

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE -MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 13th, 2021 \* 4:00-5:30p.m.**

**Meeting Location: Zoom Online (Audio/Video)**

**Members Present:** Derrick Ogawa (Committee Chair), Walgreens; Zach McCall (Vice-Chair), Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center; Amy Houger, HeLa High School; Rene Bloemke, Net-RX; Bob Gustainis, Walgreens;

**Members Absent:** Cornel Brisc, Walgreens; Anthony Mauer, PeaceHealth St. John’s Hospital; Matt McCarty, Fred Meyer; Sean Moore, Workforce SW; Brenda Tallent, Legacy Health

**Guests:** Karin LaValla, WorkSource

**Clark College:** Heidi Fay, Dept. Head, Pharmacy Tech Department; Brenda Walstead – Dean of HEOC; Carmen Lilly, Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

Committee Chair Derrick Ogawa called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

*The minutes of December 3rd, 2020 were presented for approval. As quorum was not present, the minutes were sent out electronically. As of June 8th, 2021, the minutes have been approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will next meet on **Thursday, October 28th, 2021 at 4:00pm.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COLLEGE AND/OR DEPARTMENT**

Heidi Fay announced that fall will have 25% of the courses being in a hybrid modality with some face to face. The Pharmacy Tech program will have all lectures online completely and the lab will be split into two sections.

The college now has an interim Vice President of Instruction. Sachi Horback is no longer employed at Clark College. We are currently in the midst of a search.

The college has been seeing significant budget reductions. On behalf of Brenda Walstead, she thanked the committee for all of their support in bringing back the program for this fall.

Vaccinations are required at WSU Vancouver for faculty and students but is not required at the moment for Clark. Since the Pharmacy Tech program is at the CCW building, we are required to have the vaccinations.

**WORKPLAN 2021**

Heidi Fay did get hired on as the Director of the Pharmacy Tech program at the beginning of April. She is currently working on funded projects that include ASHP accreditation and marketing the program.

**RECRUITMENT**

The program has an article in Oregon Live coming out soon. Bob Gustainis and Heidi Fay were a part of that feature that will focus on the Pharmacy Tech program.

Two videos are being worked on. One is for the guided pathways project with Clark College and the second will focus primarily on health care programs. They are interviewing former students.

**HEALTH PROGRAMS OPEN HOUSE**

With the different healthcare programs at CCW, the goal is to potentially have something virtually.

**WEBSITE UPDATE**

The website has been updated since the program is coming back in the fall. There are new photos and new verbiage.

The program also had some information sessions recently. The first session only had about 10 people show up and the second session had about 5 people.

**PROGRAM BROCHURE UPDATE**

A printed version will hopefully be available in the fall. It will be helpful to have in person as well as something that we can send out electronically.

**ASHP ACCREDITATION**

As far as ASHP, Heidi is working diligently trying to make sure that all of the requirements in the crosswalk align with what the program currently has and filling in any blanks. This includes updating the syllabi and creating the additional lab and classes; an advanced simulations lab and also a new capstone class. Her goal is to continue working on the ASHP accreditation to have some definite progress by the end of summer into the fall. If anyone knows of someone that has been through the accreditation process, knows someone at ASHP or would like to help with reviewing the document, Heidi would love feedback.

**WORKSOURCE INTERNSHIPS – SEAN MOORE/KARIN LAVALLA**

Karin LaValla explained that Sean Moore works with Workforce and she works for WorkSource. Sean’s job is to work with the business side and Karin’s job is to work with the job seeker side. They both work together to bridge the gap to receive federal funding. There are folks in our communities that need help getting back to work. Sometimes they will require certain certification training or education to learn the proper skill sets to meet the employer needs and demands. Some of the money has been specifically earmarked for internships so it is her job to make sure that they are reaching out to students that might need those internships for part of their degree completion. Or it might not be a part of their degree, but they need that real life work experience to be able to put that on their resume. Employers are always asking to have some level of experience prior to starting and this would be the ideal employment candidate.

The paid internships are from 90 to 240 hours. The idea is that Sean Moore will do his part making business connections along with whatever connections the college already has in place with business partnerships while Karin’s part will be funding the opportunity for that eligible student. So the student will become the WorkSource employee where the student will submit their payroll through the WorkSource system.

The hope is that some of these internships will turn into job offers. If that happens, then they have a second program called OJT or On-the-Job Training where the student has officially become an employee of said company. It’s a wage reimbursement program to the employer as an incentive to hire. WorkSource can reimburse the company up to 50% of wages that they are paying the employee during a defined period of time, which is generally the onboarding phase of that employment. We know that it is an expense to employers and if there is a way for them to continue to help employers keep their doors open and bring new people in, we want to be able to facilitate that.

WorkSource currently has a lot of money that they would like to spend. The easiest way for any of that to happen is to contact Karin Lavalla directly. Send her a resume and show that they are enrolled at Clark College, she can start to facilitate the conversations with employers and advocate for those internship opportunities. She usually has a quick 10-15 minute phone call to go through some screening questions to find out how many of their current grants can be attached to the student.

Other supports they can offer include gas to help them get to and from that work site. Also, if there is a uniform or dress code that the employer has for their particular organization or office, they offer funding for new clothes. If there are things that are considered “tools” or necessary things that are needed to show up to work with on that first day to be successful and to do their work, then WorkSource can also provide that. For some folks that may be doing an internships before the full completion of their program, they can also provide tuition assistance. For anyone that’s eligible, then WorkSource would like to be able to financially contribute to the cost of their education and reduce any loans that they might have.

Heidi Fay stated that she is very excited for this opportunity as it would help many students with paying for exam fees and checklist background that they need to get into the program.

Bob Gustainis asked how to make potential students aware of this information. Karin replied saying that she’d be happy to go any orientation. She is currently working with the WorkSource marketing team to develop a video that colleges/organizations can slide into their own orientation deck so that students can get the same information and the same opportunities. She encouraged the committee to share her information.

Derrick Ogawa asked if this is only for residents of Washington. Karin responded saying that you can reside in Oregon, but you have to have an attachment to our local workforce.

**EXTERNSHIP SITES**

Heidi Fay spoke about needing externship sites. She will be sending out communication contacting pharmacies to let everyone know that the program is back. She would love to have sites ready and willing to take students beginning winter January. Bob Gustainis stated that Walgreens has many training sites wide open and available.

**EQUIPMENT UPDATES**

Heidi Fay asked the committee if there is anything they think the program will need. One of the biggest changes is that the techs are now doing or helping with vaccinations. There could potentially be some equipment needed for that.

Bob Gustainis asked about a trainer being needed. Heidi Fay clarified either she would like to be trained to be able to train the students or bring someone else in to train the students on how to give vaccinations.

**INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Derrick Ogawa spoke on a new position that Walgreen’s just launched with the pharmacies called the Pharmacy Operations Manager. It is a technician held position. This position will not only have the responsibilities of a technician but will also be performing reviews. They will have responsibilities over the other technicians. It is a stepping stone into a store manager. Staffing needs range from 150-200 full time technicians positions open across SW Washington and Oregon.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters