



ACED -MINUTES
May 9, 2025, at 12:00 PM
Clark College HHL Room 119

Members Present: Laurie Ellett (Committee Chair) CEO, Helping Professionals Wellness Center; Kami McKinzey, Clinical Operations Director, Xchange Behavioral Health Agency; Patrick Farley, Lead Counselor, Columbia Treatment Services

Guests: De Spidle, Sara Gongora Garcia, Hollie Morrow

Members Absent: Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager, Workforce SW WA; Karin LaValla, Business Services Consultant, WorkSource; Heather Talbott, Program Director, Lifeline Connections; Kayla Hawley, SUD Director, Columbia River Mental Health Services; Elizabeth Lorenzo, Clinical Supervisor, Lifeline Connections; Bethany Neal, Recovery Village Ridgefield, Clinical Director

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Sarah Blanchette, ACED Department Chair, Clark College; Don Ludwig, Sociology Dept. Chair/Behavioral Sciences Division Chair, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Chris Thompson, Advisor, Clark College; Aly Gray, ACED Professor, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:06 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on November 7, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on February 7, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Don shared that the college is undergoing credentialing for state-wide evaluations.

Don acknowledged Sarah's dedication to her tenure process and the program while maintaining the success of her tenure development.

OUTCOMES AND CREDENTIALING

Sarah shared that the program is gearing up for fall credentialing. The program is seeking outcomes for the program. The fall advisory meeting will evaluate the outcomes to align with workplace updates, standards, and expectations.

Sarah discussed the current offerings:

- AAS-associates of applied science
- AA-transfer degree

Sarah noted that the certificate of completion to obtain the SUDP is also the pathway for professionals with a license who want to obtain their SUDP.

Sarah welcomed committee feedback on equity, outcomes, and classroom examples for assignments. The committee can prepare to sample what is occurring in the classroom for feedback and guidance.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Chris shared that several students are graduating this spring by late May, and the program will have an accurate number. There has been more stability with students remaining in the program. The program has been able to fill classes, and there is one person on the waitlist. Additionally, students are taking more ACED courses per quarter and succeeding.

Sarah shared that this is the program's first time seeing a need to duplicate courses since classes are filling up quickly. The program wants to ensure the quality of the classes and plan strategically for faculty workload and efficient teaching.

Laurie asked if intern placements will increase?

Sarah discussed that this includes increased student interns.

Don discussed a recent meeting with Dr. Brown and Sarah Blanchette to advocate for more support for the program and proposed another tenure position or staff positions.

WORKPLAN

Elizabeth discussed the goals and purposes of the work plan. The committee reviewed the 2024-25 work plan.

Sarah discussed adding timelines to the progression CP track.

ASAM

Sarah discussed infrastructure needs, the new ASAM, and how the program plans to implement it. Patrick is in favor of the new implementation with the fourth edition. Patrick stated that students will need to be aware of the third edition and a balance of both with the transition.

Holly is in favor of the new ASAM implementation, and informing interns with the updated ASAM knowledge will benefit them in work settings.

Sarah announced that Jim Jensen is teaching the professors about the new ASAM.

Kami is in favor of the implementation of the new ASAM.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Sarah welcomed committee feedback on student progress within the workplace.

Sarah discussed student centered approach on field placements. Sarah invited the committee to provide small descriptions of their organizations and business affiliation to provide students with descriptions the faculty would be able to represent and send students to the place with alignment. Sarah discussed paid field placements. The program is trying to find ways to provide stipends. They will collaborate with WorkSource.

ACED EVENING CLASSES

Sarah discussed expanding ACED classes to the daytime and the program experiments with this idea. The program is interested but would like committee feedback.

Sarah discussed the SUD-P professional track and discussed processes on how to market that program.

De shared that the Department of Health is offering free training on the new ASAM that provides a variety of tiers, and they do fill up quickly.

Sarah discussed the changes within the Department of Health's infrastructure. The program has streamlined the SUD-P track. The Department of Health has changed policies, they will now be verifying credentials on the supervisors, and the students will have to show proof that they are enrolled in a program with light requirements. Sarah reported that there are some improvements. Nichole noted the advantages of the SUD-P.

Patrick is not in favor of the SUD-P, a lot of the education is missing and removing the time limit of the training.

Laurie noted there is not a lot of accountability and simple internal processes and that folks should take an ethics course.

Sarah noted prioritizing an ethics course in the first year if the committee has any suggestions.

Laurie noted that pharmacology is important for student knowledge.

The committee approved the work plan.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Nicole shared that King County Behavioral Health has immediate openings for substance use and mental health services following the opening of their new building. They offer a 3–6-month residential program.

- Acceptance/Insurance: Kami asked about the service area. Nicole confirmed they accept residents statewide and take state insurance.

ACED Coursework and Special Populations:

Sarah inquired if the ACED coursework focuses on special populations. She confirmed that courses do review topics like family systems, co-occurring disorders, and adolescence.

The program will evaluate advocating for more focus on special populations moving forward.

Sarah recommended focusing specifically on the homeless population regarding addiction and recovery. She stressed the importance of using SUD-P assessments and meeting the community where they are to address the persistent homelessness crisis.

- **Action Item:** The committee will schedule a roundtable discussion with faculty members specifically about the homelessness population focus.

Addictions Counseling Education
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 9, 2025

Kami discussed the importance of students recognizing their biases regarding the homelessness population, noting that some clinicians have strong reactions. She emphasized the need to address this reality of the field with students. Kami also welcomed students to shadow and observe their work.

Criminal Justice Career Fair: Aly announced the Criminal Justice Career Fair will be held on May 14, 2025, from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM in the Foster Auditorium.

Graduation Celebration

Sarah invited committee members to the graduation party for recent graduates.

- Date/Time: June 14, 2025, at 4:30 PM
- Location: Clark College Main Campus, PUB 161 (Student Lounge)

Advisory Committee Thank You Event

Sarah announced and welcomed all members to attend the upcoming Advisory Committee Thank You reception.

- Date/Time: June 5, 2025, from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores