



Early Childhood Education Business Partnership Council Minutes

April 27, 2018

CBP202 / 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Susy Martinez-White	Palm Beach State College
Nancy Cabrera-Chambers	Palm Beach State College
Janell Carroll	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education
Paula Rounsavall	RCMA
Cassandra Wilbanks	Palm Beach State College
Cindy Pilloni	PNC Bank
Megan Bob	Literacy Coalition of PBC
Vicki Naubert	Early Learning Coalition, Early Head Start
Erin Gallagher	Early Learning Coalition
Gina Carello	Early Learning Coalition
Debra Strange	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education
Mary Morris	Family Child Care Home Association & FCC Director/Owner
Heather Sargent	Department of Education, Office of Early Learning
Holly Strawser	Florida Department of Health
Junnell Hughes	School District of Palm Beach County
Amanda Wallace	Family Child Care Provider
Nikki Hamilton	Opportunity, Inc.
Efraim Goldberg	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education
Lucia Adrian	Palm Beach State College
Grace Kolbe	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education

ITEM 1: Welcome and Introductions

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White, Palm Beach State College Program Director for Early Childhood Certificate programs, thanked everyone for accepting the invitation to serve on the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Business Partnership Council (BPC). Susy asked everyone to introduce themselves and what organization they represent.

Action: All members were asked to fill out the member information sheet and return to Susy before the next council meeting. Susy will email fill-in forms to all of the members so that they could send it via email with a professional photo attached.

ITEM 2: Business Partnership Council Overview and Purpose

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White discussed the purpose of creating business partnership/program advisory councils at the college in several disciplines and the impact these councils can have on academic programs and student’s success in their industries. Susy discussed activities and accomplishments of some of the other councils at the college as well.

The purpose of the ECE BPC is to collaborate with community and business partners to ensure Palm Beach State College is providing a high quality (and relevant) education to practitioners in the early care industry in Palm Beach County.

Efraim Goldberg suggested adding the word “relevant” to the purpose of the ECE BPC. All agreed. Below are a list of focus areas for the council as it develops:

- *PBSC, DCF Grant advisory council for planning of high school programs and exams*
- *PBSC, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education advisory council on professional development needs*
- *CTE school district articulation agreement – career pathways (high school to degree)*
- *Career pathways from entry level-degree programs*
- *Job training /occupational pathways*
- *Discuss issues in the early care field and how programs are preparing student through curriculum (program review)*
- *Recruitment*
- *Advocate for the advancement of jobs in the profession (leadership positions)*
- *Job placement (Perkins Grant)*

Action: None.

ITEM 3: Chair and Co-Chair Nominations / Elections

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White discussed the importance of nominating/electing a chair and vice-chair for the ECE BPC. The chair and vice chair must be community or business members and cannot be held by a Palm Beach State College member. Susy reviewed the roles and responsibilities for each position and asked that all members think about someone who they would like to nominate at the next meeting. Each role has a term of one-year but can be renewed.

Action: All members were asked to come prepared with nominations for chair and vice chair at the next ECE BPC.

ITEM 4: Palm Beach State College, Early Childhood Programs and Career Pathway

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White showed the members the Early Childhood Programs webpage and discussed the entry level through degree programs offered at the college. Many members had questions regarding the programs.

There was also conversation regarding the cutoff scores for the English proficiency test for non-native speaking students (LOEP) as being too high and some practitioners are having a difficult time passing it.

Junnell Hughes shared with the group the new initiative for the school district's early childhood academies now awarding students the National CDA when they graduate from the academies.

The group discussed what the biggest educational and professional challenges are with students in this field. Several members discussed the "soft skills" such as professionalism and commitment (training/education) as lacking in the academic programs.

The group also discussed how the council could raise the profession: *"Be like Mary Kay"*. Cindy Pilloni suggested that collaborating with a super star mentor could help to spread the word and be a motivator for others to go into the profession thinking of themselves as professionals.

Mary Morris added that there is a lack of parent education as well as children's challenging behaviors as two of the top challenges for practitioners in both family childcare homes and centers.

Erin Gallagher challenged the council as to how we could share all of this information to those who do not get involved with organizations, training and councils like these. She feels that is the biggest challenge because the training and the information are out there.

Gina Carello added that FCCH providers are in need of business skills and further education; however, they are scared because of the language barriers. Paula Rounsavall suggested that support services should be offered in different languages to assist these potential students.

Action: Susy will discuss the LOEP suggestions with the testing center manager and get feedback to share with the council at the next meeting regarding the cutoff scores for the LOEP test.

Susy will also coordinate with Junnell to reach out to early childhood academy graduates to ensure they receive their articulation credits when they enroll at Palm Beach State College.

The Early Childhood Academy graduates ceremony will be held at the school district board meeting on May 9, 2018. Junnell would like Palm Beach State College to participate.

ITEM 5: STEAM Fest

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White showed the STEAM video from the Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education webpage. This video explained STEAM and the goals for the early care industry.

Grace Kolbe discussed the STEAM Fest event.

Event Information:

- September 22, 2018
- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth campus; Natural Science building (NS129) and in the surrounding courtyard

Objective: To create an interest in and excitement for STEAM in children in order to help them become the scientist, inventors, creators and innovators of our future.

Partners:

- Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education – presenting “contraptions” (interactive explorations of physics, color, light/shadow, and creativity and problem solving geared to young children, but fun and informative for all ages)
- South Florida Science Center and Aquarium – presenting up to 20 STEAM activities (virtual reality, dry ice experiments, robotics, etc.)
- Dr. Chandra’s (PBSC Professor) STEM Saturdays Team – presenting up to 20 STEAM activities (sheep heart investigations, mathematics puzzles and toys, botany exploration and more)

Needs:

- Additional tables/activities
- Volunteers from community to:
 - Host exhibits
 - Help facilitate existing exhibits
 - Crowd control and hospitality
- Promotional/Marketing
- Donations
 - Waters/snacks
 - Gifts for volunteers
 - Prizes for guests
 - Food options for guests

Cindy Pilloni discussed the PNC Mobil Learning Adventure and Traveling Planetarium as an opportunity for the STEAM fest and also for centers to host an activity in the future. Anyone interested should reach out to Cindy to find out the dates and locations of both activities.

Heather Sargent discussed the Office of Early Learning new standards which include support for STEAM.

Action: We would like to get as many council members to participate in the event. Kat Lai is the coordinator of this event and will be reaching out to members before the next meeting to

get a sense of what each member is willing to do to participate. Please review the “needs” in the discussion items above and let Kat know what you can do to assist.

Heather will send email with new standards to Susy to share with council members.

Cindy will send email Fact Sheet of PNC activities to Susy to share with council.

ITEM 6: Next Meeting

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White asked the group how often they would like to meet. She suggested once a semester; however, the group agreed that in order to get momentum, meetings should take place at least twice a semester.

Action: Susy will send out a meeting invite for the next ECE BPC meeting for mid-June on a Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Palm Beach State College is closed on Fridays in the summer. Friday meetings will resume during the fall and spring semesters.

Susy Martinez-White

Scribe