



## Early Childhood Education Business Partnership Council Minutes

June 14, 2018

CBP208 / 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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### Attendance:

Susy Martinez-White	Palm Beach State College
Nancy Cabrera-Chambers	Palm Beach State College
Megan Bob	Literacy Coalition of PBC
Vicki Naubert	Early Learning Coalition, Early Head Start
Erin Gallagher	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
Ali Eger	Opportunity, Inc.
Efraim Goldberg	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education
Kim Reckley	PNC Bank
Kat Lai	Palm Beach State College, Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education

The meeting was called to order by Susy Martinez-White at 10:07 a.m. Susy thanked everyone for participating on the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Business Partnership Council (BPC) and asked everyone to introduce themselves and what organization they represent.

### ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes

Discussion: Erin Gallagher motion to approve ECE BPC meeting minutes from April 27, 2018. Mary Morris seconded the motion.

Action: None.

### ITEM 2: Chair and Co-Chair Nominations / Elections

Discussion: Susy Martinez-White reviewed the roles and responsibilities for each position. The chair and vice chair of the council shall be a member from the business community and will be elected by the council members for a one-year term. The chair will:

- Conduct all meetings
- Appoint subcommittees as required
- Represent the council when appropriate

- Coordinate with college staff in planning dates, times, place and agendas for meetings

The vice chair of the council shall be from the business community and will be elected by the council members for a one-year term. The vice chair will:

- Conduct meetings in the absence of the chair
- Assist the chair in meeting council goals/objectives

Susy reassured the member that the chair and vice chair would have the full support of herself and other Palm Beach State College staff to assist with meeting arrangements, agenda, minutes, etc.

**Action:** Debra Strange nominated Mary Morris for the chair position. Erin Gallagher supported the nomination and added herself as the nominee for the vice chair position. There were no other nominations for chair or vice chair. All members were in favor of the nominations and elected **Mary Morris as the new ECE Business Partnership Council, Chair and Erin Gallagher as the new ECE Business Partnership Council, Vice Chair.** Both Mary Morris and Erin Gallagher will serve in their positions for a one-year term. Nominations/Elections for chair and vice chair will open again in June 2019.

### **ITEM 3: STEAM Fest**

**Discussion:** Kat Lai discussed the partnership that Palm Beach State College has with PNC Bank and the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium with the STEAM initiative and how this is a great opportunity to also get the ECE Business Partnership Council involved. Kat explained how STEAM activities open doors for kids stimulating their creativity and instigating the “what happens if I...” questioning and exploring for a child.

Kat asked the council what kinds of things they are doing with STEAM.

Heather Sargent discussed the new Office of Early Learning standards that include STEAM as crosscutting concepts and how to use them. OEL has trainings for practitioners to help them to start using the standards and of course starting with Math. As a parent, she uses STEAM with her young children every day.

Megan Bob discussed the afterschool program (expanded learning opportunities) surrounding literacy. The Literacy Coalition uses STEM books with hands-on activities. She gave an example of Stella Luna and dissecting owl pellets. Other activities are integrated into the literacy programs (early learning literacy).

Debbie Strange asked how the college could provide more of these trainings to FCCH providers. Heather added that OEL training opportunities for FCCH are available online as well as more coming in mid-July.

Erin Gallagher discussed the CLASS assessment training for all who offer school readiness and added that there is more CLASS training available. She also discussed the PreK tool as the instructional support piece.

Kim Reckley discussed the role of the funder and business community with these types of initiatives and how they can assist. She asked what the certification status was for Palm Beach County. Erin responded that the new portal just rolled out so they do not have a clear picture as of yet as far as how many centers are still lacking certifications, etc.

Ali Eger discussed professional development CLASS training requirements and asked if STEAM could go hand in hand with CLASS because prioritizing is sometimes difficult when you have requirements that have to be completed. She also added how some of her staff needs to be degree seeking and how they can get all the training in. Ali asked if we could integrate training or offer more online training opportunities.

Debbie asked if there could be a crosswalk created for Conscious Discipline, new standards, CLASS and STEAM. Heather said that she will into the new standards for an existing crosswalk but may not be exactly what the group is looking for. Kat asked how we can make this happen and integrate when the approach for each of these theories/practices are different. The language for each is different and it would be difficult to do a crosswalk. Heather suggested the Frame Their Learning: CLASS concepts to change the mindset to make it easier to integrate different practices.

Mary Morris asked how to help providers get from point A to Point B setting CLASS as the priority but give importance to STEAM. She suggested to present at local conferences. That if we piggyback off of the ELC conference, we may be able to provide STEAM trainings to providers.

Kim discussed the PNC Bank website: Lesson Center which has lesson plans that include several STEAM activities for providers to use.

Kat demonstrated an example of a STEAM activity. It was very fun and interactive.

Holly Strawser discussed that from a supervision and licensing lens, children who are engaged are better supervised. Health Department inspectors are mostly science majors and are extremely supportive of STEAM for the secondary benefits it brings to providers.

Mary added that trainings are mostly lecture and providers need more hands on activities, which could add to increased enrollment in trainings and college courses.

Ali discussed the frustration of all of the requirements for those children transitioning into kindergarten and how centers are rated on the how the children score on the FLKRS screening.

Kim discussed a new public awareness campaign (for parents) that will be statewide. PSA: Importance of 0-3 showing brain scan (normal vs. extremely neglected child).

Kat suggested to take pictures of kids doing STEAM-y stuff in the centers and sending pictures of the kids to their parents pointing out to parents the importance of activity and “sell the idea” to the parent through the joy of seeing their own child in action.

Kat Lai discussed some of the logistics of 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
  - Megan Bob can help with AmeriCorps volunteers
  - Holly Strawser said that the Health Department can provide volunteers
  - Kim Reckley said that PNC Bank will have their own activity and tent
- Promotional/Marketing
- Donations
  - Waters/snacks
  - Gifts for volunteers
  - Prizes for guests
  - Food options for guests
  - Heather suggested to get sponsorships/vendors such as Lakeshore, Kaplan and Discount School Supply to set up tables and ask for donations or hosting tables. Efraim will follow up with Gina Carello about contacts for vendors.
  - PNC Bank offered to donate giveaways
- Room Requests/Logistics
  - Susy will secure NS building/area and classrooms for event

Kat discussed how invitations will go out to all of the centers who work with the college to control the numbers of participants. Heather suggested to invite a diverse group because

Its always the same people attending these types of events and those who need it the most rarely get invited to participate.

Action: Susy will ask Cassie Wilbanks to explain ways to have an intentional link with trainings and college courses and discuss at the next ECE Business Partnership Council meeting and the possibility of creating a crosswalk with the trainings discussed.

We would like to get as many council members to participate in the event. Kat Lai will be reaching out to members regarding participation in planning committee. Please review the “needs” in the discussion items above and let Kat know what you can do to assist.

**ITEM 4: Open Forum**

Discussion: Kim Reckley asked if we knew about “Birth to 22 PBC” that includes SDPBC, Center for Youth Services, Health Department, ACHIEVE PBC, CSC. They created a team to focus on early learning and it would be beneficial to partner or participate and bring back information to ECE BPC meetings.

Action: Susy will research the group and bring back information to the next meeting.

**ITEM 5: Next Meeting**

Discussion: The next meeting will take place on August 17, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Action: Susy will send out a save the date and reminders.

Kim Reckely motion to adjourn the meeting. Heather Sargent seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Susy Martinez-White  
Scribe