

**EMT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday 2nd November 2016 \* 12.30-1.30pm

Legacy Hospital, Salmon Creek WA – 6th Floor Classroom

**Members Present**: Deanna Richardson, AMR; Shaun Ford, NCEMS; Kendon Fisher, SphereMD; Pete Adams, Vancouver Fire Dept.; Zita Wilten, SW Regional EMT and Trauma Care Council; Ron Stewart, Cowlitz EMS

**Clark College:** Holly Edwins, Lead Instructor; Paul Bennett, NWRTC Instructor; James Eagon, NWRTC Instructor; Brenda Walstead, Interim Dean of Business & Health Sciences; Nichola Farron, Secretary Senior – Advisory Committees

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The meeting convened at 12.30.pm – this was the first meeting of the newly formed EMT Advisory Committee. Introductions were made.

Holly outlined the articulation agreement between the NWRTC and Clark College: half of the program enrollment comes from Clark.

Nichola then outlined the State requirements for Advisory Committees, including the need to establish committee officers and ensure are least 2 meetings are held per academic year.

Holly took a moment to talk more about the members of the Committee, which includes local chiefs, as well as graduates of the program who are now working in the industry.

Representing the SW Regional Council, Zita then spoke about the make-up of the regional organizations: the SW Washington region is the 6 southern counties along the river. The Council works on planning and coordination, as well as offering scholarships and funding for training. In addition, the council acts as a liaison point between the state and various groups.

Pass Rates and Statistics

Holly shared exam results with the group, and provided the national statistics for comparison. Of the recent 31 students who undertook the national registry exam through the program, 24 passed on the first attempt. As such Clark College is well above the national standard.

In addition, recent 3rd quarter students had a 90% pass rate on the first attempt.

The Committee then discussed how there was a greater risk of attrition if students do not pass on the first attempt: quite often they do not come back to retake. Kendon outlined how this had occurred within his peer group: it was difficult for those who did not succeed initially to find the motivation to study without their fellow students, and they often drop out of the program.

Zita also continued that there are statistics to support students taking the exam as early as possible: she commended Holly and the team for having such high success rates, and noted that there was a zero rate for failing all 6 attempts. Holly continued that, in the future, the committee could discuss methods to ensure students test quicker.

Shaun shared that the State requirement for testing centers is to maintain a 70% success rate overall in the 5 year ages.

The committee then discussed the difficulties of the written test for students: it was agreed some of the phrasing was deliberately confusing to challenge students.

Current Program Structure

Brenda and Holly talked about the current Certificate of Completion, which is based on accelerated teaching for a total of 16-17 credits.

Program information can be found at: <http://www.clark.edu/academics/catalog/2016/programs/index.php?id=96>

The committee then discussed the potential for expanding the degree to the Associates level. This would need to be structured over 2 quarters which would require a number of changes to the current set up. This could serve as a discussion topic for future meetings

Shaun discussed programs at other colleges: the extended format allows for the inclusion of other classes, for example driving.

Brenda shared that most students prefer the accelerated format. As graduates of the program, both Deanna and Kendon highlighted that the speed of completion was a factor in their choice. In comparison with the Portland Community College 6-month program, Clark offers a 3-month course.

Student Placements/ Ride-Outs

Pete discussed his interaction with the students from the program during their assigned ride-outs. He outlined how the Vancouver Fire Dept. works to ensure that students are paired with busier stations to give more experience.

He suggested that there would be a benefit to students coming with a ‘task book’ to complete in addition to the current evaluation form. He outlined that perhaps 5 tasks could be listed for completion on each ride out. He also talked about the different levels of student confidence in terms of pushing themselves forward to participate. Deanna continued that it was easy to determine which students will be engaged in the tasks and be enthusiastic about involvement.

Action Item: Holly will work on a ‘task book’/revised evaluation form for the committee to review at the next meeting.

The Committee then discussed option for consistent exercises for students on ride-out, for example the benefit of doing a full kit check. Kendon linked this to the importance of realizing that equipment in the field will not necessarily replicate that of the classroom: students need to be prepared for the difference. There was also a conversation about changing protocols for CPR that will need to be integrated into teaching, and also explained to students.

Committee Officers

Following discussion, Shaun Fox volunteered for the role of Committee Chair, with Pete Adams volunteering as Vice Chair. This was agreed upon by the Committee.

Next Meeting Date

Nichola will work with Holly and Zita to arrange the next meeting, most likely in March of 2017.

Action Item: Nichola will prepare a draft of Committee Bylaws for review at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron