

CHILDCARE/TEACHER EDUCATION CLUSTER
AGENDA/MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2009
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lake Worth Campus, Room SS214

ITEM 1. Please review your cluster's courses on the new course outlines database at <http://www.pbcc.edu/x17364.xml>. Please check the information that was submitted from your cluster.

Discussion: Susan Caldwell, Associated Dean, explained to the cluster that the State had recently issued new outcomes for Education which was included in all of the course outlines. Dr. Colleen Fawcett said that all of the early childhood course outlines were new so there were no revisions needed. All other faculty members attending confirmed that their outlines had been reviewed and were correct.

Data/data source: <http://www.pbcc.edu/x17364.xml>

Action: Cluster members unanimously agreed that the course outlines for all classes in the Education and Early Childhood areas were correct.

ITEM 2. **Quality Enhancement Plan-Karen Pain**
http://media.pbcc.edu/wmroot/KarenPain_QEP.aspx

Discussion: The cluster viewed the video and had a brief discussion on developing the QEP and the two critical questions to be answered:

- What are the needs at Palm Beach Community College that impact student learning? What solutions can the College offer to address those needs?

Some suggested topics that were mentioned during the discussion: 1) Undergraduate writing; and 2) Plagiarism.

Data/data source: <http://www.pbcc.edu/QEP.xml>

Action: Cluster members will participate in the ongoing QEP process.

ITEM 3. **Montessori Teacher Training**

Discussion: Susan Haines proposed to the cluster that the Montessori Teacher Training program accept the last group of students into the program fall 2010 (completing the program spring 2012). She explained several reasons for ending the program such as the inability to recruit Montessori credentialed adjuncts; low enrollment; and the program is more expensive as a credit program. Susan commented that the program accreditation would expire in 2014, so the re-accreditation process would need to begin in 2012.

Dr. Richmond asked if Montessori training would be available in the community if PBCC ended the program. Susan commented that there are private institutions that offer the program and that the Montessori accrediting agency (MACTE) has received approval from the USDOE for accredited programs to offer some or all of the courses online. This will make the courses more accessible to students who do not live near a training program. Susan also mentioned that Montessori is on the list of approved curriculums for VPK in PBC, but not for the State. The only way to get on the State list of approved curriculums for VPK is to have a publisher request that their curriculum be added; Montessori does not have a publisher.

Dr. Fawcett asked Susan what would be needed for the program to continue at PBCC. Susan explained that a fulltime faculty/program manager for the Montessori program would be needed if PBCC wanted to continue the program.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action:

ITEM 4. Student Outcomes-Effective Communication Skills

Discussion: Sheila Scott-Lubin opened this discussion by recounting a conversation that she had with one of our community partners regarding the rigor of the Early Childhood AS degree program related to graduates' communication skills. The community partner was concerned with the quality of a PBCC graduate that has responsibility for taking the minutes for a professional organization and distributing the minutes to members. The community partner explained that the minutes were so poorly written that she has to re-write all of the minutes before distributing them. Her biggest concern was that this student is out in the community representing the early childhood profession, as well as, representing PBCC as a graduate.

This conversation prompted a very robust discussion among cluster members as to the real issue and possible solutions. Dr. Depaolo said that this issue wasn't isolated to the early childhood students, but all students. We agreed that the need is to address improved writing skills for PBCC students entering into professions requiring competent non-verbal skills. The question raised in cluster was what solutions can PBCC offer to address this need?

Several suggestions were discussed related to early childhood students such as, CPT testing for students seeking one of the college credit certificates; adding English Composition as a pre-requisite. Also, cluster members felt that students should be required to complete testing prior to 21 credits. In order to impact student learning these students need to attend prep classes early in the academic pathway. The cluster concluded the discussion with several questions that need to be addressed by the Registrar.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: Susan Caldwell and Sheila Scott-Lubin will schedule a meeting with Ed Mueller to discuss the questions raised by the cluster and report back to the cluster on possible solutions.

Attendance:

Lucia Adrian	Kimberly Allen	Diane Bressner	Susan Caldwell	Dr. Nika Coleman-Ferrell
Dr. Joseph Depaolo	Dr. Colleen Fawcett	Susan Haines	Luisa Hernandez	Dr. Patricia Ott
Dr. Sandi Richmond	Sheila Scott-Lubin			

Submitted by:
Sheila Scott-Lubin, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List