

**Early Childhood Education (ECE) Advisory Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**3:30- 4:30pm**  
**Lake Tahoe Community College**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees:**

Brad Deeds, Kerry David, Tina Barna, Sara Fuchslin, Karen Allen, Leslie Amato, Shelly Martinez, and Lexi Hughes.

**Partner/Member Updates:**

**Tina & Lexi:** They have been able to remain open during the whole pandemic and have made many changes to their program and for the families such as “distance connections”, making classroom adjustments, and Zoom with families in place of in-person services. They have been adapting to new ratio and person limit restrictions, down to only 14 per classroom instead of 39. They have been at full capacity but continue to serve their families. They have been following guidelines, wearing masks, and doing extra cleaning work. They continue to provide trainings and parenting classes.

**Leslie & Karen:** Staffing has been an issue and they are currently operating with 50% of their usual staff. They do have some open positions for a teacher and aides. They have been following strict safety protocols as well. Challenges include when a staff member needs to quarantine for 14-days and trying to find staff willing to work for the pay, not being able to do tours with parents or having free access for parents to come and go. Difficult to maintain closeness and talk to the parents.

**Brad:** The college continues to follow close safety procedures with current hybrid classes and hopes to bring back more face-to-face and more hybrids courses as the year goes on. The college has been able to offer the vaccine to those teaching hybrid courses and employees who are on the front lines. The college continues to serve as a free Covid-19 testing site.

**Shelly:** Everyone has been working very hard throughout the pandemic at their places of employment and many students are working and going to school. While there is a lot of joy in working with children, there is a lot of responsibility. Her students are very resilient; connected and engaged. The low pay associated with teaching jobs does continue to be a challenge, but many in the field are passionate about their work.

**ECE Program Updates:** Distance Education popularity is increasing, the field continues to be predominately female, but is diverse in age and ethnicity. The program has a high success rate in general, and the retention rate is outstanding.

**Perkins:** There is no current update at the moment.

**Adjournment**