

**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE -MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 4th, 2020 \* 4:00-5:30p.m.**

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

**Members Present:** Derrick Ogawa (Committee Chair), Zach McCall (Vice-Chair), Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center; Rene Bloemke, Net-RX; Bob Gustainis, Walgreens; Anthony Mauer, PeaceHealth St. John’s Hospital;

**Members Absent:** Cornel Brisc, Walgreens; Amy Houger, HeLa High School; Matt McCarty, Fred Meyer; Walgreens; Brenda Tallent, Legacy Health

**Guests:** Sean Moore, Workforce SW

**Clark College:** Heidi Fay, Dept. Head, Pharmacy Tech Department, Caytlyn Chin, Pharmacy Tech Instructor; Garrett Copeland-Jones, Adjunct Instructor; Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; Jennifer Obbard, Associate Dean – BHS; Renee Schiffhauer, Associate Director of Advising; SueAnn McWatters, Program Specialist – Advisory Committees

Committee Chair Derrick Ogawa called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and introductions were made.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

*The minutes of February 6th, 2020 were presented for approval. As quorum was not present, the minutes were sent out for electronic approval. As of June 25th, 2020 the minutes have been approved.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee will next meet on **Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at 4:00pm.**

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

Brenda Walstead stated that the program will not be available during fall of 2020. The program is on a one year hiatus, however there is no confirmation that it will come back in fall of 2021.

The healthcare industry is in need of new technicians. It’s tempting to rally and write letters to prevent this from happening, but it is already decided. They had already let students know in the first communication that their spring cohort would be moved to fall and then a follow up communication let them know the program was actually put on hiatus.

Heidi Fay has done a phenomenal job getting the program back to its full potential.

The committees best bet is to write letters to the executive cabinet that state the need for pharmacy techs in the community; that the community needs this program.

Heidi Fay was very upset to hear about the program going on hiatus as she hears that many organizations are in need of technicians. The current cohort is currently still meeting their externship and lab hours through summer, but after that there will be no more students. In the meantime, she will be teaching pharmacology for the Health Information Management program, possibly medical assisting and also the HEOC 130. She will still be available.

There is a budget cut to eliminate Heidi’s position.

Garrett Copeland-Jones spoke on the disappointment to hear about the program hiatus, however she is excited to hear that they are able to continue doing labs through summer. She is also happy to hear that they are able to get their current students out and graduated. She has chatted with several other organizations and they are devastated as they love hiring the Clark Pharmacy Tech students. It is very devastating to our community and region. She has started putting out communications for letters.

The committee members offered their words of encouragement and support. Derrick Ogawa offered his help as the partnership with the program has greatly benefited his organization. The caliber of employees they’ve gotten has been wonderful and they want to continue.

Sean Moore agreed about a writing campaign to the board. There is a demand based on the data for pharmacy techs. There are no other programs that are even close to what Clark offers in terms of connecting job seekers to employers. He suggested combining with Multnomah and Clackamas to help enlighten the demand. Being able to showcase Heidi Fay in the same way as Sarah Kuzera is to Medical Assisting would be beneficial for her in keeping her position and showing that the program is needed.

Bob Gustainis asked if the decision was based off the size of the cohort. Brenda Walstead explained that the program has had low enrollment, however it was decided by the college that any full-time temporary positions would be eliminated to help with the budget, which is Heidi’s position. The timing was horrible as they had just announced a tenure track position, but was put on hold due to the budget cuts.

**HOW TO MOVE FORWARD**

The communication needs to be professional. The committee agreed to write individual letters to the board about the need for the program that includes their experience as well as data to support it.

Renee Schiffhauer spoke on the support of programs that have a direct outcome. Some of those students that are in the cohort that are now going to be on that hiatus will end up waiting until the program comes back. She questioned the employers/industry members on what they would recommend for those students on the path that are waiting until the program comes back. Brenda Walstead suggested a pharmacy assistant. Derrick agreed that in Washington, that is possible. Down in Oregon, students can get a temp license for two years. As advising or career services is talking to students, knowing what they can suggest in this type of situation is helpful. Knowing other options is a great way to keep the students on the pharmacy path.

The committee continued to discuss what needs to be provided in the letter to the board. What and why is important. Someone suggested reaching out to alumni from the program to hear about their experience and how it’s helped them professionally. Zach McCall volunteered to reach out to the state pharmacy associations so that they are aware and informed so that they know what they can do.

Anthony Mauer also suggested that when industry members are reaching out to alumni, to also reach out to anybody that has ever hosted an externship student. He loves having the Clark students training and ends up hiring more than 50% that do come through. Other extern sites would probably like to be heard.

The foundation has also offered their support to the program.

**ACTION ITEM:**

* **SueAnn will send out the name and address of where to send letters to.**
* **The committee members will send rough draft letters to SueAnn who will then forward them on to Brenda or Jennifer.**

The committee will meet again on **June 18th, 2020 at 4:30pm\*** to go over the letters.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm

\*this was not considered to be a required yearly meeting

Prepared by SueAnn McWatters