



**PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE**  
*Afterschool Business Partnership Council*  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 11, 2021  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
Microsoft Teams

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**ITEM 1. Welcome – Christin Martin. Community Inclusion Specialist – The Arc of PBC**

**Discussion:** The meeting was called to order by Christin Martin, Chair. Introductions commenced with everyone introducing themselves and the organization they represented.

**Data Source consulted:** Not applicable

**Action:** Not applicable

**ITEM 2. Review of Mission Statement**

**Discussion:** Christin Martin read the mission statement as a reminder to all members.

**Data Source consulted:** PBSC Business Partnership and Program Advisory Councils Handbook

**Action:** Not applicable

**ITEM 3: Partner/Family/Community Events**

**Data Source consulted:** Not applicable

**Action:** Michele will send a copy of the flyer to be shared with council members

**Item 4. State/County Policy Updates**

**4.1: Lucia Adrian- Palm Beach State College Department of Children and Families.**

**Discussion:** Trauma-Informed Care for Child Care Program Directors Course:

The first course was offered in October. It has proven to be successful. Jowie Mohammed was part of the group and enjoyed taking part in the course. This semester there will be two offered, one on a Tuesday and the other on a Saturday. Both are currently full. It is a forty-hour course which meets five times, every other week for three hours. There are a lot of assignments, projects, and quite a bit of reading. There are currently scholarships being offered. If you qualify for the TEACH scholarship you must utilize that. If you are not a TEACH recipient, then you can contact Lucia Adrian for the department scholarship that is being offered to residents of Palm Beach County. You must have perfect attendance, complete all your assignments, and pass the class successfully. After completion you will be reimbursed for the course.

Lucia Adrian also provided an update on the Childcare Competency exams. They are following CDC guidelines for the safety of the students. Exams are now being offered daily. There are three exams

being offered on Saturday. Exams are usually held at the Lake Worth campus and once a week at the Palm Beach Gardens campus. Lucia suggested that the exams be scheduled upon course completion because they are currently booking three weeks out. Christin Martin requested that Lucia share a flyer regarding the Trauma-Informed Care course. Luisa Brennan inquired if the course was primarily for directors and Lucia stated that it is not. Vesta Hetherington would speak more about it.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable

**Action:** Flyer was requested to send with a copy of the minutes.

## **Item 5. Professional Development**

### **5.1: Guest Speaker: Vesta Hetherington, Palm Beach State College Adjunct.**

**Discussion:** Trauma-Informed Care for Child Care Program Directors Course:

Vesta Hetherington has recently taught the new Trauma-Informed Care for Child Care Program Directors course. On the Department of Children and Families (DCF) website there is a five-hour Child Trauma Informed care course that is open to everyone and is an excellent launch point. This online course is required to take the Trauma Informed Care 40-Hour course. The module that she is instructing can also be used for the Director Credential renewal. No competency exam is required for this course however, there is a CEU exam. This course is open to anyone that has a Florida Director Credential. Florida tends to focus on the preschool age however, this course can be extended to the out of school time age group. Vesta feels that the textbook is geared towards preschool, but it is applicable for school age. Many of the students that Vesta has instructed in her special need's courses have raised questions pertaining to that factor. Jowie Mohammed took part in the first class and initiated the fact that it could be extended so that the course is appropriate for school age. The course focus' on brain-based learning and brain-based development. The impact of brain-based learning and development for all childcare ages is critical and begins as early as in utero. Research proves that it extends back prior to infancy and it affects the way a child perceives the world by the means that its been affected. This course is about encouraging children, helping to build an environment in which they feel loved and supported by the adults in the program that they are attending. The ACEs program offers insight to caregivers on how to figure out and respond to children. The support of caregivers is very important.

