



MEDICAL ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, November 3rd, 2022

*** Zoom Online (Audio/Video)**

Members Present: Norman Berg (Committee Chair), The Vancouver Clinic; Lynsey Benton, Student; April Gapsch, PeaceHealth; Ray Maly, Community Member; Sean Moore, Workforce SW

Members Absent: Morgan Berg, Lifeline Connections; April Gapsch, PeaceHealth; Laurie Helms, Nurse Practitioner; Karin LaValla, WorkSource; Pepper Miller, Alumni; Lacie Thompson (Vice Chair), PeaceHealth; Stefanie Tolliver, The Vancouver Clinic

Clark College: Sarah Kuzera, Director of MA; Andreana DiGiorgio, Program Specialist – Medical Assistant; Jessica Hash, Advising; Alejandra Herring, Instructor; Dr. Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees; Olga Lyubar

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of were approved as amended.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, March 9th, at 5:30pm via Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COLLEGE AND/OR DEPARTMENT

The college is almost ready to roll out the equity centered strategic plan and will go to the Board of Trustees next month. The equity centered strategic plan is currently open for community review. SueAnn will send out a link to the committee for the new plan. Brenda Walstead will be retiring, and this will be her final meeting. We have participated with middle school and high school students. This allowed students to see what kind of opportunities Clark College offered. Feedback from students was positive and the format was kept for the STEM-o-ween event. Lunch events have been planned with local schools to help connect K-12 students interested in health occupations to Clark College. Cascadia Tech is being considered for the next visit to help with recruitment from this location. The committee needs a provider member and a student member. The committee was asked to engage any providers they may know and recruit for the committee.

FUTURE CURRICULUM CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED

Professional Technical writing is being considered to be added as an alternative to Composition I. This will give students more options chose from in their degree completion. This could be approved as soon as the next curriculum meeting and incorporated into next fall's program.

APPROVED CURRICULUM CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED

Math for Medical Assistance was removed as a prerequisite for the Medical Assisting program. The class had become a barrier to entry to the program.

CURRENT DATA ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program had 27 graduates in 2022. 20 students have taken their AMA exam and 17 students have passed. 24 of the 27 graduates are still in their 90-day testing window. 13 students are confirmed to be working as MA's. There are currently 16 students in the program. This is low and the program is working on marketing. There are 13 students planned to complete in summer and 3 planned to complete in winter. we currently have 6 AAT Phlebotomy students, 4 AAT business management students and 6 certificate of proficiency students. There are 33 applications submitted for Medical Assisting, 25 of which are on track to start in spring 23. How the program was marketing to students currently was asked. The program is working with local high schools that have classes meeting prerequisites for the medical assisting program to encourage enrolment. The college has worked with WorkSource to partner for potential students. This has been to limited success. The former average enrolment for medical assisting was 30 students now the average is closer to 50% of the former enrolment. Vaccination requirements were identified as a barrier to entry into the medical programs. Handouts for high school students were suggested to increase enrolment. Handouts have been provided in the past, but we have no way to track if they are being used by the K-12 schools. Feedback from parents of K-12 students is that the students are not being provided with the information form the schools. Running start being used to provide prerequisites for medical programs. Each school has different requirements to graduate, and this may make tailored programs for running start difficult. Our in-person classes in health are beginning to fill up again showing students desire to return to face to face for these programs. Running start students are also encouraged to meet with advising to speak about how to set themselves up for success in the health occupations classes. Kaiser medical has been difficult to contact for externships. They have been resistant to communication and only 1 student has received an externship recently. It is recommended that community partners be made aware that Clark's MA program has evening options and the ability to complete online prerequisites. This is currently a good time to requit for fall programs as it provides time to complete prerequisites. WorkSource funding was discussed and how it reduces the cost entry barrier into the MA program. Vancouver clinic currently has 51 open positions for medical assistants. This reflect that medical assisting is still a high demand position.

Prepared by DJ Scates