



DENTAL HYGIENE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Monday, April 24, 2023

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Zoom Online

Members Present: Dr. Derek Michaud DDS, NW Affinity Dental (Chair), Kramer Ragan, RDH (Vice Chair); Dr. Peter Lubisich DDS, Vancouver Pediatric Dentistry; Jana Sarkkinen, RDH, Rose Family Dental, Dr. Steven Hokett, DDS, Ann Gilbert, RDH, Kendra Gibb, RDH, Kaili Rutkowski, RDH

Members Absent:

Deanna Rose Pehrson, Retired/Business Owner

Clark College: Terri Anderson, Program Coordinator; Patricia Atkinson, Interim Dean, BHS Unit; Kristi Taylor, Program Director

Clark Instructors: Amy Ewing Johnson, Becky Herman, Michael Ludwig, Michelle Vincent

Adjunct Instructors: Richard Grabowsky, DDS; Summer Gillas

Derek called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Introductions: Kendra Gibb, past graduate.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of *October 17, 2022*, will be presented for approval when available.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will next meet on **Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM in person.**

The committee discussed meeting via Zoom vs. in person or an option for both. Kristi will inquire about the ability for an option.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COLLEGE OR DEPARTMENTS

Patricia Atkinson made the following announcements:

- Enrollment is stabilizing and showing an increase from the previous lower numbers. The Running Start enrollment is lower than the budgeted enrollment number, which does impact the College budget.

- The College is going through budget reductions at this time with a few proposed cuts to employment. The Budget Committee's proposal will be recommended to the Executive Cabinet and the President. The legislature wrapped up their work with an increase in education, but how much is dedicated to higher education is yet to be determined. Patricia is fairly optimistic with the enrollment in dental hygiene, with the popularity of the program and the need in the community.
- Activities on campus included the Black Student and Family event on April 15th and the Career and Technical Education Showcase on April 18th, and both were very well attended.

OLD BUSINESS

Partnership with Battle Ground Healthcare

Kristi reported that all senior students had a full-day rotation, and it was a good experience. It was a good reciprocal relationship with growth and learning achieved regarding determining what students can achieve and what the clinic needs.

Revised Outcomes

The committee voted at the last meeting and approved the proposed program outcomes. The outcomes were approved by the College committees and will be implemented beginning Fall Term, 2023.

DIRECTOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR REPORT

CDHD

Childrens Dental Health Day took place at the beginning of February. There were 106 children seen, which was a lot more than last year, and it was a successful event. The students enjoyed participating and having influence on the lives of some children.

Board Exams

The senior students are in the midst of board exams. They completed the Local Anesthesia board exam with a 100% pass rate. They also completed the Restorative board exam with two students needing to retake it and one student who chose to wait to take it. The manikin clinical board exam will take place at the beginning of June and all students are registered for it.

Software System

The Ascend Academic software system was implemented last term and is moving along successfully. Ascend is part of Dentrix Ascend (academic version). The department is working to make sure Ascend is tracking the necessary data.

New Cohort / Class of 2026

Letters have gone out to new cohort that begins Fall Term, 2023. The number of students who accepted is yet to be determined. This cohort includes one student who deferred to this year from last year. Another student included in this cohort is one who withdrew in 2021 due to the COVID vaccine and is restarting the program this fall.

SADHA REPORT

The SADHA officers were not able to attend. The intended to report the following:

- Children's Dental Health Day.
- Recognition Ceremony on June 10th.

NEW BUSINESS

Restorative Clinic Challenges

Kristi Taylor asked for the committee's perspective/feedback with the challenge the department has with recruiting dentists for restorative clinic. Mike Ludwig explained the ongoing dilemma with finding doctors willing to assist with restorative clinic. He further explained the challenge with the Human Resources hiring process and how it becomes a barrier for recruiting help from dentists in the community. The committee discussed issues, options, and offered suggestions.

