Western Washington University
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Advisory Committee

June 6, 2014
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation
Mountlake Terrace

Minutes

In attendance: Laurie Ford, Dona Fuerst, Kurt Johnson, Eva Larrauri, Kathe Matrone, Trula Nicholas, Roxanna Pebdani, Kathy Powers, Kurt Johnson, Elizabeth Boland, Nicole Harris (RC student representative), and Monica Holmer

By Phone: Andres Aguirre

Not present: Cathy Cottingham, Jana Finkbonner, Nanna Hanchett, Karolyn Hannem, and Sheila Hoover

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of members present
- Announcements & Welcome
  - WWUs Human Services and Rehabilitation department has had several retreats to discuss who we are as a department with the addition of recent additions of a RN to BSN undergrad and an Adult and Higher Education graduate program. We are in the process of deciding on a new department name that will capture all the disciplines.

Minutes: Beth asked committee to review minutes from December 12, 2013 meeting. Please send any updates/changes to Monica.

Member Updates:
- UW – Kurt Johnson
  - They are in the process of admitting a new cohort of Rehab Doctoral students with 9 currently accepted. UG Disability Studies program continues to be going well.

- CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) – Kathe Matrone
  - There has been a lot of planning in the last month moving in the direction of developing a 3rd funding leg of CCER. Currently, there is the ADA Center and the TACE Center. They also do a lot of contractual work (i.e., VR Agency Projects/Casey Jackson’s group in motivational interviewing). The goal is to provide sustainability beyond grants. The goal is to continue to increase contractual work to provide more sustainability in funding. The 5 year goal is to have a 3rd funding source equivalent to the ADA Center and the TACE Center.
- The ADA center has hired Eva Larrauri as the new Training and Information Specialist. Michael Richardson is moving into the Director position at the ADA very quickly. Thinking about transitions in the future and additional positions that they will hopefully be on the horizon once the TACE grant is determined.

- **TACE (Technical Assistance and Continuing Education) - Laurie Ford**
  - They had a site visit from the RSA in January. The RSA’s focus was on the technical assistance and the impact you are having on the state agencies.
  - TACE is in the 6th year of a 5-year grant that will end at the end of September (RSA has the option of extending the grant for another year). The earliest they anticipate knowing if there is new funding is the end of September. There are many rumors about the future of RSA funding of TACE centers.
  - There are not many trainings scheduled for the summer but there is an upcoming webinar for motivational interviewing in September because of high demand for the April webinar, but overall not a lot of planning until funding is determined.
  - Reauthorization update — representatives from each side met for about a month and a half in secret and came up with the proposed bill which will be voted on in the House and the Senate in late July. In the new legislation they moved Nadar out of the Dept. of Education into Health and Human Services in the Administration on Community Living. The Admin on Community Living is a mash-up of agencies that does not seem to understand research. The Tech Ed Project will also be under this agency but the IL Centers have been removed.

- **Alaska DVR** – no update.

- **OVRS (Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services) – Sheila Hoover** – no update.

- **WA DSB (Department of Services for the Blind)** – no update.

- **WA DVR – Andres Aguirre & Dona Fuerst**
  - Currently hiring for a number of positions in our State Office. These positions usually come from field staff, therefore increasing the need for hiring new field staff. Need to create good internship opportunities to have a qualified pool for these new field staff positions.
  - Reauthorization — talking with representatives about the importance of RSA remaining inside of Dept. of Education and not moving to DOL. In regard to CSPD, they continue to emphasize the level of education required to provide services.
  - Developing Soft-skills training for staff. Developing new CRP contracts and training staff and CRPs on new changes.
  - There is a new Chief of Field Services, Esther Bennett.
  - Revising required training for Deaf and Hard of Hearing training.
  - Personality disorders class went really well, and hopefully they will be able to have one more class in the SeaTac area and perhaps one in eastern WA. They would also like to offer the Conviction History training again. They are also in the beginning stages of formulating an in-service training for next May or June.
o Beth discussed how the RSA scholarship now requires much more in terms of internships at DVRs. Beth and Erica met with region 2 DVR supervisors to help promote relationships and get input for possible curriculum changes. Beth has invited DVR counselors/staff to be guest speakers to students in her Medical Aspects class this summer, and so far one individual has expressed an interest in talking about rheumatoid arthritis. Dona will be presenting in the class about deafness & hard of hearing and Eva and a representative from DSB will present a blindness lecture. Please encourage others who might be interested in also speaking in the class this summer to contact Beth. Beth will distribute list of topics in the class to Dona and Kathy Powers to see if anyone else might be interested. RC faculty are looking for more opportunities to connect with the community and have individuals bring in real experience to share with students who are coming to the program without as much experience in the field as in the past.

- Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem – no update.
- Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation – Jana Finkbonner – no update.
- Private Rehabilitation – Cathy Cottingham – no update.
- Community Rehabilitation Providers – Kathy Powers.
  o July 1st is the beginning of a new contract and training about the new contract will begin after.
  o CARF survey occurred about a month ago. This is a part of their accreditation. The process was through peer review. The survey facilitator wanted more individualized plans and not to see the use of DVR template plans with additional materials.
  o The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) worked hard to get the transitional bill pushed through in the last legislative session. There is also a need for a cost study of assessment of services with DVR and the effectiveness of those services. Currently, DVR pays for the outcome and not cost of services. There was a snap shot of a 90 day cycle completed and some of the services looked like they were paid appropriately, some higher than expected, but many that were paid at lower amounts than the actual cost of services. Now, they would like to conduct a year-long snap shot to gain a more accurate picture of costs.
  o Orion recently moved into a new building. There is an open house on June 17th if anyone would like to stop by and see the new facility.
  o The DDO – vocational, employment, residential, advocacy, transitional, and other organizations who work with individuals with disabilities – this group is thinking about creating a coalition to work together on issues. The next meeting will be a conversation about minimum wage.
- WWU Human Services Program – Trula Nicholas
  o HSP is seeing a change in demographics in who is enrolling in the program, including many veterans. This impacts the average age of students in the program.
They are hiring a new faculty member to assist with the Distance Learning program and focusing on supporting DL students.

Students continue to have internships in organizations related to Rehab Counseling and more and more students are interested in working with the elderly.

Trula discussed an upcoming challenge in Olympia due to the McCleary Act and the impact of this in Higher Ed and human services, and the anticipation of funding going toward human services and not Higher Ed.

**Alumni – Eva L**

- Governor’s Committee is gearing up for the awards nomination. Selection will occur in November.
- The Youth Leadership Forum will be in the end of July and hosted by WWU. There are currently only 10 applicants, where last year there were 30. This year they have DVR, DSB, and other private funding to support additional applicants.
- Eva continues to get calls from other alumni about career advice. She has been talking with Michael Richardson about talking with someone to providing continuing professional development.

**RC Students – Nicole Harris, 1st year student**

- Nicole talked about having a confederate as part of RC 583 in Spring quarter and how this helped students really understand the areas of being a counselor they needed to learn more about as well as the areas that they excel in.
- 1st year cohort has bonded well and have a lot of camaraderie.

**Faculty Update**

- Internship supervisors expressed appreciation of the foundation of skills students have and talked about how additional training in mental health would be helpful.

**Program Discussion**

**Update on Students**

- Beth introduced handout with a summary of current students.

**Update on Internship Placements**

- Beth introduced handout with a summary of spring internship placements.
- Roxy and Kathe both affirmed that supervisors have been very pleased with students.
- Some students have multiple supervisors. Some day-to-day supervisors who are not CRCs but there is a CRC in the organization who they meet with additionally. Instructors work with students to help students understand how to work with multiple supervisors.

**Student Recruiting for Fall**

- We are nearing the end of our recruiting cycle for fall, but are still accepting application for fall. We have received 16 applications for fall. 9 have been admitted
and the remaining applications are either submitting final documents or are waiting for an interview with Beth. There is one student who was admitted in fall 2013 but deferred until fall 2014, and one student who started the program in fall 2012 but left the area for a job shortly after starting and has now returned and would like to start the program again this fall.

- In the future, we will be utilizing email lists of students at WWU in certain majors and distributing information about the RC program in these students Junior and Senior years. In addition, we are going to try to have RC program info distributed to students at WWU who have utilized disAbility Resources for Students.

- Kurt recommended getting into contact with the UWs undergraduate Psychology advisors to make them more aware of the RC program. Students interested in a MA in counseling don’t have many options at state universities in WA and becoming more visible to UW’s Psychology majors could draw more students. He also recommended perhaps also meeting with the undergraduate advisors for Education. He also volunteered to distribute information to the Disability Studies students as well.

- If you have any other ideas for recruitment, please contact Monica.

- **Student Retention**
  - 2nd year cohort has had good retention. 1st year cohort had 3 students withdraw after 1st quarter (they realized it wasn’t the right fit for them).
  - Full-time faculty member will hopefully bring additional stability and support.
  - If RSA grant is funded, it requires career counseling while in the program. The new faculty member will assist in providing this career counseling for students.

- **RSA Scholarship Update**
  - We continue to wait for an announcement.

- **Update on Assistant Professor in RC search**
  - Beth announced that Dana Brickham will be starting on June 16 and will be teaching some internship classes and Occupational Info & Job Placement in summer.
  - Dana will be the Clinical Coordinator and the point person for Practicum and Internship courses.

- **Program Evaluation Report & Grad School Appraisal**
  - Beth distributed the annual Program Evaluation Report and the WWU Graduate Program Appraisals 2014 to the committee.
  - The 2nd tenure track position has brought additional recognition on campus to our program in Everett.
  - Kathy Powers introduced a video about sexuality for individuals with an intellectual disability and suggested that it might be a great resource for a course. She will send it to Beth and then it will be distributed to committee members.
• WWU Graduate Program Appraisal was requested by the Dean of the Graduate School. There has been a new award of Outstanding Graduate Student from every department created. The RC faculty unanimously nominated a RC graduate.
• There has been movement by the Dean of the Graduate School to change the number of credits that can be transferred to WWU from 9 to 12 so that someone could transfer in a full quarter of classes.
• There is also movement toward changing how a graduate-level faculty is defined.

• RC Advisory Committee Membership
  o Beth asked the committee about the meeting location and if it would continue to be good to hold the meeting in Mountlake Terrace. Committee agreed that meeting should continue to be held in Mountlake Terrace.
  o Beth discussed the upcoming change of administrative from EvCC to WSU on July 1st and the implications of this changed.
  o Beth discussed November 14, 2014 and June 5, 2015 for committee meetings next year.
  o Beth discussed the idea of adding another representative from the private sector. The committee discussed options and gave Beth ideas. The committee also discussed if there is a need to have members from out of state. Members agreed to remove Alaska DVR. Committee also discussed the need to add an additional CRP member and the committee presented Beth with some ideas. In addition, Beth presented the idea of adding a VA rep from the hospital side. Beth asked members to email her with any other names of individuals that could be possibilities for committee members.

Next Meeting – November 14, 2014 at CCER in Mountlake Terrace.