

# **CHILD DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

October 25, 2001

11:00 a.m.

Present at meeting:

- Robin Brown, Associate Instructor of Child Development classes at CCCC
- Jo Howser, Director/Owner Children's Workshop
- Sandy Gorham, Bright Horizons-Family Solutions
- Elaine Boski-Wilkinson, Full-time Instructor at CCCC and Coordinator of Child Development Program at CCCC
- Janet Dodson, Director Holy Family
- Lisa Renshaw, Regional Specialist at N. Texas Services @ Allen office
- LeeAnn Kite, Assistant director Early Childhood-Region 10
- Rhonda Ferlita, Student
- Mary Kendall, CCT Campfire
- Kathy Lunde, Educational Consultant
- Janet Galantay, Director for Child Care Center at CCCC
- Tammie Williams, Director/Owner Apple Creek Preschool

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairperson, Kathy Lunde.

Introductions were made.

Janet Dodson said that they won Provider of the Year Award. Kathy Lunde asked Elaine and Robin to discuss any updates they had on the Child Development Program. Robin said that this is the first year all of their classes had enough enrollment that each had at least 10 students in class. Most classes this time had 15 or more. Scheduling played an important part. More attention was paid to that. And some students wanted completion documentation. (Degrees and Certificates). Numbers of students enrolling is very impressive. Interest in Child Development is increased. Interest from International students is increasing and an interest in becoming more professional in Child Care is emphasized.

Elaine Boski-Wilkinson spoke. She had passed around the new catalogue that came out this year. She felt it was really important for all to see (on pg. 75) how it speaks about Child Development and shows the specializations. It was emphasized that it is important that we use these and have them accurate. If anything needs to be changed or added, she asked that you let her know. It is an on-going program here and it is important that we have the best information contained in the catalogue. Something that is new is we have 2 new degree programs. One is a AAS degree (Applied Associates of Science) in Child Development. They will take 24 hours of General Education courses but the core curriculum will be in Child Development. The second Associates degree is considered a

“field of study” degree. That means the student comes in to Elaine and she asks, “What do you want to do...are you interested in a career in child development, in working, or going on to a four year college? If the student says this is a stepping stone to a 4 year college, then I advise going to “field of study” degree. We have a core of 5 or 6 classes that transfer directly to UNT, TWU and UT-Arlington that is class for class. Students would not have to take those degrees over. The state has mandated that those classes from us have to be accepted. Those courses are 1354 Childhood Growth & Development, 1303 Family & Community, 1311 Intro Early Childhood Education, 1318 Nutrition, Health & Safety, and some of the colleges are opting to either accept the Children w/Special Needs (1359) or (1321) Infant & Toddler class. So we have a lot of accessibility to partner with the 4 yr colleges (page 48 list of colleges). The list is very prestigious. Instead of CDEC as a prefix, these classes are now referred to as TECA (Transfer Early Childhood Classes). This will alert other colleges that the student will not have to take these classes again.

Now students know that they can come here & get a good basic education and then go on to a good 4 year college. We teach just as good as the other colleges. Child Development has always required that instructors are Master-degreed that are teaching. Now it is a college-wide policy. Our students practice “hands-on” immediately through our classes. This gets their “feet wet” and helps students decide if this field is really for them. One former graduate student of our program called Elaine and told her that UNT accepted her TECA classes but TWU accepted all of her Child Development classes from CCCCD and promoted her to senior status because of them. This is very exciting because we can honestly say that some schools will accept all of your credits from here. Elaine is serving on some Articulation boards to try to push more colleges to accept all hours from here.

Robin Brown added that as the programs from Collin County become more well known more and more schools will likely accept any classes in Child Development that are not TECA classes, knowing that the quality of education is there.

Elaine anticipates that as the Early Childhood Higher Education Coordinating Board in Austin (made up of 2 year and 4 year college Professors and instructors) more credibility will come to Child Development studies. A cross discipline with Criminal Justice on a Child Abuse course is anticipated being developed. Also cross discipline with cross culture and international studies. More people are considering Child Development a degree of study and not just “babysitting”.

Robin Brown suggested that depth of these classes is something to be proud of. If anyone has a suggestion, or question you may call Elaine or her at the number in the brochure handed out.

We are offering a lot of classes off campus and in evening hours to help students. This is a non based funding year. Next year is a based funding year so you will do new things to get their attention to turn into dollars and sense. Last year we were told that we would get another full-time person (Elaine is the only one now). We have many qualified instructors that could fill this position nicely. Due to it being a non-based funding year,

we did not get the funds to add that full-time person. She is hoping that we will get funded to be able to take on another full-time person. Also anything outside of the box, we might be able to pursue. LeeAnn has been working with me for a very long time on something that I would like her to share with you now.

LeeAnn Kite told us about Elaine and her working on getting at least the CDA I course (with ambitions to add CDA II, and III later) offered as Distance Learning classes with Region 10 service (serving 9 counties). All school districts need to have access to some video conferencing. We have to have at least 1 location in each county. We came really close this semester. We had some last minute “red tape” keep us from it but we anticipate it being in place possibly next year. We would be able to have working people participate because we would have the classes start in the evenings when working people could go to a video conferencing center in their area. It looks like it will happen and is very exciting. What counties are we talking about participating? Ellis, Rockwall, Collin, Grayson, Van Zandt, Kaufman, Hunt, Fannin, and Dallas.

Elaine stated that she needs to get to know the other coordinators in other counties to make sure that all the i’s are dotted...and all t’s crossed. Brookhaven, Eastfield, Trinity Valley....we’ve all met. Region 10 is going to be very instrumental in helping us get it together. Dallas county serves Irving. If you can imagine that they may have only 2 students wanting to take a course, but there are 4 in Rockwall, and 5 in McKinney, that makes a course. So this is a very exciting possibility. We are trying to break out of our little box of what we do now and become more creative. We have 2 on line courses right now and one has 35 students. Eileen Anderson teaches Child Guidance and feels it is being very effective. The practicum class that I teach is on line and is mainly a student teaching in a facility. Next semester we plan to have Practicum, Children with Special Needs and Administration II class on-line. We are trying to be “choosy” about what we do on line. Elaine still feels that teaching in a classroom is most effective but because the community demands on line courses, we must meet those needs. Elaine said that she feels the classroom experience is a better teacher, especially with needing to work with children, but because the community wants online courses, we need to offer these. You will continue to see more and more of our courses offered online.

The question was posed to Elaine about whether she would have the ability to change things if she could see that online courses were not working for Child Development courses. Elaine asked that all persons present report back to her if they begin to see the quality of education lacking in students who have taken the online courses. As much as she wants us to be up with the rest of the educators, she still wants to have feedback to assure that our quality of education doesn’t slip. Elaine asked our student representative, Ronda Ferlita, what she thought about it. She said that she had taken some online course and missed the personal contact. Robin Brown pointed out that they are still labs that are done on-site and that provides some of the hands-on training. The lecture and class work do not require you to come on-site. The student replied that she was not concerned in that area but that she felt that you learned so much from other students in a class room experience that you would not have online. It is a sharing and learning experience of others. Can you have an online gathering where students can interact online? Elaine said

there would be a chat room where students could interact. The challenge is to get chat rooms up and running well. Mary Kendall asked if at the end of the online class, would it be possible for all of the students to get together to share information on an informal basis. Elaine pointed out that there is always an orientation at which students can share information. Online in the chat rooms any questions a student has go to the teacher as well as to other students. Then the answers are shared.

Elaine mentioned that when you have students in a class room experience you notice when someone's attendance is slipping and you can check on that person. It is more difficult in an online course situation to do that. And a lot of students think that an online course will be easier, which it is not. It requires discipline to set aside time to devote to the online course and keep up with everything. It is easier to slip if you don't keep up. These are just some of the issues but we will forge ahead with it because the community wants it.

