



CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23RD, 2019 5:30 P.M. LCC MAIN BUILDING, ROOM 148

I. Meeting called to order at 5:48 p.m.

II. ATTENDEES

Debra Casserd-Johnson, A New Safe Haven
Amber DeLagrange, Family Health Center
Ann Mette-Smeenk, Child and Adolescent Clinic
Nonnie Weaver, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Review minutes from May 8th meeting

Minutes were reviewed, spelling correction made section IV a. Approved by consensus.

b) Labor Market Data

Data was shared from Labor Market Insight for the occupation of Substance Abuse Counselor. In Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis and Clark counties there have been 28 job postings over the past 12 months for Substance Abuse Counselor or similar titles, e.g. Addiction Counselor, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Outpatient Substance Abuse Counselor, with a "time to fill" timeline of 40 days. The occupation has a projected growth of 20% over the next 10 years. Salary range for this occupation in Washington State is from \$31,500 to \$72,000, which is on par with national salary range.

c) Program Updates

1. Enrollment

Chemical Dependency Studies enrollment is down for Fall 2019 from Fall of 2018. Brief discussion of enrollment being down across the state in the majority of professional-technical programs.

2. New name for licensure

Nonnie Weaver shared with the group that Washington State Department of Health has changed the name for licensing purposes from Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) to Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP). LCC is considering renaming its program from Chemical Dependency Studies to something more generic like Addiction Studies. Board members agree with name change.



3. New rules

Nonnie provided documents to the group regarding Washington Health Care Authority's implementation of the Substance Use Peer Services certification. Group discussion about the lack of education and training these individuals receive in order to be considered "certified" and to treat peers covered by Medicaid who may be in recovery from substance abuse or experiencing mental health episodes. Peer counselors are considered certified after completing 36-40 hours of training. Nonnie further shared that peer counselors are under the Health Care Authority (HCA) not the Department of Health (DOH) and that DOH is reluctant to take this on due to limited education that is inadequate preparation for treating individuals.

Nonnie also told the group that the Washington State Consortium of Addiction Studies Educators (WACASE) has told the state that peer certification should be within education environment to validate the quality of training.

The state is also asking WACASE to develop a 60 hour course for anyone already holding a college degree that would prepare individuals to be a "Co-occurring Disorder Specialist". The course would include core competencies, an exam and 40 hours of work experience. Educators are telling the state they don't have the resources and funding should be provided for development of the course.

Group members concerned about the quality of care individuals will receive, the integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment, and the lack of knowledge regarding the two issues and the need to be treated separately.

4. Guided Pathways update

Nonnie shared with the group the Guided Pathways initiative LCC is currently involved in. The five-year initiative is intended to give people more guidance about what they want to pursue as a career path so they stay in school and don't unnecessarily enroll in courses that won't lead them to a career and employment. CDS 101 Introduction to Addictions and Chemical Dependency was added to the general mix of Social Science elective courses to see if students want to pursue this career path.

5. Online course updates

CDS 101, a direct transfer course, is now online and fills quickly.

Plans are underway to move additional CDS courses online, Nonnie told the group. The next in line is pharmacology, taught by Jeb Bolarjack, who is developing the course so that it can be taken online and/or in the classroom. It is scheduled to be ready spring 2020.

Five or six additional courses will be moved to online environment next year. Entry level courses, such as ethics training, will remain classroom delivery modality.



d) Member news

Ann Mette-Smeenck told the group the Sept. 29th Discovery Recovery Walk was well attended and very successful. Over 250 people and 30 organizations participated in the event at Lake Sacajawea.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

a. Keynote Speaker Luis Ortega

Luis Ortega is a TEDx Speaker, multidisciplinary storyteller, artist, empathy educator, social impact consultant, and the director and founder of Storytellers for Change. He will speak Tuesday, October 29 Noon to 1 p.m. in the Rose Center for the Arts Wollenberg Auditorium.

Over the last fourteen years, Luis has traveled across the nation to share his personal narrative and message about the power of storytelling and story-listening to inspire action and build empathetic, inclusive, and equitable communities.

b. Kelso High School Open House

Kelso High Schools Career and Technical Education program is hosting an open house to showcase their new facilities 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1st. Students will be demonstrating skills they are learning that align with industry standards.

c. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): April 8th, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Main Building. Zoom or WebEx option encouraged.

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.