

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 9th, 2020**

**Time: 5:30 pm – 7.00pm \* Zoom Online (Audio/Video)**

**Members Present**: Norman Berg (Committee Chair), The Vancouver Clinic; Rachelle Davis, Student; Ray Maly, Community Member; Sean Moore, Workforce SW; Stefanie Tolliver, The Vancouver Clinic;

**Members Absent**: Morgan Berg, Lifeline Connections; April Gapsch, PeaceHealth; Laurie Helms, Nurse Practitioner; Pepper Miller, Alumni; Lacie Thompson (Vice Chair), PeaceHealth;

**Clark College**: Sarah Kuzera, Director of MA; Olga Lyubar, Instructor for HIM\Dr. Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; Andreana DiGiorgio, Program Specialist – MA/HIM; Renee Schiffhauer, Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

Committee Chair Norman Berg called the meeting to order at 5:36pm and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

*The minutes of November 14th, 2019 were presented: Norman Berg made a motion to approve. Sean Moore seconded and was unanimously approved.*

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The committee selected their next meeting date: **Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 5:00pm.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brenda Walstead/Sarah Kuzera made the following announcements:

The new President Dr. Karin Edwards will begin at the beginning of July. She is from Portland Community College.

Phase 2 of the Phased Reopening due to COVID 19 will allow in person labs, which will hopefully start in summer. Brenda Walstead has been working hard trying to figure out how to make sure that students are able to come in safely, with proper PPE, temperature checks are done properly, social distancing, etc.

Sarah Kuzera talked about some students being able to participate in a PPE distribution project. Some of the HIM students volunteered as well to help. The Vancouver Clinic worked with some nurse educators to determine some competencies that the students could get checked off on towards their practicum hours. Students are not able to do the full 160 hours, but we can deduct a few hours for performing the PPE distributions.

Brenda Walstead thanked her faculty for adjusting to the situation so seamlessly and working so hard to get things organized. She also thanked advising for their work.

**COVID-19 AND LAB**

Sarah Kuzera spoke on the students completing their didactic portion of their clinicals and lab classes online for spring. The plan for phase 2 will hopefully include in person labs.

**2020 COHORT AT THE VANCOUVER CLINIC**

Sarah Kuzera stated that there are 19 of 24 students that are confirmed to be placed at The Vancouver Clinic. The remaining four out of the five students will most likely be placed there too.

**NEW MA PREFIXES/COHORT MODEL**

Sarah Kuzera discussed the teach out of the BMED and Health Education Occupations’ including prefixes being changed to MA (Medical Assisting), HIM (Health Information Management), and AH (Allied Health) prefixes.

The new cohort model will have new MA/AH prefixes beginning in summer 2020. The first actual cohort will begin in spring of 2021.

Ray Maly asked what the benefit of a student doing MA in the revised curriculum is. Sarah Kuzera explained that they finish a lot faster and are accepted into the program sooner because they are taking actual MA courses rather than BMED or HEOC coursework. Also, for the AAT, students will do a rotation in phlebotomy, which gives them an opportunity to test for that certification.

As of now, enrollment is unknown. Many students are waiting to apply. Some may claim to be a MA/HIM/Allied Health student, however unless they actually apply, the program won’t know. Tentatively, there are about 25 students who have shown interest. Unfortunately, many students do not go through their advisors who are always extremely helpful in guiding students through the processes required for enrollment, acceptance, retention, and completion.

**TEACH OUT OF BMED**

The teach out of the BMED cohort will begin in winter 2020 and finish in summer 2021. There are currently 8-12 students.

**OTHER UPDATES**

*Interviewing New Tenure Track Medical Assisting Instructor*

Sarah Kuzera mentioned that they are currently in the process and have narrowed it down to four applicants.

*Moving to WSU Vancouver Campus*

The MA program is moving to the WSU Vancouver campus, but there is not a confirmed timeframe. COVID changed plans a bit.

*Evening Cohort*

Sarah Kuzera has been working with The Vancouver Clinic who hires many of the program’s students. They recommend students that are in an administrative role at their organization to go through a different evening school (Concord?/Charter?). They would love it if students could complete the clinical portion in the evening through the Clark College MA program.

Norman Berg agreed that having that opportunity for the evening cohort would definitely help especially with the economic climate we’re in now.

Sean Moore stated that with the demand for MAs and the wages students are earning from the program once they graduate, it wouldn’t be a challenge to fill an evening cohort.

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Norman Berg stated that COVID did affect The Vancouver Clinic quite a bit. They put a pause on a lot of hiring of positions.

Sean Moore spoke on some industry updates in SW Washington. Rebound Orthopedics did a massive layoff at the beginning of March, however have recently starting rehiring them back as businesses start opening back up. Dentists/Dental hygienists/dental assistants represented three of the four top areas in healthcare. Legacy has decided not to have a summer RN program. PeaceHealth is still going ahead with their summer residency, but very limited. Kaiser is also going ahead with their summer residency, but again, very scaled back. The healthcare outlook for our area is starting to look up; people are reengaging. The messages on the statewide calls with healthcare employers are much more positive. It’s not as much crisis related, but more about sharing best practices, how schools can work together and how businesses can work together.

Ray Maly thanked the medical professionals in the community that have been so wonderful during this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters