



## MEDICAL ASSISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING: October 16, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

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### I. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. Vicky called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- b. Recording: The meeting recording is being shared per Vicky Soladey's request. The meeting starts at 14:25 minutes into the recording.
- c. Vicky shared with the group that it was Medical Assistant Recognition Week.

### II. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. New members, updated members, new student and faculty
  - i. Industry:  
MaryAlice McCubbins, Nurse Practitioner, Child and Adolescent Clinic  
Dana Clayton, Project Manager, Ferguson Enterprises
  - ii. Education:  
Vicky Soladey, Medical Assisting Director, Lower Columbia College  
Hanna Burleson, Biomedical Science Teacher, RAL/MM
  - iii. Guests:  
None
- b. Review and update Medical Assisting Advisory Committee Roster  
Vicky presented the roster. No changes were made.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of [Medical Assisting Advisory Minutes 4 17 2023](#)- Approved via Google form.
- b. Review tonight's agenda and adjust as needed: No adjustments were made.

### IV. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. APPROVALS
  - i. K12 CTE CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION - None at this time.
  - ii. COURSES AND CIP CODES - None at this time.

## **V. INDUSTRY UPDATES**

### **a. Share what is going on out in the field**

- i. Dana reported that Ferguson is the same, busy. Nothing is exciting to report.
- ii. MaryAlice said that things at the Child and Adolescent Clinic are going well. They are busy as there have been more surges in illness since school started. They are trying to fill positions to be fully staffed for winter. There are no real changes. Staffing at Vancouver has had high turnover for various reasons, largely personal to the MAs.

## **VI. Education (LCC and K12) UPDATES**

- a. Hanna shared that there have been high levels of absences, which confirms that the increase in illnesses they're seeing at Child and Adolescent Clinic is happening at all levels of K-12. Many illnesses with fevers are being reported. She encourages mask-wearing when kids don't feel well and has found students are compliant.

### **b. Labor Market (Spring)**

### **c. Student Success/Performance (Fall/Spring)**

### **d. K12 Updates**

- i. Hanna shared Science scores have just populated. Students have done well in her program, but other areas of science are slowly progressing. The comeback from COVID will take some time.

### **e. LCC Updates**

#### **i. Campus and program updates**

1. Vicky explained that LCC is in the process of selecting a new president due to Chris Bailey's retirement set for January 2024. Applications were plentiful and the interviewing process has begun. Faculty will have an opportunity to review finalists.
2. Vicky also shared that Medical Assisting webpage updates are forthcoming. Efforts are being made to make it more user-friendly and mobile-friendly.

#### **ii. The current cohort for 2023-2024**

#### **iii. Vicky reported that the current cohort is very small with just 7 students.**

#### **iv. Follow up 2022-2023 cohort**

1. Vicky also reported that the 2022-2023 cohort was 100% successful. All 8 students graduated at the end of August. Five of those students have completed their AAMA exam. Six of the graduates are already working as MAs. One student is waiting for full licensure.
2. Vicky extended her thanks to the Child and Adolescent Clinic for their support as a preceptorship site.

#### **v. Accreditation update - [Accreditation Progress Report 6 2023](#)**

1. Vicky stated that LCC's MEDA program is still working out two remaining items outstanding toward the accreditation recommendations. While LCC had provided the required forms, we had not documented how students were meeting the requirements while filling out the forms. LCC

had until November to submit the documentation but sent it out on October 22nd.

**vi. Any Recommendations for students, faculty, or program**

1. Hanna's suggestion was to promote multiple years in a row. She also recommended having high school students go to LCC to give the students a full, detailed tour of the MEDA program with a brief tour of the campus at large.
2. MaryAlice had no recommendations.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Follow up on Medical Assisting AAS-T BAS-OLTM**

- i. Vicky reported that the new MEDA AAS-T officially started the summer quarter. Two of the seven current students are on the AAS-T pathway. Three to four are considering the transfer pathway.

**b. Strategic Enrollment**

- i. Vicky has been trying to boost enrollment. She likes the idea of bringing students to campus. LCC is starting to offer tours, counselor events, etc., in an attempt to increase enrollment.
- ii. Current work with CTE and dual credit is starting to show benefits. Vicky met with two high school students and showed them that they already have 15 credits that will fulfill program requirements, which is exciting.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS: Around the Table**

- a. Vicky posed the question: How do we navigate the salary of Medical Assistants? She noted that the MA average salary for Cowlitz County/Wahkiakum is \$47,000 compared to Nursing at \$102,000. These programs have roughly the same time commitment for school. How do we make it more enticing?
- b. MaryAlice notes these salaries are based on many different factors based on the location, community needs, whether the position is full-time or part-time, whether or not benefits are offered, etc. Prospective students should look at the lifestyle as well. Students should note there is more to what you're doing than your paycheck. They should look at where they're going and ask about the turnover rate. Millennial personality and culture play a part too. She recommends that the program advertise the flexibility of the MA profession. Help them find their strengths and life goals to determine whether or not the profession is a good fit. Focus on the lifestyle and calling of medical care. We need to get students out there to do the work to help them determine whether they even want to do the work.
  - i. Vicky explained that people often don't know what MAs do. Explaining the difference between medical assisting and nursing to people is important, but she's finding it is a challenge to even get prospective students to look at medical assisting as an option.

- c. Vicky also asked: What do we know about AI? How do we feel about it in the academic setting as well as the healthcare workplace?
  - i. Hanna stated that at the high school level, with Chat GPT, students have been testing the use of AI. It was determined that a couple of students have used AI on papers. The high schools have examined the issue and determined that at 500 words, AI writing starts breaking down. It doesn't write as effectively, repeats, and inserts odd information. She mentions that knowing the student's voice helps. As staff, they've been examining the benefits of using AI in the classroom. They have been testing the use of AI this year. She noted that in our community, we have people from different cultures. Google Translate doesn't effectively translate these languages, but Chat GPT does. Teachers can paste assignments into Chat GPT and have them translated into the needed language. They then share with the students to effectively convey the assignment information. This helps teachers work with students from other cultures.
  - ii. MaryAlice reports that the Child and Adolescent Clinic is not using AI. They use general electronic medical records, pre-staged templated documents, and computer scenarios. AI is not used. She can see where models for education might be beneficial. AI is not an issue for them yet.
  - iii. Vicky stated that LCC is looking at finding a happy medium. During fall assessment week, instructors reported using AI to help create class activities. They are examining how to keep students honest.
  - iv. Dana indicated that AI is not used at Ferguson.
- d. Vicky also asked whether the need for instant gratification is cultural or generational. She noted that students don't want to read the material and want to be told the answers.
  - i. Hanna said that students like instant feedback and have difficulty reading text. She explained that if it is turned into a game, students are receptive. She uses Kahoot, Quizizz, Quizlet, Blooket, and vocab Bingo. Once students see it as a game, they want to learn it and do better. Having skills in place on how to find the correct information is beneficial in the long run. She tries to reinforce the idea that long-term knowledge is the key.
  - ii. MaryAlice noted the importance of knowledge retention in the field as it's essential for quality care.
  - iii. Vicky stated that she constantly reminds students that they must retain the material to work in the state of Washington and for their national exam.

**IX. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- a. None at this time.

**X. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE):** April 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

**XI. ADJOURNED:** The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

**RESOURCES**

- a. [ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK](#)
- b. [LCC: Professional-Technical Advisory Committees Meeting Minutes](#)
- c. **The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332**
- d. [College Advisory Committee Procedures](#)
- e. [K12 CTE Advisory Committee Procedures](#)
- f. **Terms:**
  - i. **V-Code:** Vocational (V) Code. This is tied to the certification code and dictates the K12 courses that a teacher is certified to teach. The teachers' education or industry experience is reviewed to determine the V-codes for certification.
  - ii. **CIP Code:** Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code. A federally accepted course and program code that identifies courses taught throughout the United States, this includes CTE courses. CIP codes are aligned to V-codes that clarify which courses the teacher has been certified to teach in K12. CIP codes are also used for reporting purposes from the district to OSPI and college to the SBCTC.

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