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## **Amarillo College Early Childhood Business & Leadership Council**

Location: WCAH - 139

Date: Wednesday, Dec 3, 2025

Time: 11:45am to 1:00pm

### **Attendees (Please check those in attendance)**

- ☒ April Slatter - Workforce Solutions Panhandle
- ☒ Cynthia Hixon - Workforce Solutions Panhandle
- ☒ Tiffani Threet - Workforce Solutions Panhandle
- ☐ Kim Winegeart – Community Day Care – Pampa
- ☐ Kristi Hanes – Night and Day
- ☒ Wanda McCown – Opportunity School
- ☐ Steve Burton – Children’s Learning Center
- ☒ Janessa Kennedy– Region 16
- ☒ Brittany Hinz – Amarillo ISD
- ☐ Autumn Barraza - Family Support Services
- ☒ April Nelson - Amarillo College - Hagy Child Care Center (Minutes)
- ☒ Erica Cole - Amarillo College - Lab School
- ☒ Savanna “Van” Conley – AC Student in CDEC
- ☐ Tamra Brannon - Lil’ Colts - Claude
- ☒ Jessica Baker - Buttercup - Borger
- ☐ Kimberly Anderson - Amarillo Area Foundation
- ☐ Rochelle Fouts-Education Department Chair
- ☒ Becky Easton - Dean of Liberal Arts
- ☒ Ryan Francis – Coordinator Perkins Activities
- ☒ Taya Mamba - Director of Perkins Grant/ Grant Compliance Officer
- ☐ Luis Salazar - Education Program Advisor
- ☐ April Williams- Adjunct Faculty
- ☐ Kelsey Lorenz- Adjunct Faculty
- ☒ Lesley Webb – Adjunct Faculty
- ☐ Abril Zamora - Adjunct Faculty
- ☒ Angelica Bargas - Education Administrator Assistant
- ☒ Trena Rider - Amarillo College EC Program Coordinator
- ☒ Kevin Cheek - Executive Director of Workforce Training & Development

### **Agenda (11:45am to 1:00pm)**

- Food & Fellowship
  - Welcome, History & EGP Data: Trena Rider
  - Current State of EC Education: Cynthia Hixon
  - Your Voice: Discussion & Voting on Curriculum, EGP, and Credit by Exam
  - Local Needs Assessment: Taya Mamba
  - Thank you!!
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## **Welcome, History & EGP Data: Trena Rider**

(Dec. 2024 Minutes)

Since June of 2022 - KSA Development and Implementation: Systems, Course Modality, Celebrations (THANK YOU Workforce Solutions Panhandle and for the Semi-Annual Child Development Workforce CELEBRATION!)

Fall 2025 - Graduates 48 (10 Associates Degrees, 15 Administrator Certs., 23 Provider Certs.)

BADGER BOUND Opportunity

EVALUATE REPORTS: Educator Growth Plan - End of Cycle Report 2024-25 (Document was shared with the group)

## **Current State of EC Education: Cynthia Hixon**

\*Full reports were given to each council member

### **September 2025**

In August the Quality Specialist hosted an hour-long virtual meeting to gather feedback about the activities from the previous program year and suggestions on activities to be continued along with new activities for the upcoming 25-26 program year. Surveys were also sent out to over 1000 CCS families and promoted in the CCIS Newsletter for administrators to share with all their families. Surveys were also provided to all the Texas Rising Star Staff and to all the Child Care programs with CCS agreements. In the virtual meeting 4 directors gave feedback, and of the surveys 21 families responded, 4 Texas Rising Star Staff, and 25 administrators representing a total of 30 early learning programs with a combined capacity of 3197 and an enrollment of 1645 gave feedback.

- \* Training focus for parents: Professional development and Community resources
- \* Lena grow is being used in two schools
- \* Classroom behavior - Professional development needed.

## **Your Voice: Discussion & Voting on Curriculum, EGP, and Credit by Exam**

2 groups 5 and 6 were formed. Curriculum recommendations were made:

1. Educator Growth Plan - Add PLACES for students/educators to evaluate their overall wellness. Support educators with their personal wellness growth.
2. Educator Growth Plan - Students will report on their own **START...STOP...CONTINUE** for each course - suggested to be used every other week based on their learning and application.
3. Additional space should be added for Administrator's feedback (make boxes larger)
4. Additional space added for Family, School and Community to dive into real conversations about family engagement. Proactive vs. reactive conversations. Build relationships from the beginning and do not call with only negative information. Daily Positive reporting - see Educator Growth Plan and add detail.
5. Environments should be intentionally covered in every class. Educating Young Children should have a "Construction" activity like a diorama to depict healthy DAP environments.
6. Prevention of student behavior should be covered in every class based on the content.
7. Educator Growth Plans implemented in ALL CDEC/TECA courses for both certificates
8. Administrators Courses - Focus on how to check in with employees with self care
9. Admin. Courses - Emphasis on positive relationships with all parties involved (families, colleagues, administrators)
10. Eliminate technology - must have the research to back this up. Wellness of the Young Child
11. Discuss professional dress more specifically
12. Credit by Exam: Add 5 years of experience in early childhood required and a letter of recommendation from a current or previous employer.

### **Local Needs Assessment: Taya Mamba**

Taya discussed the value of Child Care Provider feedback.

The link will be sent from Taya to Trena, then on to the council members.

**Trena Rider** *Trena Rider*

Trena Rider

Faculty Program Coordinator for Early Childhood Education