

School of Human and Public Services

Child Development and Teacher Preparation Program

Advisory Meeting-March 28,2025 9:30am-11:15am

Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: March 28, 2025

Location: Norco College, IT-209

Facilitator: Faculty Maria Adams and Amy Blandford

Recorder: ECE students

I. Welcome and Introductions

Participants from various sectors in early childhood education, social services, and higher education were present. Key stakeholders included representatives from childcare centers, school districts, nonprofit organizations, family services, and higher education institutions.

II. Partner Updates & Reports

III. Programmatic and Site-Based Updates

Teacher Preparation Site

- Utilization of **storage room**.
- Upcoming **Literacy Day** and **STEM Day** events.
- Plan to invite the **STEM program** to increase **student-child interaction**.

Childcare Centers

- Noted **abundant opportunities** across **multiple sites**.
 - Students can commit to **2 full days** or **3 six-hour days** per week.
 - Centers may **reimburse tuition** for student workers.
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IV. Student Support & Resources

Job Board & Partner Collaboration

- Strengthen use of **job boards** to connect students with employment.
- Expand **partner networks**.

Practicum Funding & Support

- **Gas cards, books, infant mental health certification, and Conscious Discipline workshops** available.
- Emphasis on **CPR certification** and **site-based training**.

Federal Work Study & Practicum Challenges

- **Norco College** partner noted challenges balancing **full-time work** with **full-time study**.

Apprenticeships & Programs

- Highlighted the **We People Program**: no prior experience required, 16 hours/week, public sector career pathway.
 - Encouraged development of **apprenticeship programs**.
 - Identified the need for **more male teachers** and breaking stigma in the field.
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V. Recruitment, Inclusion & Professional Development

Recruitment

- Discussion of **Recruitment Day** and the demand for **substitutes** and **permitted teachers**.

Inclusion

- Updates on **Riverside Office Inclusion Grant** and **Inclusion Network**.
- Counties, districts, and state entities are seeking inclusion partners for fall.

Parent Engagement

- Students should **attend parent meetings** during practicum.
- Encouraged **comfort with parent communication** and participation in **parent-teacher conferences** (scheduled for **May 8 & 9**).

Professional Development

- Support for students to **attend conferences**, including **NAEYC**.
 - Discussed **early childhood marketing** by professionals with business expertise.
 - Stressed need for **business administration support** and enrollment management.
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VI. Networking & Career Pathways

- Identified a gap between **education and workforce readiness**.
- Proposals:
 - Create more **networking opportunities**.
 - Increase **student exposure to multiple ECE career paths**, not just teaching.
 - Encourage **interactions with nursing students** at early childhood sites.
 - Implement a **professional dress code** to model workplace expectations.
 - Promote **global perspectives** and **worldwide best practices**.

VII. Action Items & Next Steps

- Organize **Recruitment Day**.
- Expand **apprenticeship and mentorship programs**.
- Increase **parent and community involvement** in student practicum.
- Create a **resource guide** for alternative ECE career paths.
- Establish a **professional development calendar** (conferences, certifications, workshops).
- Continue collaboration with **partner agencies** for funding and student support.

VIII. Adjournment