



MINUTES FROM HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2016

Attendance: Mark Games, Northwood Health Systems; Chuck Knight, Youth Services, Inc.; Dr. Carry DeAtley, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Amy Morris, student representative; Joyce Britt, WVNCC Instructor

Regrets: Warren Galbreath, Ohio University Eastern; Terry Stemple, Healthways, Inc.; Terry McCormick, St. John’s Home for Children; Rhonda Hayes, WVU-MSW Program Coordinator, Wheeling

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

Ms. Herrington provided a summary of changes and updates to Human Services AAS program for Fall, 2016. The educational requirements, specifically the Bachelor’s Degree, under WV Medicaid were presented to the curriculum committee for approval. There will be a phase-in process with the bachelor’s degree requirement. If you are hired by a certain date, a bachelor’s degree is required. This new requirement limits the amount of work you are able to do with just an Associate’s degree. For example, you are not able to lead groups. Mr. Knight stated that they still have the option to be a team leader; however, it must be done under supervision.

Mr. Games stated that the significant changes will reduce out of home placements. He does feel that the change will not affect the direct care staff care. The changes will require an extensive training program with certified trainers. There is a whole list of things in licensing regulations, including understanding of family systems.

Starting October 1, 2016 per diem payments from DHHR for residential services will be reduced for room and board, and Medicaid is planning to make up the difference through contracting out more of the services that may currently be done in-house. Some services that agencies bill for, like supportive counseling, require a bachelor’s degree. Oversight of children (direct service workers or direct care workers) will still be okay with an Associate’s Degree as long as they are supervised by someone with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Another change to residential services is that clients will have to be discharged within 6 months or DHHR will stop paying for those services, and if a resident who is discharged returns to the facility within 12 months of being treated, DHHR will not pay for those services either. This puts agencies at risk for not being able to continue to deliver services as they have done under the current system, and may precipitate other changes that cannot be anticipated yet. Ms. Herrington stated that there will be a wrap-around in home services in which parents will have to be trained. Mr. Games stated that the family preservation route would require an AA degree for direct care workers who would be in the home providing the “wrap around” services.

Rhonda Hayes wrote in a comment regarding the program description page that she would recommend adding some information about the fact that students with a 2 year degree and 4 years of experience may qualify to become Certified Addiction Professional, Alcohol Drug Addiction Counselors.



Ms. Herrington directed everyone to the changes noted in paragraph V. "Revised Course Description" for HS 204. The portfolio requirement was removed and the required number of hours for Internship is now 240 contact hours instead of 135 hours, based on the change to the Early Childhood degree, which, by state mandate, will now require 240 hours. This change also increases the number of credit hours from 5 to 6, but the students will now meet with the instructor every other week instead of every week. Ms. Morris said she agreed that they did not need to meet every week.

Ms. Morris stated that she believed 240 hours is way too much if you are working a full-time job and going to school. Ms. Herrington stated that not all students got their internship information in on time to start their field placement this current semester, and that HS 205, the seminar which is the prerequisite regarding internship does explain what they need to do. Dr. DeAtley suggested holding the seminar class earlier in the semester. The seminar was previously held from November-December, but Ms. Herrington put through a curriculum proposal to have this changed to October-November. This will give students 6 additional weeks in the fall semester to get all their information together so they are prepared to start their internship by the second week of January.

Time will tell if the 240 hours is going to work. Four year colleges require 500 hours. Ms. Morris stated that the internship is a great asset to the Associate's Degree. Many students have to work before they get their bachelor's degree. The internship enables them to go into the field early, and many students get a job out of their internship, so it serves as a placement resource. Ms. Herrington also commented that she requires the students to stretch out their internship over the semester, not allowing them to hurry up and finish their hours quickly (for example, by putting in 40 hours a week and being done by the end of February. Students have to be in their internship site until at least the end of March or middle of April to give them enough time to be exposed to many different experiences at the agency.

Page 7 changes were made on the information about background checks for human services students per Mark Games recommendations. Some changes are happening at the state level, but are not completely resolved yet, but the State of WV want to complete all background checks in a centralized manner for human services, and deciding what is acceptable.

Discussion took place regarding the waiver process for potential employees who have a criminal record. If the applicant has more than 2 misdemeanors they can be approved by an agency or employer. WVNCC is not allowed to ask if they have had an offense or require a background check (except in the health sciences programs which have students at clinical sites throughout their education), according to our legal department, as they are not working directly with clients. Whether a student can get a waiver depends on the nature of the offense. Mr. Games reported that anyone can use a private service to do a search, which checks the national registry for sex offenders. It's a lot quicker to use them as it gives a heads up before the individual is offered a job. CIB checks take longer. If the background check does come up with something, it can be handled on a case-by-case basis.



Ms. Herrington asked for final comments or recommendations from the committee. Mr. Games commented that he had nothing significant to add and Mr. Knight stated that everything was covered. Ms. Morris commented that she has learned a lot by hearing the agencies talk, students want to know more about 2 + 2 programs, and to be careful not to overload the students. She thought it would be very helpful to have a college representative explain the 2 +2 programs in one of the introductory classes. In addition, she complemented the Faculty at WVNCC for doing a great job. Ms. Britt stated that she has people from the field come in and give talks. There is a resource folder put together for group counseling students, and students interview a member of an agency and share that information in the case management class. Dr. DeAtley reminded everyone to do the Graduating Survey. Ms. Herrington stated that she took the Advisory Board comments and included it in the curriculum changes for next year, and will do the same with recommendations from this year.

The last comments focused on the SCARSI (Students Caring about regional Social Issues) Club and its purpose:

- Highlights social concerns and regulatory issues.
- Meets once a month.
- Members pick a social topic every month and try to provide literature with all the resources listed.
- Everything is placed on the Bulletin Board located in the B&O
- Fund raising (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.
- Upcoming events are also on the board.
- Pinwheels were placed on Wheeling campus to raise awareness for child abuse.
- Pick something you love and volunteer.
- All of this leads to students staying involved in the community.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Terri Klepack
Administrative Secretary, Sr.

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

Kathy Herrington, M.S., M.A., ABD, LSW
Program Director, Human Services