



Nursing Advisory Committee

November 17, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Growing jobs, careers, communities...

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: RHSI, Room 121 and Zoom

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Shelly Davis, MN, RN PHN CCHP- Siskiyou County Health & Human Services

COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR: Mike Michelon, Siskiyou Child Care Council Director

STAFF:
Hallie Coppi MSN – Nursing Program Director
Karen Bezzam – Nursing Program Coordinator
Stephanie Richardson – Nursing Program Assistant

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Davis, Brenda Harris, Susan Westphal, Erin Reusze, Trudy Old, Elizabeth Pulatlie, Melinda Dorman, Andy Lecklider, Mike Michelon, Char Perlas, Mark Klever, Christina Van Alfen, Kim Peacemaker, Hallie Coppi, Karen Bezzam, Stephanie Richardson

GUESTS PRESENT: None

MEETING MINUTES:

- ♦ **Welcome and Introductions**
Shelly Davis welcomed everyone, and initiated a round robin of introductions
- ♦ **Review/Approve Agenda and Minutes**
Shelly requested a motion to approve the agenda as is. Hallie Coppi motioned, Brenda Harris seconded, and the motion passed.
Shelly requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 15, 2021. Susan Westphal motioned to approve, Hallie Coppi seconded, and the motion passed.
- ♦ **Perkins Data Presentation** – Christina Van Alfen
Christina presented Perkins data from the RN and LVN programs (See corresponding materials). She reminded everyone that even though the dates say 2020-21 this data is actually representative of two years ago. Perkins is federal funding that targets students pursuing a CTE certificate or degree, and specifically looks at retention of students in these tracks, specifically non-traditional students. Perkins data also tracks successful employment of students upon graduation. Based on the data presented, Christina revealed that our nursing programs have shown low numbers in male student enrollment.
- ♦ **Nursing Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair – new appointments** – Shelly Davis
Shelly Davis and Mike Michelon are stepping down from their roles as Committee Chair and Committee Vice Chair. Elizabeth Pulatlie volunteered and was designated as the new Committee Chair, and Susan Westphal volunteered and was designated as the new Committee Vice Chair, effective as of today's date. These positions are usually held for a two year period.
- ♦ **Nursing Programs Update** – Hallie Coppi
 1. Vocational Nursing Class – We are preparing to graduate 12 LVN students December 16 at 5PM in the Kenneth Ford Theater in Weed. Announcements will be sent out soon to everyone. Hallie noted how proud she is of this class as they have lived through many challenges during their time in nursing school. She is confident they are fully prepared to enter the workforce with all the challenges it brings. Susan Westphal asked how many of the students were local and planning to stay in the area – Hallie answered all but one, and they all intend to stay and work locally.

- 2. LVN-RN Step-Up Program** – We are still on pause and recruiting for **two** full time master's prepared faculty members as well as a simulation lab technician to continue this program. We had two applicants who accepted offers verbally, but then declined the written contracts. Susan Westphal asked if we know why they declined. Hallie explained that we don't know details but we know one accepted an offer at a different school, and the other candidate was not willing to accept the position if she was the only one. Hallie reiterated that we must hire two full time master's prepared faculty in order to admit a reduced cohort of ten students into the program. Our accreditation from the BRN will expire in September. If we are unable to hire the required amount of faculty and a simulation lab technician, the current plan is to submit for closure prior to losing accreditation in order to have a chance to reopen within three years (grace period deadline set by the BRN) as a step-up program.

There is a professional recruitment firm working with the college to find candidates. Elizabeth Pulatie asked if they are reaching out to schools that offer Master's in Nursing programs – Hallie said yes, all over the country. We are willing to look at candidates who are in the process of finishing their Master's degree as well. Susan Westphal asked if we could possibly partner with other schools to be established as some sort of satellite campus for another program. Hallie and Mark Klever spoke about how this is one of the main ideas we are pursuing at present.

- 3. LVN Program Staffing** – Our full time instructor who was hired in August has unfortunately submitted her resignation and will be finishing with us on January 28, 2022. She is staying long enough to graduate our current students and teach the IV Therapy course in January. This means we will have to pause the LVN program and we are working with the BVNPT to do this. We are currently recruiting for one full time Bachelor's prepared nurse for this position.
- 4. CNA** – We graduated 13 students in August and plan to offer this program again in the summer. We are looking at ways to expand this program by converting the theory portion to online and setting up clinical rotations for weekends. This would make it more accessible to HS students and working individuals. Hallie said we could admit more students if we have more sites available for their clinical rotations. Susan Westphal and Elizabeth Pulatie said FMC and MMCMS would be willing to talk about hosting students for their clinical rotations. Hallie also asked if anyone knew of someone who might be interested in teaching the CNA course, to direct them to her. They must have experience in long term care and must have Director of Staff Development certification, or be willing to take the online course that the nursing program can fund.

♦ **Committee Member/Agency Updates** – Round table discussion/sharing – All

- Shelly Davis – Public Health – SCPH recently hired seven new nurses to help with vaccination and testing. They are working on establishing a standalone clinic designated for vaccination and testing as well as expanding services in general with a focus on Covid vaccines.
- Char Perlas – COS – The Board of Trustees approved APs and BPs to mandate Covid vaccines or weekly testing for all COS students and employees – effective January 14th.
- Mark Klever – COS – Mark commended Hallie and the Nursing Program staff for persevering through this difficult time. He voiced COS' commitment to the nursing program and exploring all avenues, especially partnerships with others in our Far North community.
- Susan Westphal – FMC – Susan reported FMC is not in crisis mode like they were during the Delta Variant surge, but are still in a staffing crisis mode. They currently have 33 travelers employed at FMC which is costly. She emphasized how vital the nursing program is to the community, stating that FMC lives and dies by COS grads. She is invested in helping us however they can as they know it is a long term investment for serving the community and hospital needs. FMC has a Monoclonal Antibody team from the state that has agreed to stay and help with antibody treatments and booster shots until 12/31/21. She also requested we have additional Advisory Committee Meetings for the time being while we are working through this time, so they are aware of any pertinent updates quickly as things can change fast. The group agreed to schedule a meeting for January – the nursing office will send out information about that after the Thanksgiving holiday. She introduced Erin Reusze who will be taking over Deborah Howell's position as the Assistant Director of Nursing at FMC starting in January.

- Elizabeth Pulatie – MMCMS – They have staffing issues, currently are employing 12 travel nurses. Their OB dept. is in danger of closing, so they need more qualified OB staff. They are looking to start hiring LVNs to help fill the gap.
- Trudy Old – HWI – Trudy is retiring at the end of February 2022, but could possibly be extended to May 2022. HWI is restructuring and will no longer have directors. She noted that HWI will no longer be able to pay for the CNA Testing Administrator to come to COS to test our students anymore. She will connect her with the nursing office to arrange payment for travel, etc. in the future.
- Mike Michelon – Siskiyou Childcare Council – Mike is retiring on November 30th and Heather Solas will take over his role. He would like to remain on this committee as a community member. SCCC is also short staffed and looking to fill positions.

♦ **Good of the Order**

No additional comments

♦ **Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.**