

Pharmacy
Advisory Committee Meeting
March 13, 2025



PHAR -MINUTES
March 13, 2025, at 4:00 PM
Zoom

Members Present: Zach McCall (Committee Chair) Ambulatory Pharmacy Services Director, Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center; Matt McCarty, Pharmacy Manager, Fred Meyer; Misty Royse (Vice-Chair) Director of Sales, Net-Rx with Managed Healthcare Associates (MHA); Amanda Stringham, Program Coordinator and Faculty, Wenatchee Valley College; Stephanie Gaston, Clinical Pharmacist, Fred Meyer; Rene Bloemke, Director, Pharmacy Services, Net-RX

Guests:

Members Absent: Melissa Hansen, Manager of Pharmacy Operations, Ardon Health

Labor Representative: Labor recruitment attempted

Clark College: Heidi Fay, Department Chair, Clark College; Scot Headley, Dean of Business & Health Services; Jessica Hash, Academic Advisory, Clark College; Ryan Johnson, Program Specialist 2, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College

The meeting began at 4:00 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on October 10th, 2024, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Scot discussed an audit with the State on all Career and Technical Education programs for Perkins federal funding. The College has been asked to seek a balance of employer versus employee ratio.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Heidi displayed the ASHP survey categories and results.

Categories: Curriculum areas, advisory committees, pyxis, documentation, website updates, and graduate certificates. The program received partial compliance with the need to expand more on educational and hazardous drugs and add additional information.

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The program was advised to consult more with advisory committee members to review externship sites moving forward. Heidi welcomed committee feedback on externship site recommendations. Heidi noted that Pyxis may need some updates. Additionally, the program will continue to improve on documentation such as gathering information on preceptors, reviewing APR, and reviewing all sites every twelve months.

Heidi shared that the program has conducted website updates, and this has been completed. Heidi shared that the graduate certificate required the department head's signature, the ASHP and ACPE logo and the program has completed this step.

CONSULTATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Heidi mentioned that the ASHP recommended adding a simulation day that includes employers or alumni. Additionally, it suggested increasing shelving in the lab and collaborating with community pharmacy practice environments to help alleviate the vacancies for pharmacy techs.

WORK PLAN

Facilities & Equipment Goals

Heidi shared that the program would replace the Pyxis and Omnicell and noted the importance of collaborating with employers for student externships or equipment donations. The program would like to connect more with PeaceHealth and Legacy. Heidi welcomed committee feedback, suggestions, or comments.

Amanda noted the challenges with old equipment and recommended Sim RX through Pocket Nurse.

Instructional Quality and Effectiveness

Heidi shared that the program plans to participate in Professional Organizations Memberships and attend more conferences and workshops. Such as the PTEC conference.

Heidi shared keys to a positive ASHP-ACPE Pharmacy Tech Training Program and the accreditation site survey.

Marketing & Public Relations

Heidi announced that the program canceled the spring cohort as the goal of 10 students decreased to 6. The program reported that the students were okay with the decision.

Heidi discussed marketing and public relations goals to support increased enrollment into the program.

Heidi discussed that the program reinstated PHAR 101 for Winter 2025 and the program received approval to run spring and summer to advertise.

Heidi announced the program has partnered with the Clark College Community and Continuing Education.

The program plans to host a Pharmacy Technician information session that is free and public for whoever would like to participate. This information session will provide an overview of the program and answers for those with questions about the program or the profession.

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Heidi discussed the upcoming healthcare camp on June 23, 2025, and welcomed committee members' opportunities to volunteer if they would like to get involved or recommend a colleague. Heidi announced that Scot's support has created connections with the program and Henrietta Lacks High School to offer dual credit. The program will be presented to the entire school to conduct outreach and serve as an excellent way to bridge the gap for high school students entering the program.

Rene asked if there are plans to participate in any of the career days at the local high schools.

Heidi noted that Lisa Barsotti will conduct outreach with local high schools.

Scot noted that Lisa mentioned May will be a busy month for inviting employers and the College to conduct outreach. Lisa is responsible for promoting all the programs.

PRE-REQUISITE CUMULATIVE GPA

Heidi discussed the program requirements of a 2.5 GPA for all Pharmacy Tech pre-requisites to be eligible for the Pharmacy program. Heidi welcomed committee feedback and comments on whether the program should lower the pre-requisite cumulative GPA to 2.0 to mirror the other Allied Health Programs at Clark College.

Rene is in favor of the program lowering the GPA from 2.5 to 2.0 as employers are struggling to hire and keep people hired in the Pharmacy workforce.

Zach is in favor of the program lowering the GPA from 2.5 to 2.0 to remain in alignment with the Allied Health programs is important.

Matt is in favor of the program lowering the GPA from 2.5 to 2.0 and asked about teacher capacity and if the program anticipates concerns around capacity.

Heidi noted that the program is interested in trying to allow students to successfully pass and break down barriers so that more people can enter the program.

Jessica is in favor of the program lowering the GPA from 2.5 to 2.0.

Amanda motioned to lower the Pharmacy Tech program GPA from 2.5 to 2.0, Rene seconded the motion, and all in favor unanimously approved.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Heidi discussed the site visit suggestions such as expanding on the vision of the Pharmacy Tech program. The program evaluated that there may need to be multiple pathways to fill all the vacancies and make Clark College the prominent place for Pharmacy Tech education. The site visit recommended that the program evaluate the strategic plan and expand further.

Heidi displayed the strategic plan and shared some components to support the vision.

- The program will work with pharmacy practice environments in the community to assist in alleviating the pharmacy tech vacancies.
- The program will explore an entry-level employer-paid pathway to becoming a pharmacy tech.
- The program discussed a potential pathway such as making ASHP – ACPE accreditation separate from the College.

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Heidi welcomed thoughts, comments, or questions.

Amanda noted that changes would still have to meet the state requirements.

Scot recommends meeting with employers to brainstorm suggestions or barriers to bring to the committee in the fall 2025 meeting. Scot offered to provide funding to host collaborative meetings.

Zach stated that it could be worth exploring.

Misty shared her experience with an internal training program at a previous pharmacy, noting that a similar pathway could help keep students on track while supporting pharmacies that need new employees but lack the resources to develop a more comprehensive program.

Amanda discussed PHAR 101 and shared insights from Stephanie in Yakima, highlighting a process where students can apply for an assistant license. She suggested the possibility of integrating this process into an existing class, as obtaining an assistant license could open up employment opportunities for students at certain locations.

ACTION ITEMS

The program will discuss forming a meeting with local employers and bringing it to the upcoming advisory committee meeting in the fall of 2025.

INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

Amanda shared <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//690001.pdf>

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores