Child Development
Advisory Committee Meeting 5/20/16

Breakfast Meeting at Prairie's Edge Casino, Granite Falls

Attending: Marge Knudson, Child Care Aware; Naomi Dempcy, Head Start Director at Prairie 5, Nikki Rasmussen, CCNI, Lori Gunnink, Head Start Director at SMOC, Sue Thomes, Heartland Parent Aware

Agenda:

1. Changes in program discussed at last meeting will be implemented in Fall16

There are some issues with the SMSU articulation agreement due to Board of Teaching's unwillingness to allow articulation of methods courses. Final resolution to be determined.

2. A.S. graduate numbers continue to grow:

10 A.S. (of these, 7 are continuing to SMSU)

1 Diploma

6 Education Paraprofessional Certificates (2 are double majors w/A.S.)

3. Continued strong partnerships for Field Experience sites – Laine expressed her appreciation for this partnership

4. Total advisees enrolled in Spring semester was 38 (varies from 3 credits to 17 credits)

22 enrolled for Fall semester so far, and continuing to register throughout the summer

5. Trends – Continued struggle to secure qualified teachers and assistants in classrooms, as well as a shortage of quality family child care providers. Marge met with EDA and discussed this as an economic issue.

Encouraging that there are grants available through CCNI and SWIF in the amount of $300 for licensing start-up costs.

6. Concerns – Lori shared that having the college offer college instruction taught in Spanish would be tremendously helpful for her staff. At a minimum, could textbooks be offered in Spanish? Laine will check on e-books and report back. Another idea would be to have ESL discussion groups to assist fluency in English. Laine will share Le Lucht's contact information with Lori.

7. Other – Lori stated that Minnesota West is an amazing partner in terms of supporting students through student services and offers great flexibility for her staff. Naomi expressed her appreciation for the way the Child Development program works with her staff.

Laine thanked the group for their participation and partnership.

Child Development Program Advisory Committee

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