

**ADDICTION COUNSELING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Friday, February 19th, 2021\* 11.30am-1.00pm**

**Zoom Online**

**Members Present** Lynette Tracy (Committee Chair), Lifeline Connections; Ken Burton (Vice Chair), Western Psychological Services; Katie Moore, Daybreak Youth Services; Sean Moore, Workforce SW

**Members Absent**: Bobbi Bjork, Rainier Springs; Rebecca Bradley, Rainier Springs; Kate Budd, Council for the Homeless; Laurie Ellett, Helping Professionals Wellness Center; Christine Gjesvold, Daybreak Youth Services; Ashley Iverson in lieu of Steven Harris, Serenity Lane; Stephanie Kocker, Community Services NW; Sandi Kendrick, Clark County Public Health; Larissa Klein, Rainier Springs; Aaron J. Larson, American Behavioral Health Systems; Michael Miller, Community Services NW; Roberta Morgan, Western Psychological Services; Jared Sanford, Lifeline Connections; Britney Sorensen, Cowlitz Tribal Treatment; Douglas Uy, Choice Wellness Center

**Clark College**: Marcia Roi, Department Head; Chris Thompson, Clark County/Instructor/Advisor; Angela Ball, Professor; Miles Jackson, Dean of Sciences and Fine Arts; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

Lynette Tracy called the meeting to order at 11:39am and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

*The minutes of November 15th, 2019 were presented for approval; as quorum was not present, the minutes were sent out for electronic approval. As of March 24th, 2021 the minutes have been approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will meet again **Friday, May 21st, 2021 at 11:30am.**

**COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marcia Roi talked about an article that was published in The Columbian. This definitely created some buzz about the BASHS degree. Registration is occurring right now.

The online learning is creating a lot of anxiety. Some students don’t have the equipment to perform. Marcia has been trying to do more zoom meetings outside of the schedules classes.

Lifeline Connections sponsored a full ride scholarship for three years for a student from a diverse background. There will be a selection process. She has been getting requests for Spanish and Russian speaking students. She has also been asked for students of color, LGTBQ, more females/males, etc. for the agencies.

ACED is very popular. They have had to put in extra sessions in both fall and winter. They have cancelled group therapy twice, but will try again in the summer. There are currently 8 people on the waitlist for summer.

Miles Jackson stated that most courses will still be online except courses that include labs. Fall will include more face-to-face classes, but it has yet to be determined how much. It will be a slow build up.

**HOUSE BILL 1311 ON APPRENTICESHIPS**

WACASE will meet next Friday. They will establish apprenticeships for substance abuse counselors and eliminate the programs. Marcia Roi talked to the Department of Health Ted Dale who is right under the Director James Chaney. The problem is that there are not enough people to fill the need. These apprenticeships will eliminate the need for college programs altogether. It would become incumbent on the agencies to get the students ready for the test. NWATTC is lobbying against this change. The Washington Association of NAADAC has also been lobbying against this.

Lynette Tracy asked if this is an additional alternative or is it replacing the college programs. Marcia stated that per the conversation she had with Ted Dale, he confirmed that it will replace college. Chris Thompson clarified that it has been introduced on the WA state website but has not yet gone to committee.

Marcia has spoken with a few students and they do not believe that this is a good idea. A treatment agency will not have the time to take the whole curriculum and do an on the job training.

Sean Moore spoke on working with a lot of healthcare apprenticeships. There has always been a college partner that runs the curriculum piece. The students are enrolled in the courses to obtain the skill sets and then is an earn-and-learn program while they are in the facility. Apprenticeships are done in partnerships with a specific college to either earn or not earn college credit. For some learning styles, the apprenticeship is a good learning process. For others, college is a good learning process. As this has only been introduced, there is an opportunity to have a conversation of a partnership to still run a college program as well as meeting the demand for apprenticeships. The overarching question is what is the weight at the end of the year for somebody that is going down this pathway; is it a living wage? He agreed that it’s a mistake to REPLACE the college program.

Marcia responded saying that students have to have 2500 hours for their trainee credentials.

Sean Moore suggested finding out if anyone is currently working with a community college to develop a conversation around a curriculum and if not, jump in and be a willing participant. Marcia Roi explained that you currently have to have a minimum of 45 credits to cover 23 competencies. For Clark College, we have 51 credits. So this could be broken out in which of these competencies could be mastered onsite with an employer through an apprenticeship and which ones need to have classroom participation or both. The ACED program now has field placements.

The committee decided to do more research on the bill before taking any action. However, all of the members agreed that this is not a good idea to completely replace the college program. The education side is very important.

**PEER COUNSELORS**

Marcia Roi wanted the Peer Counselors credentialed. The Healthcare Authority still has the curriculum. Right now, mental healthcare counselors are credentialed as being agency affiliated counselors. But drug and alcohol peer counselors are not credentialed. They have been going through the state doing the CCAR training. They get a certificate, but there is no test. There needs to be some accountability. Healthcare Authority will retain the curriculum, but the Department of Health is going to require 1000 hours of internship and an exam. Can the community colleges teach that curriculum to create a certificate for students? If Healthcare Authority wants jurisdiction of that curriculum, can colleges have access to it and give students prior learning credit to bring them into ACED?

Lynette Tracy asked about the supervision course and if it’s still a possibility. Marcia responded saying that she can offer it as a special topics course if there’s a need. Angela Ball can teach it in the fall and online. Miles Jackson agreed that if we are serving the need in the community and there are enough students so that it is financially liable, college credit is good.

**BASHS FIELD PLACEMENT SITE SUGGESTIONS**

Marcia Roi stated that there is plenty of ACED field placement sites. She has four field placement sites for BASHS. If anyone knows of anyone else for site suggestions, please let Marcia know. Serenity Lane is closing their Vancouver office. Recovery Village seems to be opening things back up.

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Lynette Tracy spoke on closures in Camas and Centralia. The other offices are all up and running and doing well. Mental health has been struggling to stay maintained. Outpatient, inpatient, and detox have all stayed open through COVID.

Ken Burton announced that Roberta Morgan stepped down as Program Manager. Western Psychological is acquisitioning to sell to a company called LifeStance. The Vancouver Site has two counselors. There is potential for growth.

Katie Moore explained that they have a consistent flow with about 20 on the wait list. They are hiring for another counselor. Everything is still remote for outpatient. Angela Ball also announced that they are hiring a couple SUD counselors as well as a mental health therapist and case managers. Additionally, outpatient is still telehealth. The one positive is that they have been utilizing all of their resources and locations. They have been able to provide more access and services.

Sean Moore is the Healthcare Senior Project Manager for Workforce SW WA. His job is to take federal funds that are allotted to SW WA and put them to work in healthcare in terms of training and placement of job seekers into healthcare roles and working with employers to identify pathways like internships and on the job training programs.

Lynette Tracy adjourned the meeting at 1:02pm.

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters