

**ADDICTION COUNSELING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Friday April 28, 2017 \* 11.30am-1.30pm**

**Hanna Hall 117**

**Members Present** Lynette Tracy (Vice Chair), Lifeline Connections; Jared Sanford, Lifeline Connections; Justene Dillard, Helping Professionals; Jolene Feeney (representing Susan Gebhardt), Recovery Village of Ridgefield

**Members Absent**: : Sandi Kendrick, (Committee Chair) Clark County Public Health; Christine Gjesvold, Daybreak Youth Services; Angela Ball, Daybreak Youth Services; Chris Thompson, Clark County; Roberta Morgan, Western Psychological Services; Nicole Laverne, representing Salvation Army; Scott Sims, Columbia Treatment Services

**Guest:** Steven Mitchell (Student) – *The Independent* (final section of meeting)

**Clark College**: Miles Jackson, Dean of SOFA; Marcia Roi, Department Head; Nichola Farron, Secretary Senior - Advisory Committees

Committee vice chair Lynette Tracy called the meeting to order at 11.51am and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

As a quorum was not present, the minutes of February 10 2017 were submitted for approval by e-vote. *As of May 16 2017, the minutes have been approved.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet again on Friday, October 6 2017 at 11.30am

Discussion of potential BASHS (Baccalaureate of Applied Sciences in Human Services) degree

Marcia outlined to the committee that the Department has received the approval to move forward with a feasibility analysis for the proposed BAS degree. A Statement of Need has been authored and edited following approval from the Instructional Planning Team (IPT) at the College.

Marcia continued with a description of the proposed structure. During the last meeting, a member of the committee (Dr. LaVerne) commented on the difficulties of hiring counsellors who have taken more than one addictions class during their training, and the need for greater inclusion of this area. As such, Marcia has devised and 18-credit core requirement, focusing on the ACED components needed. Following completion of the core courses, the options would then be to focus on either CDP (Chemical Dependency Professional) or Human Services. There would be 90 total credits for the degree. Marcia is currently in the process of working on clinical affiliations for future field placements.

Miles spoke to the fact that students do not necessarily need to be in receipt of a degree before they start the BASHS pathway; however, there needs to be a clearly defined admission and selection process based on an objective criteria.

Marcia continued that the new BASAM (Bachelor of Applied Science and Applied Management) is struggling to fill their cohort, and to avoid this the BASHS degree should be inclusive with something of an open-door policy. The option should be given for students to ‘self-select’ out of the program if they are unable to complete coursework etc. Her inclination is to avoid a cohort model, such as that at EWU, as then students are made to wait for it to fill before progressing and the format is not always user-friendly to older, working students.

There will be three ‘feeder’ tracks coming into the BASHS umbrella.

Lynette asked for clarification on the ‘human services’ title and expressed concern that this has a broad definition. Marcia explained that this was a deliberately broad title to include specializations, for example, prevention, gambling etc. and it would house the Recovery Coach component.

Justene agreed that there needs to be a broad spectrum within the proposed degree.

Lynette continued that the Human Services title could be regarded as misleading when the focus of the degree will actually be addiction. Having spent a number of years in the Human Services field, she continued that certain employers such as YWCA would not necessarily be looking for an addiction specialization from a Human Services employee. As such, she stressed the need for clarification of the content to students, especially in view of the need for educated practitioners.

Marcia explained that currently, the ACED program does not have a class that is full, with enrollment down to 119 after a previous high of 262 students. Marcia attributed this to a misconception that remains that the program is closing that arose after the most recent budget discussions and course elimination process. In addition, she stressed the growing issue of students taking online classes for for-profit qualifications. There are growing problems in the industry of people not fully understanding the field or license requirements, and who are not properly educated in the area of treatment they enter.

Lynette went on to outline that the degree should be accessible to those who want to work, for example, at the DSHS or as case managers if they wish to, so the addiction component should not be too restrictive.

Marcia confirmed that the structure of the degree would allow for specialization whilst also incorporating general AAs.

