HIM -MINUTES
February 26th, 2025, at 5:30 PM
Zoom

Members Present: Chasity Palacios (Committee Chair) Billing Coordinator, Pritchard Orthodontics, Sean Moore, Senior Project Manager, Workforce SW WA

Guests:

Members Absent: Merryl Blatnik, Medical Coding Specialist, Columbia River Mental Health Services; April Andrews, Release Specialist and Lead of Medical Records, Columbia River Mental Health Services; Karin LaValla, Business Services Consultant, WorkSource

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Olga Lyubar, Kathy Chennault, Director of Development, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Clark College Foundation; Janine Rieck, Instructor, Clark College; Jessica Hash, Academic Advisor, Clark College

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The meeting began at 5:33 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE
The committee will meet next on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes from the previous meeting could not be approved due to a lack of quorum. An electronic poll will be shared to approve the November 13th, 2024, minutes.

POLL VOTES MARCH 12, 2025
The committee approved the previous minutes from November 13, 2024.

COLLEGE UPDATES
Kathy shared an upcoming opportunity to learn more about Penguin Give Day and introduced the Innovation and Student Success Fund at the Clark College Foundation.
Sean recommended reaching out to Karin LaValla for emergency funds if students qualify.

SUMMER HEALTHCARE CAMP & OUTREACH EVENTS

Olga provided information about the upcoming Healthcare Camp scheduled for June 23-25, 2025. The program is currently looking for volunteers to serve as panel speakers or classroom support. If you're interested, please reach out to Olga.

Olga discussed current outreach efforts at the local high school including activities and guest speakers. Olga discussed Lisa Barsotti's marketing and outreach efforts. Lisa supports all Allied Health instructors with their marketing and highlighted her contributions. She also discussed upcoming plans to present in classrooms.

Olga shared details about an upcoming week-long high school immersion event, taking place from July 7-21, 2025. This two-week program offers students the opportunity to explore various careers, participate in job shadowing, and potentially earn college credit.

HIM CLUB

Janine announced that the HIM Club will once again be hosting a graduation ceremony for the Certificate of Proficiency students and welcomed the committee to join on March 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Janine reported that the club has held two monthly meetings this year, in January and February. Additionally, the club organized a two-part session to help prepare for the AAPC Certified Coder Exam. This session covered strategies, key focus areas, and examples, and included interactive coding exercises.

Looking ahead to March, the club will welcome back a former HIM president, who will share valuable testing strategies with current students.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Olga announced that 14 students are set to graduate in 2025 with a Certificate of Proficiency.

Olga provided an update on the incoming 2025 cohort, with 17 AAT students and 14 CP students accepted.

Olga also mentioned that ongoing letters will be sent out, detailing contingency plans for students who have one or two prerequisite courses left.

INTERNSHIPS

Olga discussed some challenges in securing internship placements for students. Additionally, the program lost a facility that typically accepted students, and efforts are underway to find new facilities for coding internships.

Olga announced that several courses will be updated with new textbook editions over the summer, ensuring they are ready for Fall 2025.

Olga provided an update on the QM review process. Janine has submitted the review for HIM 233, which is currently under review.

Sean inquired about medical coding, asking if there are employers we can connect with for further engagement regarding available positions.

Olga noted challenges in securing coding positions, as many require at least five years of experience, which can create barriers for new applicants. For those transitioning from roles in billing offices or

ROI, obtaining positions often requires certification, such as CPC or CCS. Additionally, working remotely can be more difficult without an established history at the workplace.

Janine noted that some entry-level positions are hard to break into without experience.

Sean asked if this information was shared with the students.

Olga ensured that barriers are communicated to students and that the support the student provides includes resources and assistance in job applications.

Chasity noted that many more opportunities emerged after her graduation, but the last few years have been difficult. Employers are increasingly trending towards eliminating remote positions with smaller companies.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores