Youth Development Director – Kishwaukee Family YMCA
Rachel Engel – Director – Walnut Street Daycare Center, Genoa IL
Steve Kimmel – Early Childhood Teacher – Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC)
Malia Jones – Family and Community Engagement Specialist – Birth to Five Illinois
Samantha McDavid – Coordinator for Early Learning Programs – DeKalb County Regional Office of Education

Internal Participants: 6

Judson Curry – Dean – ACSS/MS
Ariel Owens – Associate Dean – ACSS/MS
Alea Akers – Academic Advisor and ECE Mentor
Maria Lombardo – Director – Kishwaukee College Early Learning Center
Anna Harvey – ADJ Instructor – ECE
Kailey Bednarek – Administrative Specialist I – ACSS/MS

- I. Program Updates
 - A. ECE program will be offering the newly approved course (ECE 224 The Exceptional Child) for the first time in SP25. This course, developed by adjunct faculty member Anna Harvey, has received IAI approval as an ECE major course.
 - B. Registration for SP25 is underway with many incoming high school students showing interest in the ECE program.
 - C. Based on enrollment, Kish will consider implementing additional modality (in-person/hybrid) options to help balance student needs when planning for future semesters.
- II. Student Completion and Success Data
 - A. ECE continues to see high success rates in terms of student retention and course completion. Three students are projected to complete their AAS this fall, and an additional eight are projected for completion of the AAS this spring.

- B. Although state ECACE funding has ended, Kish continues to collaborate with the consortium and submit student and program data to the state.
 - C. Kish continues to participate in the Gateways Level II Prior Learning Assessment Program, in addition to granting PLA credit for students with the Child Development Associate credential (CDA).
- III. Employer Feedback & Discussion
- A. Discussion of options/benefits/concerns of allowing incumbent worker students to complete practicums at their place of employment. Observations and practicums are beneficial to students because they expose students to new schools, centers, and childcare environments, but currently employed students value the convenience of completing practica at their current place of employment. Kish continues to focus on ensuring that practicum experiences are realistic for the line of work students are going into. – Action: Kish will explore the possibility of split practicum courses, in which students can complete part of the practicum at a current place of employment and part in a different childcare setting.
 - B. Community feedback expressed the potential need to offer courses with a focus on home daycares and home daycare providers. Graduating high school students expressed a high interest in courses related to infants and nanny work. Action: Kish will offer ECE 212 Administration of Day Care Homes in SU25, in support of Birth to Five and 4-C priorities.
 - C. Community members expressed the need for continued support and resources related to mental health needs both for childcare providers and children. Action: Kish will continue to offer public guest speaker events focused on supporting childcare providers and families once each semester open to the community.