Justene noted that she believed the degree would be popular; if a new student wanted a BAS in human services they may not opt for addiction specialization. What will be important will be presenting a portion of the degree so that it does not seem that addictions are the inevitable outcome. Marcia continued that there are lessons to be learned from other programs, and indicated that there can be adaptation to degree requirements as needed.

Jared spoke about what he identified as two important principles for consideration in the discussion. The first is that there a system wide issue of a lack of substance abuse disorder education in health care and education in general. The second was that, as an industry employer, it is s extremely important that people going into the field have adequate education to do justice to people they are serving. Jared noted that he is opposed to the approach of getting more CDPs by ‘watering down’ requirements to qualify. As a provider, this trickles down to the patient care: without education and experience there are poor outcomes at the clinic level. Getting social workers to get CDPs does not address issue of having enough people in the field to meet demand; also, social workers with CDPs will still work at social work center and not at an addiction center so the shortage is not addressed.

It was noted that a new facility will soon be opening in Bonneville with 200 beds, with a three-shift system requiring at least 50 Counsellors. Jolene cautioned that a recent audit at her facility had highlighted the need for CDPs as opposed to mental health professionals.

Marcia has surveyed at least 500 students, including those in psychology and sociology classes to gauge interest in the degree. In addition, she will survey the committee members and industry partners.

The deadline for the survey results is May 5 for the IPT.

Miles said that a question that will arise is what the advantage is for organizations and Counsellors to having a baccalaureate level qualification in terms of employability and advancement.

Jolene stated that the Ridgefield facility prefers employees to have a Master’s degree, which would require the BA foundation.

Justene continued that having a BA means an employer knows a candidate has a higher level of education and appreciation of broader spectrum of issues, e.g. mental health, human services. In addition, there is a recognition of the level of commitment needed to be a BA student. Sometimes, the biggest issue is not only whether someone is a good counsellor, but also whether they have case management skills: paperwork, clinical writing etc. in addition, they have a knowledge and appreciation for the wider research field.

Lynette stated that, for Lifeline, holding a Bachelor’s in any of the human services specializations means you have undertaken a good practicum, which gives people more confidence as new employees.

Jared said whilst a Masters is the preferred degree requirement, holding a BA communicates that a person can communicate, write, read and comprehend important skills to be successful counselor. It illustrates that there is an established level of competency. Recipients of BAs also receive higher wages.

Marcia detailed that, following the deadline of May 5 for the Statement of Need to be submitted to IPT, the proposal would then go to the State by July 18. Other Colleges will then have the opportunity to review. There is some concern that WSU may have some opposition, as they currently do not accept the existing credits.

She has also connect with the MSW program leader at PSU to discuss transfer/continuation options. The PSU program is particularly popular with 900 applications for the 300 opening every year. There is a hope to ‘build backwards’ from the curriculum to demonstrate how the BASHS can lead on to a Masters qualification. There is a hope that a partnership will develop with that particular program.

If the Statement of Need is successful, then the proposed curriculum will need to be written by November 20.

Lynette made a motion that the Advisory Committee support the continued work of the Department in seeking approval for the proposed Baccalaureate of Applied Sciences in Human Resources (BASHS).

This was seconded by Justene.

As a quorum was not present, the motion was submitted for approval by e-vote. *As of May 8, the motion has been approved.*

Budget Cuts

Jared asked about the potential impact to the ACED program from further budget cuts. Miles explained that Instruction is reviewing 1 to 2 percent budget cuts across the College as a whole. However, a baccalaureate program would provide higher revenue and he would emphasize that the two-year program needs to be sustainable feeder program for that path.

Jared noted that, as an employer, it remains troubling that the ACED program is constantly cut and is threatened by College budget reductions: instead, there needs to be increased funding levels to meet the need of industry.

At the end of the meeting, the committee was briefly interviewed by *The Independent* reporter Steven Mitchell about the importance of addiction education in the face of the growing opioid epidemic and a shortage of addiction professionals.

Lynette adjourned the meeting at 1.15pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron