



NURSING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, October 22, 2020 4:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 5:02

II. ATTENDEES

Michelle Ashby, Cowlitz County Health Department
Merry Bond, PeaceHealth
Katie Gerson, Kelso School District
Jennifer Jenkins, Kelso School District
Kelly Klein, LCC nursing student
Jackie Laes, PeaceHealth
Sean Moore, Workforce Southwest Washington
Melissa Selzler, community member
Kali Brandt, LCC
Karen Joiner, LCC
Tamara Norton, LCC
Connie Ramos, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Enrollment update

Karen Joiner shared with advisory members that college enrollment overall is down about 18%; the nursing program enrollment is up slightly in the LPN2RN eLearning program with current enrollment at 53 up from 51 last fall, and the traditional program at the same level as last fall. Nursing assistant numbers are down due to cancellation of the course this summer and had only admitted 8 Fall Quarter due to lack of clinical placement options. The current plan is to not offer it winter quarter unless clinical is available.

b) Labor market data

Karen reported that the labor market data continues to show demand for registered nurses. Nursing assistant job openings are down a little as COVID-19 affected demand for this sector, but it appears to be on the rise which was affirmed by advisory members. Sean Moore, project manager with the Workforce Southwest Washington, shared with advisory members that the demand for nursing is increasing. Southwest Washington employers are looking for entry level Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) in assisted living, long term care and home health care facilities. Karen affirmed that this tends to be an area of high turnover.



c) Program outcomes data

Karen shared information with advisory members about the systematic evaluation plan for accreditation, and presented a document listing all nursing faculty and their credentials. Program outcomes data was presented and reviewed.

Pass rates – summer cohort at 100%; 2020 94%; 2019 92%; 2018 88%. Some of the lower percentages reflected low numbers in cohort of students. Karen told members the nursing program has a goal of 80% passing rate.

Completions for LPN2RN e-learning cohort is at 80 % for summer quarter. Karen told members that students that start from the beginning and those that opt in at 4th quarter vary. Students entering at fourth quarter are more at risk and LCC has taken measure to mitigate and it appear to be improving completion numbers.

Karen shared with members that LCC uses several measures to assess the nursing program for accreditation. In addition to the above-mentioned areas LCC also looks at preparing graduates for employment which is the hardest data to collect. A survey is conducted annually but few are returned. In the recent survey 31 surveys were returned reflecting 28 employed of the 48 students in that cohort.

LCC also surveys graduate satisfaction six months after graduation. LPN to RN e-learning responses tend to be the least satisfied and LCC staff expect that might be because students did not know what to expect in an online program.

Quality indicators for nursing program were mentioned – leadership, faculty turnover, support staff and their roles, preparing graduates for employment, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction - all of which serve as an indicator of the program’s strength (Attachment A).

d) COVID-19 restrictions and continuing effects on the program

There were no clinical sites available during spring quarter and LCC moved completely to simulation. There were however some preceptorships at the end of the quarter.

Clinical sites remained down summer quarter but LCC was able to offer 50 percent clinical and 50 percent simulation. Fall continues to face similar obstacles. Karen praised faculty for their above and beyond actions to serve students.

LCC sees critical need for additional instructors during third quarter as these students have been affected by a lack of clinical sites for direct patient care in previous quarters.

Karen and faculty are investigating creative ways to offer additional instruction with plans to double up on instructors in winter quarter with 5 students per faculty.

The Nursing Assistant course (NURS090) has been cancelled for winter. LCC recently received new information for potentially allowing simulation for patient care hours. The goal is to first serve current students and those with incompletes in NURS 090 before enrolling new students.

Katie Gersen and Jennifer Jenkins shared that school districts have not been able to place students in clinicals either but hope to place students in clinicals mid-March 2021. They will evaluate in January. They do not currently have the means for simulation.

Karen suggested having a conversation regarding options for getting high school students through completion with a creative partnership. Tamara Norton suggested



looking at opportunities to help with flu shots or any other options for working directly with patients.

e) Simulation Handbook and approval from NCQAC

Karen shared that the Simulation Handbook was finalized and approved at LCC this past summer, and is posted on the LCC Nursing homepage. . It was submitted to the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) and the spring/summer program changes were approved. The fall program changes still need to be submitted. The nursing commission allows up to 50 percent of clinical hours to be completed through simulation. Karen told members the handbook is posted on LCC's Nursing Web Page.

f) Applicant statistics

Karen shared with advisory members that LCC always gets more qualified applicants than can be admitted. The statistics are fairly consistent with prior application cycles. There were 126 applicants during the April 15-July 31 period with 91 qualifying and 28 admitted. LCC could theoretically double enrollment but faculty and facility capacity does not allow for additional students. The LPN2RN opt in or e-learning program had 331 applicants with 66% qualified and 44% admitted.

Advisory members asked what "qualified" signifies in this instance. Karen said it means the individual met LCC's entrance requirements and have passed the required admission test.

g) Application update re: NA-C requirement

LCC requires students have their NA-C to apply but that was waived summer quarter as the state testing was suspended. In place of certification, students had to show they completed the NA course and were eligible to test.

Jackie Laes told members that she prefers students with NAC before starting in nursing program. She sees a big difference in quality of skills by those who have completed NAC. Tamara told the group things are changing every quarter and LCC will continue to evaluate.

Karen let members know that LCC continues to give points for work experience so that does help. Once NA-C testing has opened and caught up, LCC will put the requirement back in place. This plan was supported by the committee.

h) Member updates

Katie and Jennifer share that the school district is offering all classes online. They have 26 students this year and are encouraged by the numbers. They have been having students practice nursing assistant skills at home and then share via video. They have hybrid classes planned for a start in December.

Melissa Selzler shared that she is working relief at a local care facility while she continues to work on her doctorate in data informatics through the University of New England.



Michelle Ashby shared that the Cowlitz County Health Department receives guidance updates regarding COVID-19 regularly. Both Cowlitz and Clark counties remain in safe start status although there are conversations at the state level about moving forward with opening more options.

Sean shared that unemployment spiked but they are seeing return to employment especially with health care positions. They are seeing an increase in demand for patient access representatives and customer service-oriented positions. More employers are looking for nursing assistants and Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) has plans for a Career Launch statewide program in February with a focus on rural areas.

WSW is also beginning a medical assisting apprenticeship consortium virtually in January and has work in process for apprenticeships for pharmacy technician and central Jackie shared that PeaceHealth Longview does not take COVID patients. They are sent to PeaceHealth in Vancouver. She praised LCC's program and says students she sees coming from LCC are better prepared than students she sees from other schools.

Merry Bond told members she is a staff nurse in the surgical specialties' unit PeaceHealth and is preparing to work on her doctorate.

Kelly Klein shared that he is in his sixth quarter at LCC and is counting down the weeks to be able to join the "LCC grad" group. He is currently serving his preceptorship and gave a shout out and thank you to all LCC faculty for their support of students.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. No Pinning ceremony due to COVID-19 restrictions
- b. Current application cycle ends October 30. Next: April 15- June 30.
- c. NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2021, 4:30 -6:00 (Zoom or HSB 235, TBD)

V. Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.