

**EMT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday 29th March 2017 \* 11.30am - 1.30pm

Legacy Hospital, Salmon Creek WA – 3rd Floor, Conference Room B

**Members Present**: Shaun Ford (Committee Chair), NCEMS; Deanna Richardson, AMR; Paul Bennett, Camas-Washougal FD; James Eagon, CRESA; John Griffith, AMR

**Members Absent:** Kendon Fisher, SphereMD; Ron Stewart, Cowlitz EMS; Pete Adams, Vancouver Fire Dept.

**Clark College:** Holly Edwins, Lead Instructor; Jennifer Bethke, NWRTC Deputy Administrator; Brenda Walstead, Interim Dean of Business & Health Sciences; Nichola Farron, Secretary Senior – Advisory Committees

Committee Chair Shaun Ford called the meeting to order at 11.40am and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

*The minutes of 11/2/16 were presented: John made a motion to approve as written; this was seconded by Shaun and passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee discussed aligning future meetings with county and regional schedules, and also in the hope that Dr Wittwer (the County Medical Program Director) would be able to attend.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday November 14th 2017 at noon at the NWRTC.

Office of Instruction Updates

Nichola discussed the following:

Clark is completing the series of Business and Community Learning events on campus this spring. The quick and friendly ‘lunch and learn’ opportunities. FREE and open to the public, the workshops will be scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and held in the Gaiser Student Center, allowing people to attend on their lunch hour.

•Friday May 19th The Power of Completion

Join us here on campus Saturday June 3rd 10:00 a.m. registration opens for the FREE Healthy Penguin Walkabout. There are several stations set up across campus, with health activities and information about one quarter mile apart. A great way to get some exercise, some health information and have fun.

In keeping with the college campus theme, TRANSFORMATION work on the committee composition continues! We are seeking nontraditional members, those folks who are not typically associated with the field (like women in welding). Your assistance is appreciated, if you know of someone who might be interested in joining a committee, let us know.

July 13, 2017 – Evening event to recognize our committees and the terrific volunteers that come to meetings two times a year to support students. Watch for additional details to arrive via email.

Clark College will hold graduation at the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater on Friday June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. It is a great way to celebrate the work of the committees. There is always a need for volunteers at the event, if you are interested please let us know.

Brenda also spoke further to the committee about the potential for EMT involvement in the Healthy Penguin Walkabout: a focus on responses to diabetic comas might be one option. In addition, Holly and Jennifer spoke about their work with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that might present further opportunities for collaboration.

IV course

In other updates, Shaun informed the committee that the IV class he facilitates through a county grant is oversubscribed with 26 students to a class cap of 20. This is largely because the class is not offered locally as a number of fire districts have now met their internal training needs. Additionally, the grant keeps the cost relatively low at $250, and he is hoping that additional funds may be available: the biggest cost is the equipment for each student ($100). A number of students want to undertake the training as it boosts their attractiveness as potential employees. John continued that it provides a good opportunity to learn a transferable skill to aid promotion.

In response to a question from Brenda apart whether IV training is currently embedded in the program, Holly outlined that it would not currently be possible, as it would require an additional 32 hours of instruction. Shaun continued that the credential is individualized to each county, with Clark currently requiring it. The course is currently scheduled for a Tuesday and Thursday lecture, with the final scheduled for Saturday. Holly shared that she will be able recommend additional instructors if the class continues to expand.

Bylaws

The Committee discussed the draft Bylaws. It was noted that a section referencing the desired membership in terms of employment sectors should be added to include law enforcement, forest service, dept. of natural resources, a private wildfire fighting company, offshore group representatives.

*Quorum – the committee agreed that a quorum of five voting members should be set. This was proposed by Pete, seconded by Jim and all members present were in favor.*

Electronic Vote – The Committee discussed the use of electronic votes: as all members work for public agencies, then voting remains transparent and it was agreed this could be used in certain circumstances. In addition, the committee elected to emphasize that proxies could attend meetings: this will be referenced in the bylaws.

Action Item: Nichola to amend Bylaw draft according to discussion ready for review at next Committee meeting. Committee members to consider possible additional members representing identified industries.

Potential 1-Year Certificate

Shaun spoke to the committee about considering the possibility of adding a one-year certificate option to the program, a subject that was addressed at the previous meeting. He distributed an outline of the current PCC option as a starting point for discussion. The PCC certificate information can be accessed at <http://catalog.pcc.edu/programsanddisciplines/emergencymedicalservices/#Emergency_Medical_Services_One_Year_Certificate>

Holly explained to the committee that this would require a massive change in terms of the current program structure in terms of expanding from a 3 to 6 month program. While she stressed she was not opposed to the possibility, she wanted to ensure there was a realization of how much work that would entail, and the extent of restructuring that would be required at the training center.

Brenda spoke from the College perspective that the evidence of a pathway would certainly be favorably received, but there should also be a visible ‘opt out point’ for students.

Discussion continued that there would not necessarily be a need to eliminate the 3 month accelerated program: instead, there could be options for extending the current course and concurrently having both cohorts running with different end points.

Shaun continued that there is nothing comparable in the state of Washington, and that the one-year certificate would provide a pathway for a long-term career by helping with entrance to paramedic school and fire science certificates.

Holly shared that she has previously spoken to the Director of the PCC program, as there has been feedback from Clark students that they would be interested in a longer program. However, Jennifer confirmed that there would still need to be the option for those students who wish to complete in the accelerated schedule.

The committee also discussed how the inclusion of a certificate would mean that students would then meet the eligibility requirements for Financial Aid (the current program does not qualify) which would help with enrollment.

Holly explained that the current concentrated block devoted to anatomy and terminology can often be overwhelming to students, and that is a common stage at which they may quit the program.

Brenda went on to outline that the college would need to see evidence of employer need: the employers on the committee all agreed that this would be a massive boost to the desirability of candidates. John commented that, due to lack of candidates, he frequently hires students with no outside EMS experience: the certificate would be beneficial because AMR are terminating employees who are not performing. It was agreed that a certificate holder would be a more attractive employee for the entry-level job.

Action Item: To investigate the possibility of the one-year certificate option, the Committee agreed to form a ‘task force’ consisting of Brenda, Holly, Jennifer and Shaun.

Student Ride Outs

John shared with the committee that AMR hosts a number of students for ride outs and has done for several terms now; they also host paramedic students. The agreement is that EMT students can accompany on ride outs as long as they are not scheduled with preceptors designated for paramedic students who have requirements that are more stringent. The company takes steps to identify good mentors for the EMT students who get the opportunity to perform physical exams, do base line vital sign observation and also perform some CPR.

The committee agreed that the CPR is an important experience for the students as the reality is visceral in comparison to the learning environment.

John continued that there are limits to the number of ride outs because otherwise the volume of students can become a burden and can overwhelm the mentors and preceptors.

Holly took the opportunity to thank John for facilitating the ride outs on behalf of the program and students.

County Protocols

Holly reported that she has heard from the Washington State EMT programs supervisors that the program is required to teach county protocols. This was previously not defined as the program aimed towards a national certification.

The committee discussed this in regards to differences in CPR protocols and the recent changes in AHA standards.

Mock Interviews

Nichola spoke to the committee and outlined that some of the Advisory Boards for other programs volunteer to provide mock interviews for students as they prepare to graduate, so that they can provide feedback on their skills.

The committee agreed that there was a deficit of soft skills in candidates, and that there is a tendency to prepare ‘stock’ answers rather than develop their own narrative.

Holly spoke about the possibility of forming a panel that included some of the employers on the Advisory committee to give students an insight into the interview process and the steps they should take to prepare.

Some areas that were discussed included the need for students to understand the impact of their social media accounts in this particular industry, and other areas to consider such as driving records and presentation.

Action Item: Jennifer and Holly will look at the possibility and timing for an interview/careers panel for students. Nichola to connect them with Clark career services for further information.

Task Book

Holly spoke that at the previous meeting, Pete Adams spoke about replacing the current packet with a task book for students on ride outs. Shaun mentioned that he created one for North County following that discussion.

Potential tasks included location of airway kit, confirming where the crew wants the student to be seated, confirming if they are to participate in any CPR, locating the main kit etc.

The committee then discussed the need for better moulage equipment: Holly will connect with Brenda to investigate the possibility for purchasing some more realistic simulation supplies.

Shaun adjourned the meeting at 1.16pm

Prepared by Nichola Farron