



Columbia College



Special Programs Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2016

Location: Manzanita Multipurpose Room / Time: 3:30pm – 5:00 pm

Attendees

Campus Partners:

Matt Fox, EOPS/CARE Coordinator
 Anneka Rogers Whitmer, TRiO Coordinator
 Doralyn Foletti, Outreach/Student Government
 Tracey Hickey, Program Specialist, DSPS/EOPS/CARE
 Lisa Reza, Administrative Assistant, DSPS/EOPS/CalWORKs

Jill Olson, CalWORKs Coordinator/GED Chief Examiner
 Brian Jensen, PhD., DSPS/EOPS/Vets Counselor
 Lauren Campana, Health Services
 Marnie Shively, Financial Aid Director/Vets Services

Community Partners:

Nancy Andrade, ATCAA
 Adele Baroni, Calaveras HHS
 Cathi Ruiz, CNVC
 Amy Torres, MLJT – Tuo.
 Larry Hashman, Tuo. County Behavioral Health
 Jewel Snyder, Tuolumne County DSS

Marcia Williams, ATCAA
 Christine McKeenhan, Calaveras HHS
 Mike Pierce, DRAIL
 Vicki Long, MLJT, Tuolumne
 Brock Kolby, Tuo. County Behavioral Health

Attendee Folder Contents

- Agenda
- Summary of Reports
- CalWORKs info card
- DSPS info card
- EOPS postcard
- TRiO SSS book mark

Welcome/Announcements

Jill Olson opened the meeting at 3:40pm. Attendee introductions were made. Jill gave a general overview of topics that would be covered during the meeting and reminded the group to read the areas updates (attached) for information on specific area/programs both on-campus and from our Community partners.

College Leadership's Welcome/Update

Dr. Leslie Buckalew welcomed the group and provided an update on changes to the college, including the Measure E upgrades of buildings and facilities.

College Associate Dean of Equity and Success Update

Dr. Brandon Price spoke about the College's Student Equity Plan. He addressed the types of student populations that are impacted and the College's plans to provide equity to these populations.

Student equity is specifically targeted at disproportionate groups. Brandon used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the three major categories of access, completion, and transfer rate referred to in the legislation as they relate to specific groups.

Special Programs (EOPS/TRiO/Foster Youth) Counselor

Stephanie Beaver Alder was introduced to the group as the new Special Programs Counselor with EOPS, TRiO and Foster Youth. Stephanie is the first specialist Foster Youth counselor at Columbia College and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Stephanie discussed Foster Youth as a targeted population for college success at Columbia. There was discussion of strategies for interventions/processes for new Foster Youth entering the college, as well as possible community and agency partnerships to support their success.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UPDATES

MARCH 30TH, 2016



CalWORKs:

- 31 students enrolled
 - 16 from Calaveras
 - 15 from Tuolumne
 - 1 from Stanislaus

GED:

- 4 classes are now being offered (another class was added since last report)
 - Campus evening class with approximately 15 students and growing
 - Angels Camp daytime class with approximately 6 students and growing
 - Many students in the class are ESL, as the GED class follows the ESL class offer by Columbia College.
 - Sonora daytime classes
 - In partnership with ATCAA, came online 2/29
 - In partnership with Tuolumne County Office of Education, came online 3/8.
- Now have Spanish preparation materials which have been distributed to each site.
- Research continues to be done into giving additional support in the subject of Math.
- Union Democrat interviewed staff and student for an article which appeared in Tuesday, March 22 paper.

DSPS

- **Mini-grant awarded:** DSPS is a categorically funded, voluntary program that assists the college. Our funding is very restrictive and specific. DSPS was awarded a mini-grant by the Sonora Foundation to increase outreach efforts to community entities. Our intent is to inform surrounding institutions and agencies and to help students access our services more fully toward additional goals of improving retention rates. Supporting surrounding area schools streamlines a smoother transition by building a liaison with the community to ensure that students who attend Columbia College will then return back to the community as enriched adults with vocational, academic, and leadership qualities. Specifically, students who access categorical funding often face additional barriers in education. Access to educational support mechanisms provides opportunities to succeed in college and in community endeavors. Our mission would be to guide students to resources while in college and how to access them in the community.
- **Special Programs Student Success Workshops:** Candice Hann and Karin Rodts, took part in offering 2 sessions in our Special Programs Student Success Workshops. The first session, **“Facilitating the Note Taking Process”** was well attended and offered the following tips: **Notes** should be to the point and capture main ideas. Use short sentences, symbols, and phrases.; **Listen** for clues from the instructor...EX: “First...”, “there are theories...”, “in conclusion”, etc.; **Listen** for information that ties together past material, readings, or themes of the course; **Write** in your own words, but be careful not to change the meaning; **Review** your notes from the last lecture....my personal favorite; **Learning** by Listening; Facts support points; **Look** for patterns, repetitions, and themes; **and physically** locate yourself to where you can stay focused. An additional session offered was **“Learning and the Brain”** with an introduction about “The Woman Who Changed Her Brain” by Barbara

Arrowsmith Young and a TED talk given by the author which illustrates the phenomenal feats of shaping her own brain to help with learning challenges.

