

Amarillo College Child Development/Early Childhood Education Department

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2010

Present:

Mary Clare Munger, Chair

Laura Clark, Administrative Assistant

Rochelle Fouts, IHE Grant Coordinator

Whitney Crain, *School Ready!* Grant Coordinator

Wanda Young, Interim Director, Child Development Lab School

Jana Rice, Instructor

Cheri Sherley, Regional Coordinator, *School Ready!* Grant

Beverly Harrison, Hereford Community Day Care Director, Advisory Board Chair

Linda Pitner, CEO, KACV

Frances Garcia, Panhandle Work Source, Child Care Management

Russell Lowery-Hart, Vice President

Steve Burton, CEO, Children's Learning Centers

Janice James, TPMHMR, Parent Educators Advisory Board, Co-Chair

Kim Reeves, Alumni Coordinator, Cal Farley's, Parent Educators Advisory Board Co-Chair

Jerry Moller, Dean, Academic Transfer

Sherry Richardson, Region 16, Principal

Sydney Roach, Region 16, Coordinator, Early Head Start

Not Present:

Caytie Martin, NWT

Nancy Brent, Adult Student Services

Debbie Stick, AISD, Parents As Teachers

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Beverly Harrison welcomed members and asked for introductions. Mary Clare Munger shared the minutes of last year's meeting. Diane Hill moved to approve these minutes and a second was made. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Mary Clare discussed the results of new initiatives from 2009-2010 school year.

Scholarship Students and Panhandle Work Source – CCM – working with Frances and Julie Harper, a special registration session was held for students. A record number of students took advantage of this and 110 students were helped with tuition and books. This increase was accommodated by instructors who moved face to face classes into an online format so that working early childhood teachers could attend as many classes as possible with scholarship dollars. The summer months continued to see record enrollment and the Fall 10 classes are also full. Julie expects to offer spring scholarships but will need more funding to go beyond that semester. Over \$300,000 of stimulus dollars have been used for this initiative making the Provider Certificate possible for over 100 students in a short amount of time.

Amarillo College has continued to partner with the Panhandle Association for the Education of Young Children. This collaboration sponsored three conferences attended by 900 early childhood professionals during the year. PAEYC also hosts the Week of the Young Child each April and this year had a wonderful success with the Mayor's Breakfast for Friends of Young Children and the Zoobilee. President- Elect Whitney Crain shared that the focus for this year's conferences will be Conscious Discipline and Literacy. Amarillo College is grateful for the scholarship of \$1000 provided by the PAEYC for students at Amarillo College.

Two grants are offered by Amarillo College as the Lead Agency. The *School Ready!* grant is serving public schools, Head Start, and child care classrooms from all areas of the panhandle region with 71 teachers in 25 locations. Whitney Crain is the newest member of this team. She coordinates the grant with the help of three mentors. Cheri Sherley has been promoted to the Regional Coordinator for *School Ready!* and now over sees most of West Texas but will office at Amarillo College.

The Institutions of Higher Education grant is coordinated by Rochelle Fouts. This is a new initiative to support professional development of early childhood teachers currently working in child care settings with preschoolers. Rochelle recruited twenty students who receive curriculum and materials, and a reimbursement for classes passed up to 18 credits before Fall 2011. Rochelle mentors each teacher and helps insure student success for these 20 students.

Mary Clare and the students in Administration classes this summer planned and delivered the Melonye Curtis Memorial Conference this July. The theme was multicultural awareness and over 40 people attended a full day of management training on Washington Street Campus. The funds raised from this event support the Melonye Curtis Scholarship. The students awarded this scholarship for 2010-2011 are Stacy Brown and Brittany Perkins. Stacy is an Early Head Start teacher and Brittany works as a student aid at the Child Development Lab School.

The Education/Child Development Department has a website, and Face Book page. You can find us at www.actx.edu/education. Jerry Moller shared that Amarillo College is up by 6% for enrollment this fall.

Wanda Young reported for the Child Development Lab School that we are searching for a new director since Whitney has taken on the School Ready! work. We have over 250 children on the waiting list and can only serve 23 children at a time. We have added 2 new teachers in the last year. Debbie Turley is teaching the four year old children. She is a graduate of the AC Child Development program and holds a Bachelor degree from WTAMU. She is participating in the School Ready! grant and will complete her second year in May 2011. Angela Davis is the teacher for the two year old class. She is also a graduate of the Child Development program and has a Bachelor degree from WTAMU. She served as a teacher to the NAEYC accredited Texas Tech Center in Lubbock before coming back to Amarillo.

Wanda also shared that over 123 students from Child Development, Education and Nursing have been served each semester for assignments requiring observation. The Lab School has maintained the highest ratings with NAEYC accreditation, CCM Rising Star and DFPS Licensing regulations.

Sydney Roach expressed the success that Early Head Start and Preschool Head Start teachers has achieved with the CDA training received at Amarillo College. She expects more teachers to earn the CDA this coming school year. AC provides 3 courses of training and education to students interested in the national CDA credential.

Linda Pitner shared the KACV has created tubs that can be checked out from the Lynn Library on Washington Street Campus. Each tub is a kit of activities that support content from a classroom set of books. The children are given the books at the end of the unit. Parents, teachers, and groups are using these popular tubs and over 4500 books have been given this last year. KACV has also had many events to support early learning. The Lab School enjoys these special events that promote healthy living and early education for young children and families.

Janice James reported that the Parent Educators Advisory Board held a conference last spring called "Get in the Game". This was at the Civic Center and was under attended for the size of the facility. The group is already at work for the next spring event which will likely be that the Business and Industry Center. The PEAB group also supports events that help families receive resources and opportunity to build strong families.

Steve Burton shared that AISD continues to collaborate with Children's Learning Centers and has 7 classrooms in this Pre-K partnership. The CLC has 10 centers in Amarillo.

Russell Lowery-Hart announced the Opportunity Conference coming to Amarillo this fall. Dr. Donna Beagle will be leading a special event for helping selected people build skills for finding pathways out of poverty. This is a huge effort for the community in addressing the effects of poverty on families. Further discussion around the needs of families and young children supported the hopes for this conference.

April Moore added that DFPS has had an increase in families with trauma as a result of increased poverty. She also said that everything we can do to get more parent education opportunities available to parents would be a great service to the community.

Mary Clare closed by saying the state had created a new advisory board that had received \$11,000,000 from the federal government funds. The money will be used to build the quality rating improvement systems for the state. This effort will help bring Texas into closer similarity to QRIS systems in the country and should help the entire industry better meet the needs of children and families.