Someone brought up the Practicum classes again and questioned the ability to have them online. Elaine said that they are typically small in enrollment (4 is average for the past several semesters) and she has found that the students really miss not getting together with her on a regular weekly basis to go over things. So she is really looking seriously at whether it will be advisable to make Practicum an online course. Because students are working and have families Elaine thought this course would be better for them. That has not been her experience this semester. This is their last class in their field and more hands-on seems wanted. Elaine has also noticed that a lot of Practicum students are questioning whether they will "hang in there" because they are really missing the personal interaction. She has had 2 students drop out already. It was suggested that several times during the course they could schedule meetings at different places, such as Starbucks, and students could share their ideas on projects there. It was also suggested that we run 1 online course along with 1 regular course at the same time. We cannot do that but instead will try having 1 course offered as an online and then the following semester, offered as a regular class room course. Someone suggested that a lot of bonding goes on in the class rooms and there need to be some sort of regularly scheduled physical meeting to try to maintain that feeling.

Kathy Lunde asked that we now hear the report from Janet Galantay from the Lab School. It is located at Spring Creek. Janet said we have 125 lab students this semester. Each semester seems to go smoother. We now have lockers to secure the students' purses and backpacks. We are no longer part of the Child Development program. We are no longer part of the program although without the Child Development program we would have no lab. There are 30 children enrolled, and we have 3 small classrooms. Ages range from 3 months old up to 5 years. We are full-time right now but we have been looking into how we can also support students by offering them child care while they are in class. We are not doing that now. We are looking into going from a full-time only program to a part-time program, similar to a pre-school program with morning program and afternoon program. Some of the benefits could benefit the lab students. In a part-time program students would always be able to be exposed to children who are up and not napping. A lot of people only need part-time day care while attending classes

and if we could do this it would help them out. We are so small that we are trying to figure out a way to do this.

We need our students to see consistency. We have a lot of resistance from faculty and staff who have used us for years as full-time day care onsite. We are putting together a task force of parents, students, faculty, interested people to look at all possibilities. The bottom line is how can we support the students and maintain our quality. Someone asked if there had been any consideration for evening care. Janet said that that was a possibility that they looked at. The Provost who heads up the Child Care Center said that would be phased in after the switch from full-time to part-time was done. Eight years ago when we started, we had an evening program that ran Monday through Thursday nights and it went until 10 pm. If we brought this back it would help out working parents who are attending classes at night. Someone mentioned that she could not have gone back to school if not for our lab school at night that we offered before. Janet mentioned that although not scientific in nature, a phone survey done to ask about interest in school-age care had overwhelmingly positive response.

Robin Brown stated that she would like for her students to have access to the lab school for all of their courses at this Spring Creek Campus site. Our goal should be to have a lab school facility where (1) the instructor knows what goes on there, and (2) what is best for the children in terms of consistency. Therefore having a full, part-time program at our lab school not only helps our community and the children, but also our Child Development students. It is a valuable resource. Robin said that she feels the students and children get better benefits from something like this. This would take place not only in Plano, but also in McKinney. A big “scare” about online students is that they will not get enough hands-on experience with a lab school. Comment was made that they would like to see the Advisory Board require that the lab work the students do be done in a lab school that is accredited. Elaine said that it is already policy that the lab school be accredited. Elaine and Robin always check out the schools that students attend for lab schools to make sure that they are accredited. The McKinney Lab School is accredited and so is the Spring Creek lab school. Someone asked why the night care stopped. It apparently lost a lot of money. Some evenings there would be staff but no children. It was also a “pay as you go” setup.

Someone mentioned that full-time children and part-time children in the Lab School will offer different challenges and the students would be able to see that. Covering the topic of online courses again, Elaine said it would be absolutely required that students have lab components and paperwork to come in. We will keep records on criminal background, TB test, etc., so that someone can call us to confirm that each student is clear in these areas. Janet Galantay once again told us more about the lab school.