- **Veterans:** Brian reported that the Veteran's Center Open House went smashingly with over 200 meals served. Brian is currently available for drop-in appointments at the Veteran's Center Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:30 am. The Veteran's Center is located in the Toyon Building. Starting in April, Brian will be extending those hours to 8:30-11:30 am on those days.
- **A website** often utilized by DSPS is noted here <http://dspssolutions.org/resources/section-five-dsps-services-and-accommodations/veterans/community-provider-toolkit-working-together-to-serve-veterans.aspx> This site features key tools to support the mental health services you may provide to Veterans. Information can be found on connecting with VA, understanding military culture and experience, as well as tools for working with a variety of mental health conditions (found under Mental Health and Wellness).

EOPS/CARE:

The goal of the Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) is to encourage the enrollment and retention of students who are educationally and financially disadvantaged. EOPS will assist these students in successfully completing a vocational certificate, an AA/AS/ADT degree, or in transferring to a four-year college or university.

Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) combines with EOPS to offer an educationally-emphasized support program for single parents receiving TANF.

Spring 2016: We are currently serving 240 students in EOPS with 8 of those students also participating in the CARE program. Our numbers have substantially increased in the past few years. In Fall 2013 we served 134 students. In Fall 2014 we served 171 students. We anticipate growing our enrollment numbers to approximately 300 students in 2016-2017.

New Counselor: We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Beaver Alder to the Special Programs team! Stephanie is a full-time counselor and will be working with our dually enrolled EOPS/TRiO students as well as initiating new Foster Youth initiatives.

Services: We are pleased to continue to offer our base level services which include assistance with purchasing textbooks, bus tickets, and end-of-term grants. We continue to offer these additional services: \$25 gas card (or bus tickets) for completing a comprehensive Educational Plan, EOPS backpack, math textbook and calculator loan program, and \$25 grants for attending 1-hour Student Success Workshops. Student attendance at the Student Success Workshops (on topics including career exploration, study skills and financial aid) has doubled and the math textbook and calculator loan program has saved students over \$40,000 in its 2 years of operation. The need of our students remains great and we strive to help them have access to the resources to accomplish their educational goals.

Tapping into Technology: The continued implementation of technology is a much needed tool, both for our program management and student use. We are pleased to have implemented an electronic file system that also incorporates a digital signature pad, an electronic messaging system (Remind.com) to send out messages as either text messages or email, and we have been offering students the option to conduct virtual counseling and transfer sessions via Google Hangout and SKYPE. We have created an online EOPS orientation and we currently offer 30 online student success workshops on topics including time management, academic success and goal setting. Our efforts have resulted in increased attendance, decreased costs and an overall ease of use improvement.

The Future is Now!: Many of our students enter college wanting to increase their education, to learn new things and to prepare for a life after college that is rewarding and financially secure. We have experienced more and more students who are eager and pressured to make decisions now about their future. To help them make educated decisions,

Columbia College purchased a campus-wide membership to Vault.com. This website focuses on “career intelligence” and helps students explore options, research companies and allows them to download over 200 books on various career fields. Additionally, several of our counselors have become certified in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory. These assessments help students explore and reflect on their personality and skills and how those attributes relate to majors, careers and their lives.

TRiO Student Support Services Update:

Staff Updates- Ramona and Anneka are happy to welcome Stephanie, our new Special Programs Counselor (EOPS/TRiO) and designated Foster Youth Counselor!!! Stephanie has already jumped into implementing new trio tools and bonding with our students.

Field Trips- On 3/22/16, we traveled to UC Santa Cruz and participated in a great tour and even some cultural experiences at the beach! J

Peer Mentoring- Our PMs have seen an increase in utilization of this service even with less students enrolled in the program this term than normal. They are excited that fellow students are bonding, networking, and learning more college success skills than ever!

Events- Our “2-hour Spring Break” themed **mid-semester mixer event** took place on 3/24 from 4-6 PM and students were VERY excited about the opportunity to party! At least half a dozen TRiO Alumni were in attendance as well. We played games, eat great food, and learn from our TRiO Alumni the secrets to thriving through the transfer process. This was a reward for trio-enrolled students only.

Collaborations- We will submit another TRiO funded grant to create a Motherlode Educational Opportunity Center consortium in the next couple of days. We will hear back by August if we get this grant.

Misc.-

- Scholarships are starting to be awarded and TRiO students are being rewarded for their extra scholarly efforts. Looking forward to the Awards ceremony on 4/22!
- Fall **Transfer Fair** and Fall **Welcome Week** activities are coming along nicely; both will be more robust this year! It is so great to have additional help on both of those committees too. J
- Enrollments for TRiO are still needed; we had a larger number of graduates last year and we still have about 20 slots open for students. Plus we are anticipating a large number of graduates this spring as well so we want to ramp up for next year’s enrollment as well. So send any transfer students our way please!

