



**BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY MEDICAL OFFICE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, February 19, 2015  
Time: 5:30 p.m. Scarpelli Hall, Room 217**

**Members Present:** Diana Morris, Vice Chair, PeaceHealth SW Medical Center; Clay Foster, MHA, Rebound Orthopedics; Diana Rogers, RHIT, PeaceHealth SW Medical Center; Sarah Emerson, CMA, The Vancouver Clinic; Dr. Michael Myers, PeaceHealth SW Medical Center; Leslie Hinton, Clark County Skills Center; Melanie Johnston, PeaceHealth

**Members Absent:** Stefanie Allum, Committee Chair, The Vancouver Clinic; Melissa Landers, The Vancouver Clinic; Katie Woods, The Vancouver Clinic

**Clark College:** Sunnie Elhart-Johnson, Department Head & Instructor; Barbara Benge, Director of Medical Assisting; Trish Seydlitz, Instructor; Dr. Donna Whitehouse, Instructor; Dr. Ericha Claire, Instructor; Becky Dent-Tan, Adjunct Instructor; Genevieve Howard, Dean, Workforce, Career & Technical Education; Brianna Lisenbee, Career Services; Andreana DiGiorgio, BMED Instructor/Secretary Sr., Advisory Committees

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The meeting was called to order by Diana Morris at 5:39 p.m. and introductions were made. Diana Rogers of PeaceHealth is retiring as of tomorrow.

*After the members reviewed the October 9, 2014 minutes, a motion was made to approve as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

**Office of Instruction Updates**

Andreana announced that the College is planning an advisory member recognition breakfast on March 18, 2015 from 7:30—9:00 a.m. Regional economist Scott Bailey will be guest speaker and will give an economic report on the state of Washington and also our region. She told the members to be watching for more information in the coming weeks and be sure to RSVP as a hot breakfast will be served.

**Director/Division Chair Report**

Sunnie thanked the members for coming this evening and reminded them of how important to the program and College they are.

**iBEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) update & ideas** – This is a program that takes students who don't have a GED and/or have lower educational status. Students come into programs needing some basic education paired with their interests. It is focused on vocational education. Typically, there are two teachers in the class. Instructor Dr. Shannon Brown and Dr. Donna Whitehouse have been working with the iBEST students and it is going well. They get thru the iBEST program and move forward into a Clark College program. They will get the same exact content in the courses but with extra help. Sunnie explained the core classes and how a student, iBEST students as well, can move into any of the health programs. i.e. phlebotomy, MA, etc. How are the students identified? The Compass scores tell us where a student is academically, in math, reading and English.

**AHIMA virtual lab.** Thank you, Dean Genevieve Howard, for helping with this. This lab is what they use in the RHIT programs. It comes with an encoder, EMR Software, etc. Sunnie is now looking for funding for this. We would like to see this for every student and will have a small course fee for each class offered so that it would offset the cost of the lab.

**RHIT-HIIM B&C grad.** The new programs are ready to start fall 2015. The RHIT—Sunnie said we can't call it RHIT because they do not graduate as RHIT's they must first sit for and pass the certification exam, so we're calling it HIIM, Health Information & Informatics Management. After the student has completed this degree they can sit for the RHIT certification. The Clark process is done and all approved. Now it's going to the state for approval. The HIIM degree will be an AA degree. Sunnie added that billing and coding will now be a 2 year AA degree.

**Externs:** Sunnie reported that the externship contract with Legacy Health Systems stated that they will take externs in all but BMED. Last summer term Sunnie worked with their Legal Department and an addendum was put into the contract. Legacy is no longer taking RHIT externs from across the river and they now want Clark students. One person at Legacy said, "My supervisor and others say these are the best trained and hardest working students ever seen." Ten students are currently there and there are two students who are in need of an extern site.

Next, Sunnie spoke about President Obama's State of the Union quote, where he said upcoming high paying jobs include "...Coding, Nursing and Robotics." Sunnie showed the committee a flyer that Trish put together for an upcoming job fair. Many jobs are listed on the internet and on the back of the flyer. Members felt that the flyers would be more effective with a medical or other patriotic picture rather than President Obama.

### **Work Plan**

The committee reviewed the work plan and made changes or updates where needed.

Number 3, Patient advocacy was discussed. Sunnie said that we are going to hold off on patient advocacy for now for several reasons but will continue working toward adding this to the BMED programs. The Affordable Health Care Act recommends using patient advocates for high risk, low income patients, helping them get to available medical services but Sunnie wants to go with a level-2, which would include MA's and work with a broader scope of patients. Dr. Ericha Clare has been to a few trainings and has seen what the state of New York is doing as the patient advocacy curriculum is unfolded. Sunnie said a grant is available to help move away from the way colleges tend to do things separately and will help fund colleges to work together on this new profession. Five colleges are working together to design the curriculum and 13 community colleges are on board. They could be called Patient Navigators; Sunnie would like to see them called "Patient Navigation and Advocacy." Sunnie asked the committee if they see a need. Diana Morris believes there will be a need. Sunnie said two hospitals have said they will need 60 patient advocates/navigators in the next year. More to discuss at the next meeting. Ongoing.

Number 4, Review of MAERB update. Barbara spoke about her volunteering with MAERB. She would like to obtain a list of committee members who can attend an important luncheon in August. Leslie Hinton, Diana Morris, and possibly Diana Rogers.

Number 5, Member recruitment. Sunnie said she is working to have someone from Legacy Health sit on the committee.

### **Old Business**

Equipment needs. Katie Woods of The Vancouver Clinic, was able to donate many ICD-9 books. This is saving the students a lot of money and Sunnie was able to teach coding to the students, saving them money at the same time.

Diana Rogers, who is retiring from her position at PeaceHealth is also stepping down from the BMED Advisory Committee after many years of service. Sunnie thanked Diana and presented her with a certificate glass penguin,

which represents Clark College. Diana said she began her partnership with the Clark College BMED program when John Clausen began this committee. Diana is an original advisory committee member. She said she has enjoyed having the opportunity to give input and watch the program grow. She added that she is thrilled that we continue to have face to face teaching and that we are now working on an RHIT based program. Sunnie told Diana she will always be an honorary member of the committee and is welcome to attend future meetings any time she'd like.

**Next Meeting**

The committee will review the bylaws and identify and prioritize a 3-year equipment list at the spring meeting.

Sunnie thanked the committee for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

After the adjournment, the members took a tour of the MA Lab.