

Self-Study

2024

Center for Community Collaboration (CCC)

- Melanie Horn Mallers, PhD, Director
- Functions currently via the College of Health and Human Development
- Contact information – 657-278-3890, mhornmallers@fullerton.edu, EC 456
- Year established: Below is some history of the CCC to better explain when it was officially established.

The Center for Community Collaboration (CCC) began as CSUF's Center for Collaboration for Children, which operated at CSUF from 1991-2001 under the direction of Sid Gardner. Upon the retirement of Sid Gardner in 2001, the College of Health and Human Development (CHHD) and University Extended Education (UEE) formed a partnership to continue building on his legacy and renamed the center, The Center for Community Collaboration. Established as part of the CHHD, the CCC continues to be a major change catalyst, both locally and statewide, for universities and communities to embrace inter-professional education, community collaboration and results based accountability. In 2002, Michelle Berelowitz was appointed as director, and under her direction, CCC began to establish itself as an organization on campus.

- Year of last review: Unknown
- Submitted: 4-10-2024

Mission and Goals

The mission of The Center for Community Collaboration (CCC) is to strengthen communities through reciprocal collaboration with public agencies and community-based organizations through the cooperative activities of the College of Health and Human Development. CCC focuses on the ever-evolving education and practice needs of the community.

We are committed to achieving the following goals:

- Opportunities for enhanced professional development and inter-professional collaboration;
- Applied scholarship, research, and dissemination of results;
- Community capacity building and technical assistance.

While the CCC had a turnover in leadership in 2020 and has not been very active post-COVID, we recently conducted a thorough needs assessment of nearly forty Human Services fieldwork/service learning sites. This survey was designed to build stronger relationships with HUSR fieldwork sites and better understand the challenges and barriers our sites face. Our findings indicate that most sites need support regarding service provision, program evaluation, and staff education/leadership. It is the intention of the CCC to disseminate this information to the CCC leadership team, comprised of HHD faculty representing Human Services, Child and Adolescent Studies, Kinesiology, and Public Health, and to then create opportunities for HHD faculty to conduct research, education and service. Through strengthening these partnerships, it is also the goal to increase the number of internships required for many HHD students to graduate. For example, students in Human Services are required to complete 3, 120-hour internships; by expanding the number of possible sites and by creating more intentional internship-related experiences that align with the goals of their majors, our students will be better prepared to meet the needs of the communities they chose to work with. This includes working with those who are under-resourced and/or disadvantaged. As such, the CCC is committed to providing opportunities to faculty and students to build life-long curiosity, dedication to research and education, and an ethical commitment to equity and social justice. These efforts and goals align with the University and the College of HHD. For example, the CCC is committed to providing lifelong learning, promoting the values of equity and inclusivity, and supporting local Orange County agencies and businesses to better meet the needs of their clients, as well as creating opportunities to enhance research, interdisciplinary research, and reciprocal community engagement.

Activities

As indicated above, with the change of leadership and the impact of COVID, under my leadership over the last 4-5 years, there has been little movement. We did establish our leadership team, rewrote our mission and goals, and conducted the needs assessment. With the support and guidance of the Dean, it is our intention to put into place our intended goals and begin forging stronger connections with community partners. I am not aware of documented activities that took place through the Center between 2017-2020, prior to my leadership.

Organizational Structure and Governance

At this point, while CCC has an established leadership team, with guidance from the Dean, we would like to create an action plan for the next 5 years which will include conversations about organization and governance, as well as action plans for reporting.

Resources and Sustainability

Currently, the CCC receives no funding and has no additional resources or sources of support. With support of the college, perhaps assigned time for the director or a leadership team member to coordinate faculty- and student- community partner engagement will be possible. I would like also to propose that faculty who conduct research, lead seminars, and enhance service delivery via the CCC be recognized and able to “count” this for their tenure requirements. I also hope that the CCC receives support to facilitate interdisciplinary grants focused on serving OC communities.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Please see the Mission and Goals, and Activities sections.

Planning and Strategic Outlook

A strategic planning process has not yet been formalized. I would like for the leadership team to reconvene in Fall, 2024 (or summer 20024, perhaps with some stipends from the college) to discuss next steps.