



MINUTES FROM HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2018

Attendance: Mark Games, Northwood Health Systems; Terry McCormick, St. John’s Home for Children; Rhonda Hayes, WVU-MSW Program Coordinator, Wheeling; Darcey Ferrell, WVNCC faculty; Joyce Britt, WVNCC faculty; Warren Galbreath, Ohio University Eastern; Kathy Herrington, Program Director; Crystal Harbert, Division Chair; Jill Loveless, VPAA, WVNCC

Regrets: Chuck Knight, Youth Services, Inc.; Terry Stemple, Healthways, Inc.; Sylvia Hawranick, West Liberty University; R.J. Canter, WVNCC faculty

The meeting began at approximately 11:40 a.m. with introductions.

Updates (K. Herrington)

- Discussed declining # of graduates in our technical AAS program; more students seem to prefer “2+2” agreements in Psychology and Social Work (minimum of bachelor’s degree needed for certain positions decent wages. Some members thought “2+2” was misleading and preferred another term. Discussed changing to “A (Associate’s) to B (Bachelor’s), and committee members supported this idea.
- Discussed whether the 2 year AAS program is still of value to the community. Mr. McCormick said discussions at the state level regarding basic services being provided by an individual with a 2-year degree under the Bureau of Medical Services (BMS); no decisions yet. R. Hayes reported individuals working in substance abuse may be employable with a 2-year degree under CAC requirements for peer support counselor or peer coach.
- Comments that sometimes individuals with AAS degree are much better prepared for jobs in human services than those with a high school diploma; unfortunately, may not be paid at a higher rate and may be supervised by someone w/ less education but more experience. Eligibility for higher paying positions may be possible w/ grant-funded programs because agencies can be more flexible than in those that utilize Medicaid reimbursement.
- Conclusion: There is still a need for the AAS degree, which provides student interns and qualified paraprofessionals to agencies in this area. Both Dr. Galbreath and R. Hayes stated that WVNCC students coming out of our Associate degree programs seem better prepared than some of their bachelor level students. Perhaps the internship and technical classes provide our students with more applicable skills and knowledge that Bachelor’s level students don’t get until they are juniors or seniors.

Other issues discussed

- Dr. Galbreath mentioned that students transferring to OUE need to have general education, science (Anatomy & Physiology), and math (Statistics) completed when they come to OUE.

Developmental education requirements can interfere with students being able to be fully admitted to a BSW program. Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) has standards for developmental education that must be met. Some junior and senior level courses may be taken freshman year so developing an articulation agreement may be a little bit complicated. Since WV voted to d/c developmental education in favor of a “co-requisite” model, it may impact students transferring outside WV. K. Herrington will work on curriculum layout for an articulation between WVNCC & OUE in social work.

- Discussed the tuition program implemented by Northwood Health Systems, whereby students who work for NHS for two years may be eligible for tuition assistance toward BA, BS, or BSW.
- New scholarship available at Wheeling Jesuit for commuting students (from \$27,000 to \$8,250)
- Bethany has a tuition reduction program in the BSW program for WVNCC students as well
- T. McCormick said a policy enacted in WV has all high school students taking the SAT their Junior year; allows remediation for weak areas during their senior year. This should help with their readiness for College.
- Discussion re: background checks and when students should complete them. T. McCormick said they’re now all being done through “WV Cares”; results are usually available much faster than in the past. Cost approximately \$55 (if DMV check also needed, it is available for \$20 more). Sometimes agencies pay for employees or interns.
- Discussed issues w/ students not having a complete understanding of human services, disconnect between what they envision and reality. Also more need to be aware of issues re: professionalism, professional dress, guidelines regarding use of social media and boundaries
- Question re: whether students can do “observation” hours or “tours” of agencies prior to internship. Consensus was its possible w/out comprehensive background check if students aren’t alone w/ client, especially children. Mr. Games said students would have to sign a confidentiality agreement. Committee also recommended that students be required to get background checks early in the program so they don’t get all the way to the end and realize they can’t work in human services because of a prior criminal record.
- J. Britt asked if we could send information about our programs or speak to new employees of NHS for their orientation
- Dr. Galbreath said he was not doing background checks but students at OUE understood that they have to have them completed before they can do their internships or be employable. Applications to BSW program asks if they have ever been convicted of a felony. OUE offers some classes only once a year but have internship available in the fall and spring, coordinated by Tracy Pritchard, MSW.
- R. Hayes reported that MSW cohort in Wheeling will finish out this year; hopes MSW will be available totally or mostly online by Fall of 2019. Regular or advanced standing will both be available. CFSWE working on standards for online courses. K. Herrington they check into “Quality Matters” if they have not for national standards for online courses.



- R. Hayes reported a new residential Recovery Program for women being developed at Paul VI Retreat Center, coordinated by Sharon Travis and Rhonda. May have internship or employment opportunities for individuals w/ 2 year degrees under substance abuse waiver program. Healthways may be opening a similar facility in Beech Bottom, WV. K. Herrington recommended the book "Dreamland" by Sam Quinones, Apr, 2015 regarding the opioid epidemic and how it developed.
- Mr. McCormick explained federal legislation called "Families First Act", which was added to an appropriations bill. It provides Title IV money for foster care, but limits the stay to 2 weeks other than certain exceptions. Further, if they have kinship care available, they will not be eligible for foster care. Apparently the Annie Casey Foundation is in support of this, but so far TX, NY, and CA have filed lawsuits against it. He said he would send this out to Kathy and she will forward to the committee FYI.
- The last discussion focused on the SCARSI (Students Caring about regional Social Issues) Club and its purpose (J. Britt):
 - Highlights social concerns and regulatory issues.
 - Meets once a month.
 - Members pick a social topic every month and provide literature and resources listed.
 - Everything placed on Bulletin Board located in the B&O, 3rd floor; upcoming events are also on the board.
 - Fund raising activities (blanket drive for shelters, popcorn day proceeds went to homeless coalition and outreach program).
 - Popsicle day....donations to the sexual assault awareness. Ziegenfelder Corporation is donating 200 popsicles.
 - Pinwheels placed on Wheeling campus annually to raise awareness of child abuse.
 - Students encouraged to pick something they love, and volunteer.
 - All of this leads to students staying involved in the community.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Herrington".

Submitted by,

Kathy Herrington, M.S., M.A., LSW, Professor
Program Director, Human Services
(304) 214-8872

kherrington@wncc.edu