

**HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 11th, 2019**

**Time: 5:30 pm – 7.00pm \* PUB 258B**

**Members Present**: April Andrews, Columbia River Mental Health Services; Merryl Blatnik, Columbia River Mental Health Services; Manuel Galaviz MD, PeaceHealth SW Medical Center; Lori Lucente CTR, Providence Portland Medical Center; Jacob Salzer CPC, Legacy Health; Virdie Schrei RHIT, Providence Health & Services; Darlene Terry, Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

**Members Absent**: Julie McKim, Kaiser Permanente NW; Sean Moore, WorkSource Vancouver;

**Clark College**: Olga Lyubar (Department Chair), Instructor; Suzanne Smith, Instructor; Janine Gunn, PeaceHealth/Adjunct Instructor; Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; Sarah Kuzera, Director of Medical Assisting; Renee Schiffhauer, Associate Director of Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

Jacob Salzer called the meeting to order at 5:33pm and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes for *February 6th, 2019* were presented for approval. Lori Lucente, CTR moved to approve the minutes as written, Jacob Salzer seconded and was passed unanimously.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The committee selected their next meeting date for **Thursday, October 3rd, 2019 at 5:30pm.**

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cathy Sherick made the following announcements:

She presented the Professional/Technical inserts that were distributed to the community through The Columbian newspaper.

Cathy Sherick provided a brief update about what is happening on campus with Pathways work, the publication of the insert in February, the upcoming transition from our legacy computer system to the People Soft system that will be used statewide and pending budget decisions. Committees are asked to curtail scheduling meetings during the last two weeks of October to allow for this switch.

Due to low enrollment the campus will see a significant budget reduction in 2019-20, with programs being eliminated. This will incur additional faculty and staff cuts. Cathy’s position is one that will be eliminated, ending June 30, 2019, so this will be her final advisory meeting.

**SUZANNE SMITH**

Starting in summer of 2018, the program decided to let the students test drive coding software that is currently available in order to get EHR practice (SimChart).

* Pearson: does have a grouper
* AAPC Coder: decided to go with this one because it was the least expensive and also met the college’s standard for DSS (disability approved). This didn’t have a grouper (inpatient DRGS and outpatient APCS – looks at all diagnosis’ and procedures provided and wraps it up into how we are billing)
  + Suzanne introduces the students to the product in week 4 or 5. Until then, they code from the manuals.
* Optum: most closely resembled the 3mm coder as far as layout and functionality

The program hasn’t built in the outcomes measurement for the software (supposed to be that the students coding scores improve by 50% by the end of the term). This will hopefully start happening and building on this summer.

The college paid a one-time fee to be able to use it the entire year but will have to renew it in July. Suzanne is having to upload it every quarter. Because she is AAPC certified, she has to go in every quarter and input and output the students to be able to use it.

**Slide 5:**

Medical Coding Software

* Learning to code using software is important
* AAPC Encoder is used at clark college
* Pros and cons?
  + What do teachers like and dislike about it?
* What do students like or dislike about it?
* Can you code cases or only look up specific codes?
* Can you receive feedback on wrong answers?

**Slide 6:**

Medical Code Books

* Learning to code using the books is also important
  + Re: getting certified
* Books and AAPC and/or AHIMA membership are a significant financial investment
* Recommend keeping old code books. Students struggling financially can still use older code books on the AAPC exams

**DIRECTOR POSITION CLOSED**

The program has moved forward in hiring and will get through the proper accreditation process in order to continue with a strong program.

Hopefully within the next month, interviews will begin.

**JACOB – AAPC**

**Slide 8:**

AAPC Membership

* If Clark College becomes AAPC-approved/licensed, student AAPC membership is less expensive than the regular membership (almost 50% savings)
* AAPC student membership = $90 per year (new members only)
* AAPC individual membership = $170 per year
  + *Monthly magazine*
  + *Discounts on codebooks and practicode (if finish practicode, counts as one year of coding experience, counts towards the A, but many companies don’t actually count it towards work coding experience)*
  + *Can take AAPC certification exams*
* AAPC corporate membership (for organizations of 6+ AAPC members)

**See Slide 9: (Appendix A)**

Cost (Corporate Membership)

Getting current feedback from students is has been informative. We are asking questions between AHIMA/AAPC/both. Some question to consider:

* How important is accreditation for the students?
* Does it mean something to them?
* What are the percentage of students who just want to be coders?

**See Slides 10 & 11: (Appendix A)**

AAPC Practicode (Online Coding Internship)

**Slides 12 & 13: (Appendix A)**

AAPC Project Xtern

* AAPC Project Xtern is a way to obtain hands-on experience for certified AAPC members; we have 1 site participating in St. Helen’s, Oregon.
  + *There isn’t a set base of how many they take*
  + *Time commitment is normally about 3 months, basically volunteering*
  + *Gain professional references/recommendations*
* Can be focused on medical billing and/or coding depending on the site.

Darlene asked how difficult it would be to establish something in the Vancouver area. Jacob explained that the AAPC sends out communication asking facilities want to participate and then they will volunteer. Sometimes, facilities will reach to the AAPC first.

**Slide 14:**

AAPC Education Options

* AAPC has developed licensed curriculum specific to certain credentials:
  + CPB (Certified Professional Biller)
  + COC (Certified Outpatient Coder)
  + CPMA (Certified Professional Medical Auditor)
  + CPC (Certified Professional Coder)
  + CIC (Certified Inpatient Coder)
  + CPPM (Certified Physician Practice Manager)

Suzanne worked with the AAPC Coder and made a concession to have a bulk rate for the AAPC study guide for the exam prep. However she won’t be able to provide discounted membership/exams unless they have an AAPC certified instructor for this program. They also want the program to use all of their credentials.

She also explained that AAPC is very heavy on coding. This is great for students to be aware of. You do have to be a member in order to take the exam and will have two opportunities.

**Slide 16:**

AAPC Certifications

* The main certification pathways through AAPC are:
  + Medical coding
  + Medical billing
  + Medical auditing
  + Medical documentation specialist
  + Medical compliance
* APC offers 27 professional certifications (22 of them are coding certifications)

**Slide 17:**

AAPC Medical Coding Certifications

* Certified Professional Coder (CPC)
* Certified Outpatient Coder (COC
* Certified Inpatient Coder (CIC)
* Certified Risk Adjustment Coder (CRC)

**See Slides 18-22: (See Appendix A)**

Other AAPC Certifications

**AHIMA**

**Slide 24:**

AHIMA Membership

* Student membership: dues are $49
* New grad membership: dues are $79 with no AHIMA credential. If applicable you will pay $50 for your first credential and $10 for each additional one.
* New to AHIMA membership: dues are $79 with no AHIMA credential. If applicable you will pay $50 for your first credential and $10 for each additional one.
* Active membership: dues are $135 with no AHIMA credentials. If applicable you will pay $50 for your first credential and $10 for each additional one.
* [www.ahima.org/membership](http://www.ahima.org/membership)

**Slide 25:**

CAHIM Program Search

* In the state of WA for associate’s program for RHIT accreditations there are 3 online and 1 campus based.
  + Oregon: 1 and 1
  + Idaho: 1 and 1
  + California: 4 and 6
  + USA: 167 and 190
* BAS has 1 campus based and none online (University of WA)
  + Oregon: 0 and 0
  + Idaho: 0 and 0
  + California: 2 and 3
  + USA: 41 and 48

**Slide 26:**

Benefits of AHIMA

* Prepares students to get the jobs they want
* Sit in for national exams
* Able to be part of a network of people who are working in their specific field
* Delivers benefits to the student as a knowledge base but also a community they are put into

AHIMA has national and state chapters. There is a chapter in Portland, Oregon but the main one is in Seattle/Spokane. Janine Gunn spoke on being a board member for the AHIMA chapter in Oregon. There is an annual spring and fall session as a state but there are not any smaller community or regional meetings.

Hopefully, we can engage students through the club.

**Slide 27:**

HIM & Coding Certification

* Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) – bachelor’s
* Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) – associate’s
* Certified Coding Associate (CCA)
* Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)
* Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-Based (CCS-P)
* Explore further coding opportunities through professional certification

**Slide 28:**

AHIMA Specialty Certification

* Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner (CDIP)
* Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)
* Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)
* Certified Healthcare Technology Specialists (CHTS)
* Certified Professional in Health Informatics (CPHI)

**Slide 29:**

Specialty Courses: Cancer Registry

1. Work experience (at least a 1)
2. Going through an accredited program that is approved by the cancer registry
3. Already have a degree in health information and a certificate in cancer education

The committee discussed if faculty have to be trained and certified to teach under AHIMA. Olga explained that there is a whole accreditation process and would require a director that is licensed. For the Associates degree, the faculty would need to be an RHIT and for the Bachelor’s degree, the faculty would need to be an RHIA and also have a master’s degree.

These are very in demand jobs for SW WA.

Janine Gunn posed a question about remaining competitive and keeping students engaged. Olga stated that the program will need to continue to be marketable. Cathy Sherick spoke on partnerships with the high schools being a very important task. Integrating some of the early work would give students an idea of what the industry looks like.

Darlene stated that her institution is very focused on how to bridge the high school student to the real life jobs.

Cathy asked about the Earn and Learn Model (first few terms they are learning and then applying what they’ve learned into the workplace for pay). April Andrews stated that the problem would be students not being ready and then you’re spending more time teaching them rather than having them help with the work. Good for the students, but facilities might find it challenging. Janine agreed that organizational risk would be high. Also, many people work from home so there would be no one physically there to help. Virdie mentioned that this would be very beneficial to already have the foot in the door of where you already want to be.

Jacob started a conversation about the pushback from companies not wanting to do direct to practice. Olga explained that it takes a lot of time to create that relationship. Managers have to really want to mentor. The larger the organization, the more challenging it is to onboard students.

Sarah Kuzera spoke on how the MA program deters away from places that consider students as free labor and think that students should know everything.

Janine stated that the big problem is many coders do work from home as well as space limitations.

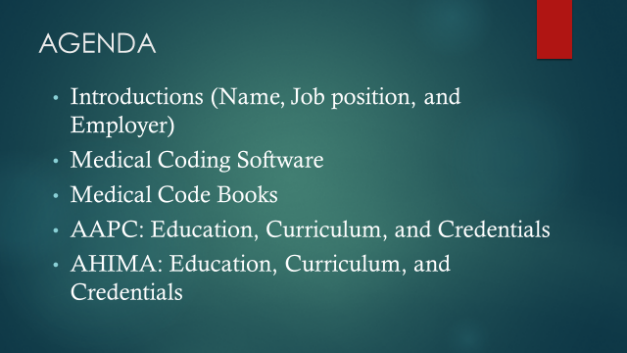
Manuel Galaviz spoke on picking up a contact who also does confidentiality agreements. There is a need for shadowing opportunities and he appreciates a lot more what the coders go through.

Joseph Clemons suggested *The Common Good* kxrw.fm radio to talk about the program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters

**APPENDIX A**

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