Vesta stated that there are three levels in how we respond to children: 1. School based after school programs 2. Community based 3. Private Providers that offer aftercare programs. This course is not about fixing the child it is about learning how to build the child up. Vesta has seen firsthand with students in a special needs class that she has taught in which support is offered to one student and the others around that student and it becomes a support for the others in the class. Kindergarten students go through a major transition and during this time they experience high levels of anxiety and adversity. We as caregivers need to be sensitive to that because if not that hyper vigilant state will remain when entering a new environment. Their home and school lives can have stress factors. Additionally, right now many families are worried about their employment and this presents a trickle-down effect. It is our responsibility to create and sustain safe and nurturing environments. Vesta stated that thanks to the questions Jowie Mohammed asked during class that Vesta extend the resources beyond the age of pre-School. It cannot cut off at the age of 5. Vesta stated that the textbook and the book "Body Keep Score" by: Bessel van der Kolk are great resources. "Body Keep Score" is a fascinating book it focuses on what happens to the brain impacts what happens to the body. We need to change our entire perspective on how we interact, relate and support both children and adults.

Christin Martin mentioned that she has sat in on Vesta's courses and has seen how she gears her preschool classes towards out of school time staff.

Luisa Brennan inquired on how this information will trickle down from Directors to the frontline staff. Vesta responded that one of the student's assignment is an implementation plan which is part of this course.

Directors are required to design a plan that is utilized. Reading about the course is not enough, there needs to be support.

Jowie Mohammed stated that the City of Greenacres is requiring their staff to take the 5-Hour course DCF course and the CEU exam.

Michele Thompson stated that she also enjoyed taking the ACEs training and would like to incorporate some of what she has learned into her AYD class. She asked Jowie what he is doing differently now that he has successfully completed the course. Jowie explained that different behaviors arise and there is a strong need to look at what could be going on at home. He encourages staff to work with the parents so that everyone is working together. Counselors need to know what questions to ask.

Vesta concluded that frontline workers are not therapists, they are there to support and assist in making children feel secure. They should be implementing everyday supportive strategies.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Not applicable.

## **5.2 Speaker: Nicole Tarsia, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.**

### **Discussion: Professional Development trainings and stipends:**

Nicole Tarsia was not present, so Elisa Moro discussed trainings and stipends. Elisa stated that currently Prime Time is offering most trainings via Zoom. Currently the times that they are being offered are 9AM – 12PM or 6:30PM – 8:30PM, they are trying to host the trainings around the practitioner’s work hours.

Prime Time is still offering stipends in the amount of \$45 for 3 hours, and \$30 for 2-hour of training. The student receives it through PayPal. These trainings are ongoing, the February and March calendars are posted on their website. Some of the trainings being offered are Youth Work, Methods of Championing Equity and Diversity. Reframing Behavior Management is a 3-part series, and Anton Spalding is offering several trainings covering middle school and teen-age groups. The registration process is simple.

Register by selecting the training and filing out requested information. Within a day you will receive an email once it has been processed with a link to the zoom information to complete the training.

Luisa Brennan asked Elisa to share the information for Prime Times Resource Fair. Elisa stated that it will be held online this year. Students will be able to pop in to attend and it will take place February 22 – March 5, 2021.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Not applicable.

## **Item 6. Safety**

### **6.1: Christin Martin, The Arc of Palm Beach County**

Christin Martin is currently offering a training via zoom. It is called COVID-19 Youth with Developmental Disabilities. For more information you can send her an email. She has been emailing it to all afterschool Directors.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Not applicable.

## **Item 7. Employment Needs**

### **7.1: Christin Martin, The Arc of Palm Beach County**

Christin Martin asked council members if anyone wanted to share how their programs were doing with regards to hiring for Spring break or Summer. Dennis Carpenter shared that several of the Boys and Girls

Clubs have placed a large banner outside the location that is hiring. Elisa Moro stated that anyone that has a need to post employment opportunities to contact Katie Jacob with Prime Time so they can share it in their weekly e-blast. Proverb Newsome stated that Urban Youth has been utilizing Handshake through Palm Beach Atlantic University. It has proven to be helpful because they have posted it for education majors so that it is within their field. Luisa Brennan informed council members that the career center at Palm Beach State College also uses Handshake and offers Resume on the Run to assist students. Jowie Mohammed asked if programs were taking field trips. Mercedes Jackson responded that the City of West Palm Beach is, with a covid-19 policy in place. They have cut their enrollment from 144 students to 72. They have much smaller groups and a large wait list. They are taking field trips but not as many. They are trying to stay safe. Dennis Carpenter replied that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County are taking limited field trips following CDC guidelines. They have recently done away with distance learning in the morning and are now primarily afterschool. The clubs have recently just begun basketball leagues and are enthusiastic about the program. It seems to be that many parents are still hesitant about sending their children to school or centers. They are all just trying to stay safe and follow CDC guidelines. Luisa Brennan reminded Council members about the ongoing trainings that Palm Beach State College is offering.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Not applicable.