- Restorative clinic is scheduled on Fridays with occasional Wednesday evenings, as needed. The schedule cannot be easily changed without restructuring the entire program schedule.
- Most doctors cannot commit to Fridays for two terms in a row. Balancing schedules is a challenge.
- WA state license required, 3 reference contacts required with paperwork, background check required, appointment with HR for paperwork (30-45 minutes) annual training required. There is a lot of work required up front but, if dentists are on the payroll once every two years, the upfront paperwork is not required again.
- The college provides liability insurance to the dentists as employees. However, if the classification for this position were to change from employee to contractor status, they would potentially lose the liability insurance. Kristi felt that the issue with malpractice insurance is a big concern, especially for retired dentists.
- At this time, recruiting dentists on a volunteer basis is not an option. The College is not in favor of it, and it is not possible to have both paid and volunteer dentists for the same position.
- Investigate a different classification for restorative dentists.

When Dr. Derek Michaud asked about the possibility of bringing dentists on as volunteers to avoid the paperwork involved with paying a salary, Kristi Taylor expressed that she did not think the College would be in favor of it. She added that there is no other program on campus that has something remotely similar to this.

Action. Kristi Taylor and Mike Ludwig will work to set a meeting date with Human Resources to discuss options for obtaining restorative dentists.

Dr. Derek Michaud asked if letters from dentists in the community would be helpful. He is willing to poll the dentists in the community to see if they feel the College hiring requirements are a barrier to working in the restorative clinic.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Patricia Atkinson asked the committee for advice on the current size of the Clark College Dental Hygiene Program, what is the need in the community, and are we meeting those needs.

The consensus of the committee is that there is a shortage of dental hygienists in this area (proportional to the population growth which is continuing). The area is growing, and there is a shortage of dental hygienists due to COVID and retirement in the field. There is no other program like the Clark College Dental Hygiene Program that serves the community in this area.

Kristi Taylor explained that she has looked at increasing the cohort to 30 in the past, and there is space in the clinic for 30 students. The issue is not with CODA or finding students, rather, the challenge would be one of a financial aspect. CODA requires a 5 to 1 faculty/student ratio, so increasing to 30 students would require adding another faculty position. When the idea to increase the cohort was brought up previously, the College was not interested because dental hygiene is the most expensive program on campus when it comes to the number of students vs. the cost. However, Kristi is open to increasing the program by 5 students if the College can fund it.

Dr. Derek Michaud led the discussion about the need for more dental hygienists in the community and a deeper issue that come with dealing with the potential dental hygiene shortage. Some solutions practices are coming up with are volume-based solutions:

- Double booking hygiene schedules.
- Reduced hygiene time with patients.
- Some duties given to assistants (patient interviews, x rays, polishing).
- Hygienists not able to use all of their skills.
- Burn out for hygienists if all they do is scaling. (too much repetitive use of hands/wrists without a break).
- Preserving the integrity of the profession and quality of care.

Kristi Taylor mentioned her communication with past graduates and how some want to get out of dental hygiene. They are overworked and the job has become too stressful.

The committee felt that there would be support from the community and can get data to show the need for more dental hygienists. Steven Hockett asked about a request for less than 5 students. Kristi explained it would still require another faculty member to keep the faculty/student ratio at 5 to 1. She further explained that the attrition rate is very low and that the department typically graduates those who start the program.

Motion by Steven Hockett on behalf of the committee that the Clark College Dental Hygiene Program increase from a cohort of 25 students to a cohort of 30 students. **Motion seconded by** Pete Lubisich. **Motion APPROVED via chat.** The committee will provide support, as needed.

Kristi Taylor stated that, with the upcoming budget cuts, it will be difficult to ask for the increase in students that will require the addition of another faculty position, but she will try. **Action.** Kristi Taylor will investigate what the actual cost would be to increase the cohort to 30 students and possible funding sources (i.e., the Foundation).

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Recorded by Terri Anderson