

**College of the Siskiyou
Nursing Advisory Council Meeting**

**Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.
RHSI Room 121**

Present: Debbie Howell, Assistant Director of Nursing, Fairchild Medical Center; Marijo Welborn, Executive Director, Siskiyou Home Health Services; Coy Welborn, Nursing Supervisor, Siskiyou Home Health Services; Peggy Amoral, ICU Education Manager, Fairchild Medical Center; Jeff Cummings, Dean CTE, COS; Gerri Fedora, Director of Nursing, COS; Betty King, SRMC; Brenda Sisk, STEP; Ester Van Buren, Assistant Manager Med/Surg, Fairchild Medical Center; Bethany McWilliams, COS; Cheryl Rosen, COS.

Absent: Audrey Flower, Catey Olivolo, Morris Eagleman, Barbara Baertschi, Renee Barr, Sonya Vancil, Florine Super, George Bliss, Kim Greene, Amy Gaither, Marian Murphy-Shaw, Clyde Davis, Terri Funk, Christy Cummings, Patrick Kearns, Lori Cleveland, Tricia Bravo, Jennifer Malone, Patti Miller, Candy Smith, Jonie Wade, Bill Handshy, Pady Dunn.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Debbie Howell welcomed those in attendance and agreed to serve as chair in Morris' absence. All of those in attendance introduced themselves.

The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

2. Rural Health Science Grand Opening:

Invitations were distributed to the group. The ceremony is scheduled on November 3 from 4-6 p.m. Planning for the grand opening is coming together well. The Wal-Mart grant advisory meeting is November 3 from 12-3 preceding the grand opening ceremony. The COS Board of Trustees meeting is immediately following. Redding agencies have received and posted the invitations at their facilities. Those who want additional invitations can contact Cheryl.

3. ADN Program Update:

We are going strong with 26 students in the new class. We accepted 30 applicants, 28 registered, and 27 began with only one withdrawal so far. We expanded our clinical groups from two to three, which is working much better. We are limited to 30 students for clinical placement. We have 150 students on a list who have expressed interest in next year's program. Gerri is excited about the pool we are building of students in Siskiyou County. We have a 95 percent pass rate for the last class, with one student left to test. The one student who failed tested immediately after graduating and didn't prep adequately.

In our current class, we have students commuting from a range of places including Susanville, Orange County, and Oregon. We are still working with Simpson University to provide affordable housing one night per week to students commuting to Redding. Students are working hard to get through the program.

The ADN pinning ceremony is scheduled for the same day as the COS graduation. The tentative date is May 14, 2010. The council is invited to attend.

4. Simulation Lab

Every day we are getting more of the technology up and running in the new Sim lab. We have hired a new faculty member who has previous experience setting up simulation for critical care. She has been a valuable asset in setting up our Sim lab, together with Tricia Bravo, our skills lab coordinator. The next step is to integrate Sim hours in substitution for clinical. We hope to begin

this with the labor and delivery portion of the spring semester. Jeff related his first-hand experience observing the power of simulation as a learning tool.

We are excited about the opportunities in the simulation program and are looking forward to developing more simulations. We are advertising for a simulation technician to provide technology support in the lab.

5. VN Program

Gerri reported on the VN program in Lori Cleveland's absence. We have 26 students in our NURS 52 class who will be graduating in May 2010. The graduation date will be confirmed in our April meeting. There has been some anxiety in the second semester class through the transition to the new building, but they have adjusted quite well.

Over a third of our VN students have their RN prerequisites finished. They are a high achieving group and more competitive than previous classes. Their long-term goals are clear.

We started our second cohort this semester and the new group is now in the hospitals. Fairchild now has students there four days per week instead of two. Debbie reported it is going well and Fairchild is working through how to deal with the new level of activity. Hospital staff members love the students. Maja Haupt, the new instructor, is doing well.

We hired a new full-time faculty member to work with the second cohort, who cut back to working in the skills lab. We are now advertising for a new LVN and ADN instructor. Agencies are encouraged to inform their staff of these job openings.

We are also looking for someone to serve as a skills lab instructor on a part-time basis.

COS is partnering with STEP to fund an allied health instructor position. Jeff encouraged the committee to pass on this information to anyone interested. It is a one-year, grant funded position intended to research and develop allied health programs.

6. CNA Program Update:

Part of the expansion of the VN program was funded through a Workforce Initiative grant offered through the Chancellor's office. The grant also funds additional cohorts of CNA students. We started a class of 30 students in the summer and another of 27 this fall. There have been some logistical problems scheduling their clinical placement in the hospitals. We are not sure of our enrollment potential for the spring but are intending to start another cohort then.

We will be offering an introduction to health careers course this spring, which should encourage interest and enrollment in entry-level nursing courses. The class is transfer level and should be able to be video-conferenced throughout the county to high schools. The distance part hasn't come together yet but is the next logical step. It takes time to get these classes going, but is worth the effort to encourage interest in health careers among high school students.

Patti Miller, our CNA clinical instructor, thanked the agencies for having our students. The students want to be there and are strongly motivated.

7. In-Home Caregiver Class:

We offered an in-home caregiver class last spring, but only had five enroll in and complete the course. It is a six-week course running one night a week starting in April. We are going to try to advertise enough in advance to generate more interest this year. Offering the course in the north

county may increase interest. Catey Olivolo was the instructor for the course and gave feedback that the drive to Weed might have been a discouraging factor for north county residents. We will also be able to use our labs to offer some of the basic skills training needed.

8. Clinical Agency Update:

Mercy Redding: The agency had a tumultuous summer while undergoing review by the state. Karen Jones thanked Gerri for being flexible through this time. The state approved Mercy's changes and plans. Mercy is in negotiations to prevent the one-day nurses' strike. Students are not normally brought to hospitals while strikes are taking place. Karen recommended against bringing students into that environment due to the hostility and confusion involved. The strike is scheduled at this point for October 30 but could be canceled at any moment. There is still plenty of time for it to be called off. Karen reported the facility loves having COS students there and is looking forward to having them back. Clinical rotations at Mercy Redding have been reduced due to some programs moving their students elsewhere. This allows more space for COS students in the future. Jeff thanked Karen for Mercy's openness to our students.

Shasta Regional Medical Center: Betty King expressed SRMC's empathy with what Mercy has gone through. RNs at SRMC do not currently have union representation, so the strike will not take place at SRMC. They are anticipating the impact Mercy's strike will have on their facility and are planning to have extra staff on duty that day. SRMC also loves the students. Betty reported the students encourage agency staff to step up and reinforce skills and agency policies. There is a positive environment in every respect.

Fairchild Medical Center: Debbie Howell reported the facility is adapting well to the four days of student rotations. It is a high caliber of students and they feel they are fortunate to have them. FMC has been at peak census, which provides more opportunities for students.

Madrone Adult Day/Hospice: Coy reported their focus is on teaching, and the students fall into that very quickly. Census is up and down but they are still able to find things for the students to do. It is a highly-motivated group of students and Madrone appreciates and enjoys having them. The VN students are more excited than the RNs.

Public Health: Terri Funk was not able to attend. Gerri reported we have pulled our VN students from Public health due to conflicts with the RN rotations. This is unfortunate because students received good training opportunities through Public Health. Terri has done good work arranging for our RN students to do rotations in the jail. While some students didn't originally want to go to the jail, they now see what a good opportunity it is.

9. STEP Nurse Training Grants

STEP continues to research options and possibilities for funding future programs. They are supporting 10 LVN students who started in the spring, and five with the new class. They tried to support the CNA program with stimulus funds and found out afterwards they need to track placement of CNA graduates. Some students go directly from the CNA program into working on their prerequisites for the LVN, and are not interested in finding a job. This affects their funding. STEP is also currently providing uniform vouchers and funding for books and ATI testing to our current class of ADN students. We have encumbered money from STEP to purchase books and uniforms for the next class as well.

STEP has money to help dislocated workers return to school. Brenda asked Gerri to make students aware of this.

10. Tech Prep Update

Jeff reported our biggest goal is to make sure students have an opportunity to pursue a variety of careers in health education. We continue to work with Tech Prep to provide this. The allied health position at COS will be involved in this process.

11. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the RHSI.

Other business: Jeff queried about the difference between MA training and CNA training. MAs do not have some of the basic skills training of CNAs such as bed making, bathing, etc. It would not be possible to offer a program which would allow students to obtain licensure for both a CNA and CMA. The focus of the training is too different. MA training could be offered as an additional step to the CNA program.