### **Item 8. Program Activities**

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Not applicable.

### **Item 9. Open Discussion**

Christin Martin introduced Proverb Newsome, he is the Director of Staff and Student Development at Urban Youth Impact. His program is a Faith based non-profit organization, which focus' on the lord, literacy, and leadership. They promote readers are leaders for life. Their mission is to love, equip, and empower inner city youth.

Proverb Newsome discussed how his organization has recently branched out and have recently opened Carver Christian Academy. They are currently holding 2 Kindergarten classes and the students are separated by boys and girls. They are experimenting with the differences between learning styles. This is the first year so he would be happy to join again to share the results with council members. This year has been challenging in the area that his organization is based. Many students have faced the daily challenges of not having access to internet services and the Tamarind area is demographically a tough environment during normal times.

Christin Martin invited Proverb Newsome back to join in the next meeting.

Jowie Mohammed asked if the Health Department has any new updates regarding recommended group ratios or social distancing. He made comment that the Palm Beach County School district is enforcing 3 feet distancing when necessary. Holly Strawser with the Florida Department of Health stated that the school district is its own entity. The health department recommends following CDC guidelines. Currently ratios have not changed, they are listed according to the square footage of the room. During these times it might be suggested to have a classroom set up differently. The CDC suggests that we keep 6 feet apart, smaller group sizes, less mixing of students, and there will be less risk. Childcare facilities are being asked to screen children, practice good hygiene, and stay safe. The children also encounter others at home so this also can increase exposure. The Florida Department of Health has an EPI Team that is available and can offer individual guidance on whether they should quarantine or self-monitor. Jowie Mohammed responded that he had a very good experience with the EPI Team. Christin Martin also responded that her facility and school were both closed due to Covid-19 and the EPI team was very helpful.

Holly Strawser stated that it is also important to educate the parents, students, and staff. The health department is looking at the protection of health and safety first and foremost for children, families, and the community. Holly also asked that everyone share with their team and staff members any assistance that they offer employees. Mental health resources are critical right now. An individual might not show signs that they are struggling and yet they are. Working in the childcare field normally is stressful. Stress management skills should be available, and staff should be reminded that this is ongoing.

Luisa Brennan stated that self-care is a great point. As caregivers we are always concerned with the kids but if we are not mentally prepared to deal with ourselves it will carry over.

Luisa Brennan asked if there has been an extension for the Competency exams and Lucia Adrian responded the date is 3/1/21. Luisa shared that Palm Beach State College will be offering the Advancing Youth Development (AYD) course on campus, face to face for the Summer term. She asked for the council to share this with their staff.

Michele Thompson informed Council the City of Greenacres is partnered with Cros Food Ministries. They are currently hosting a walk-up food distribution which is open to all Palm Beach County residents. You must show proof of residency for yourself and family members. Student Identification is welcome. This is an ongoing event which takes place the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Christin Martin reminded council members to share thoughts please continuously for guest speakers in between meeting dates. This will allow time to reach out to request that they attend the next meeting.

Michele has graciously offered The City of Greenacres Community Center to host our first in person meeting.

**Data source consulted:** Not applicable.

**Action:** Michele Thompson will send a flyer.

**10: Event Flyers**

Please continue to send all event flyers to be posted on the PBSC ECE Facebook page.

**Next Meeting:** Survey Monkey Poll Sent on 2/11/21 Place: Microsoft Teams

**Attendance:**

**Members**

Dennis Carpenter	Christin Martin	Jowie Mohammed	Jennifer Orenstein	Courtney Shippey
Holly Strawser	Michelle Thompson			

**Guest(s):**

Lucia Adrian	Luisa Brennan	Vesta Hetherington	Mercedes Jackson	Debra Luongo	Susy Martinez-White
Elisa Moro	Proverb Newsome	Debra Strange			

Submitted by: Luisa Brennan  
Debra Luongo, Scribe



