

Educator Preparation Program Clinical Advisory Council

Formal Report for 2022-2023

Eastern's Clinical Advisory Council met on June 14, 2022, and will convene in April and July 2023. The council includes teachers, administrators, and alums representing the Early Childhood, Physical Education, Elementary, and Secondary programs. Additionally, full-time EPP faculty engaged in the meetings the Coordinator for Educational and Clinical Experience facilitated. Representatives from Coventry, Manchester, Mansfield, Norwich, Tolland, and Windham participate; membership characterizes the urban, rural, and suburban demographics where Eastern candidates engage in clinical experiences. Noteworthy is the dedication and commitment to Eastern candidates among the membership. Each district member serves as a cooperating teacher or host administrator for multiple years, attesting to the partnership with Eastern. During introductions, members expounded Eastern's support of candidates, cooperating teachers, and excellence among candidates and supervisors.

The June meeting was the first on-campus post-pandemic session. The agenda focused on strengthening existing partnerships, improving assessment for initial clinical experiences, and reconfiguring the committee to include candidates and alums. The group reviewed prior revisions to the clinical assessment that will be shared with supervisors and full-time faculty for additional modification and approval. A significant part of the meeting reviewed ways to support mentors and cooperating teachers in districts, building upon workshops offered during 2021-2022 for host teachers. Members contributed ideas about assisting in developing subcommittees to design and implement professional development or workshops for new cooperating teachers.

The clinical assessment changes were reviewed, and due to time constraints, follow-up feedback was online. As of March 2023, supervisors have added revisions for the clinical evaluation, and the updates will be reviewed at the April meeting. Prior revisions focused on culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy; current revisions were related to skills and competencies most aligned with early clinical assignments in preparation for student teaching.

The committee also communicates online to continue dialogue and liaison work with other faculty in their districts. The coordinator encouraged members to speak with other host teachers to acquire ongoing feedback for Eastern and share the goals of the committee and the Education Department with their colleagues. Since the June session, members have provided feedback, served as resources to other mentors, and collaborated with Eastern's Office of Educational and Clinical Experience to expand the number of placements in each district; ten to twenty (or greater) candidates assigned to each district evidence the expansion of clinical assignments in their respective districts.

During April, the Clinical Advisory Committee will be realigning membership and reviewing goals for 2023-2024.

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