She said our communications are pretty constant. We are getting a new computer for the student desk for students to use when they are in the lab school. As far as needs go, we have our needs very well taken care of. Our waiting list is very long. We ask that they come in to fill out a form. We want them to come in and see the quality of our program for comparison if they are shopping around. We give first priority to full-time students, full-time faculty and staff, part-time students, faculty and staff, and those who have a

sibling already in the program. Elaine said that when she came on board 6 years ago there was no waiting list. So it is very exciting that our program is now so popular. Economically it will benefit us to have the morning and afternoon part-time program. We will finally be able to fund ourselves. Even when children are not there one can view the Lab School.

Kathy asked Mary Kendall to talk to us about Campfire. She told us about a training scheduled on November 8<sup>th</sup> in the middle of the day and if anybody is available she would love for us to attend. Mary started with Campfire 4 ½ years ago. The question was posed that training is normally paid for for full-time employees but not part-time employees. Is that going to change? Do we need to do a petition to get this changed? She was told that you can call Gayle Coleman at Campfire Office at 817.831.2119 and she would be able to tell you about scholarship money. Kathy Lunde suggested calling Annette West, former President of the Methodist organization, about part-time scholarship money. Elaine said that we have also developed a scholarship fund at CCCC. You do not have to be full-time. Each Fall and Spring we are giving out scholarships to students. It is on our website. Or call Vicki Newsom. She is the scholarship person, keeper of the scholarships. This was established with Super Saturday funds that used to go to the centers. Once our budgets were divided we decided that it would be good to use that money for scholarship. The students that meet the criteria could get the money. The criteria is online [www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu).

Super Saturday is April 13, 2002 at Spring Creek Campus. Jana Dodson questioned Mary Kendall about Campfire providing scholarships for training and participants not showing up. The problem is a lot of people could not attend because it was full or for the cost. Can we do anything about this in the future? Should people be penalized for taking a slot and then not show up? Can't Campfire do something to help correct this? Kathy Lunde said that she is working with Campfire on an event right now and she has 50 signed up but the final tally will sometimes be as little as 10. She feels that the Administrator has to reinforce it at their level. Robin Brown says we should bill the Administrator when his/her people do not show up to cover their costs. If they are penalized, they will pay closer attention to who signs up and does not go. Robin says if you "hit them in their wallet" it should get their attention. Campfire cannot possibly control it. It looks like it must come from the Administrators. Robin suggested that we all think about this and talk about it at our next meeting. Someone asked if people could come in on a "standby basis" to take slots of anyone who doesn't show. Mary stated that she always overbooks training so more participants can attend for those who do not show up. Jana reiterated that she felt there was a need to have some system in place. Kathy suggested that we all brainstorm and come back to the next meeting with suggestions for Mary.

Anyone else?

LeeAnn Kite spoke up regarding Region 10. We did open an early Head Start Center in McKinney High School in August. We are still trying to find another location. But we now have space.

Elaine said 1 or 2 of our students have been helping with Head Start.

Sandy from Bright Horizons: They are ready to start having classes at J.C. Penney again.

Lisa Renshaw: Child Care Services stated that more staff are being educated through the Child Development program and that they have changed the name "Designated Provider" to "Texas Rising Star Program".

Jo Howser stated that they have expanded their program to Fridays and would love lab students to come her way.

Kathy Lunde stated that she is an educational consultant. One of the privileges of doing this is being asked to visit other areas. Elaine was invited to Hungary and China this summer and she was able to visit schools and see how they do things. Elaine visited a school in Hungary for children with physical problems. She hopes to have one of the instructors visit here next year. Elaine was able to visit with University people. She witnessed their teaching systems as well as opened up opportunities for CCCCD as being a representative for them.

Meeting was closed at 12:45pm.