PARTNER UPDATES:

ATCAA: FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Melinda Fleming is the instructor for the GED prep class and was recently hired by the college. Currently we are serving 26 Skills / GED clients. One client passed the GED test this past weekend and is awaiting her certificate in the mail. We have two other clients ready to register to take the test in the upcoming months. Many are showing significant progress in their abilities to navigate the software program and have become more confident in their academic skills.

Sara Shier is the instructor for the ESL program; she is a wonderful instructor, and the classroom truly enjoys her style of teaching. We are currently serving 16 clients in that classroom and it continues to grow.

Recently we have had quite a few inquiries from young teenage individuals to joining the GED prep class. We continue to receive multiple referrals from the Department of Social Services, ICES, Behavioral Health and the Probation Department. We thank you all and ask that you keep the referrals coming. – Nancy Andrade

CHILD CARE CENTER:

The campus child care center serves low income families first, who have a verified need (education, employment, job/home searching, incapacitation).

Families may call Tiffeny or Anne at 588-5278 to be placed on our eligibility/waiting list. The program also serves as a lab school for students pursuing educational/career goals to work with children and families in some capacity. – Tiffeny Flies

DRAIL:

“DRAIL continues to regularly direct interested persons to the Special Programs at Columbia College.” – Mike Pierce

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE AND EDUCATION:

Foster Parent classes are being offered in April and May for anyone who is interested in becoming a licensed Foster Parent in Tuolumne, Mariposa, or Calaveras County.

Please contact Tiffeny at 588-5024 for more information. – Tiffeny Flies

TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSIT:



Tuolumne County Transit’s motto is, “We Go There, We Get You There”.

This is exactly how we hope the students of Columbia College view the service. For this to be the case, we need to provide convenient and efficient service to the College. Additionally, we need support from Columbia in helping to spread the word about this alternative.

A new project for the campus is to replace the existing transit shelter in front of the Manzanita Building with our standard shelter design which we believe is a much better fit for the College (photo attached). – Tyler Summerset

TUOLUMNE COUNTY BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH: ENRICHMENT CENTER

The new groups now at the Enrichment Center include (in order of newest to newer):

- College Readiness Group; Fridays 11-12

- Homeless Support; Tuesdays 10-11
- Eating Disorder Support; Thursdays 11-12
- Seeds of Hope Grief Group; Alternate Mondays 11-12

Groups in the works are a Re-Entry Group for those recently released from incarceration, an anti-stigma advocacy group, and there are special events/projects coming up as well. It is important to note that all groups are facilitated by people with lived experience (peer staff and/or peer volunteers) in that area. For example, the Homeless Support Group is facilitated by a peer who has been homeless, the Eating Disorder Support Group is facilitated by a peer who is in eating disorder recovery, etc.

Special events/projects on the horizon are Mental Health Awareness month in May-which will include a celebration and presentation at Board of Supervisors meeting. Possible coordination with NAMI for the NAMI walk in Sacramento.

The EC is working with the Master Gardeners on a Peace Garden for the patio/side yard area between the EC and the CWS/BH building next door. This project is in the planning stage. Work continues in our raised bed gardens; the winter vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, and squash) will be ready to harvest soon and the spring/summer crops will soon be planted also. Produce from the garden is integrated into the peer group's Healthy Eating class by coordinating with them when possible.

There will continue to be trainings in the area of peer support and integration of the public mental health system of peer staff for all of us in the peer support community here at TCBH.

The EC is always in need of donations of laundry soap and toiletries (including and especially personal hygiene products for both men and women).

If there are any questions with regard to any of the above, feel free to refer anyone else who may want more information to **Megan Mills, Enrichment Center Lead Peer Coordinator/BHW II, Tuolumne County Behavioral Health, (209) 533-7092** – Larry Hashman

TUOLUMNE ME-WUK TRIBAL TANF

The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is a program available through the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Social Services Department. TANF is a social services program that provides assistance to Native American families with children in Tuolumne, Calaveras and Stanislaus Counties. We offer a 5-year program supported by temporary financial assistance, with a foundation in educational incentives and work opportunities, to lead families to self-sufficiency. Traditional values and cultural awareness is our focus as we serve the Native community with a determination to support, educate and guide our clients along the path to self-sufficiency.

Tribal TANF Wellness Services

The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal TANF Program offers Wellness services for our TANF cash aid clients and Native American communities within our service areas. The focus of the prevention department is to provide educational workshops and activities that will strengthen life skills, healthy decision making and reinforce the Native American culture towards self-sufficiency and stronger family bonds.

Tribal TANF Career Development

The Career Development Program offers Work Readiness and Life Skills classes to TANF participants, as well as, career assessment, OJT and WEX opportunities. Approved Work Activities include: Native American cultural related education and training activities, small business/ micro enterprise training and other self-sufficiency focused activities.

Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal TANF

Phone: 844-303-TANF

www.mewuk-TribalTANF.com

TribalTANF@mewuk.com

ADDITIONAL UPDATES (3/31/16)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health Newsletter is now available on the Tuolumne County Network of Care website. Please click on the link below to open and view the April newsletter. You can still save the newsletter to your computer, and send the link along to family, friends and colleagues.

<http://tuolumne.networkofcare.org/content/client/176/BH-newsletter-April-2016.pdf>