Western Washington University
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Advisory Committee

November 14, 2014
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation - Mountlake Terrace

Minutes

In attendance: Laurie Ford, Dona Fuerst, Kurt Johnson, Eva Larrauri, Kathe Matrone, Kathy Powers, Kurt Johnson, Dana Brickham, Elizabeth Boland, and Monica Holmer
Not present: Andres Aguirre, Sheila Burkett-Luckey, Cathy Cottingham, Jana Finkbonner, Nanna Hanchett, Karolyn Hannem, Sheila Hoover, and Trula Nicholas.

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of members present
- Announcements & Welcome
  - Beth welcomed Dr. Dana Brickham as the new Assistant Professor. Dana briefly introduced herself.

Minutes: Beth asked committee to review minutes from June 6, 2014 meeting. Please send any updates/changes to Monica.

Member Updates:
- UW – Kurt Johnson
  - They are analyzing data from the Older Adult Blind Program, which they run for the DSB. They should have a publication coming out in the near future.
  - They have received funds from the World Health Organization to gather information on disability policy in low resourced environments. They developed a study abroad experience in Brazil to gather information and they have approval to have a similar experience in South Africa this coming fall.
  - They have 9 new students in their Ph.D. program. There are students from Jordan, Turkey, Iran, and India.
  - Continuing to work with CCER to see if it would be viable to offer another Med Aspects course.

- CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) – Kathe Matrone
  - CCER has spent the last few months to reevaluate their direction since the TACE center was not funded. One project is TLC to help maintain communication ties between individuals and state agencies. Another project is with Juvenile Justice Rehab and WA DVR to do a study on youth who are reentering the juvenile justice system and how many of those individuals have disabilities and if they might be able to use DVR services. They are also beginning to work with a project management software to evaluate upcoming projects. In addition, they are looking at what courses in professional development to offer in the future.
NW ADA Center … the WA State corrections accessibility audit was completed. There is a current push for progress and change in WA State corrections system. WA State is the only state pursuing accessibility updates. Next year, at the ADA Symposium, they are proposing to present their work with the WA corrections system.

- The NW ADA’s 25th anniversary with SILC is being planned.
- The NW ADA Advisory Board will be meeting again.
- Eva was just reappointed to the SRC with DSB and her new term will be starting at the end of November.

**TACE (Technical Assistance and Continuing Education) - Laurie Ford**

- The RSA decided not to re-compete and fund any regional programs. They have met with regional state directors to discuss how they would like to continue to provide support to DVR agencies but this would require some funding. The state directors were very supportive and TACE will continue to provide regional support to the four states in the region.
- One of the competitions the RSA did fund this year was for a Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JDVRTAC). The award went to the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston and TACE has been given a sub-contract to work on activities for this project for the next three years. One of the projects will be the creation of four curriculum guides. These guides will be available online and will be toolkits of resources (i.e. expert referrals, research articles, stories of agencies doing good work in this area, etc). The four areas of the curriculum guides will be 1) using labor market information in career counseling and guidance, 2) providing support to businesses who hire or who have employees with disabilities, 3) working with job-driven training providers in VR to get more people involved in training program and more support for training programs, and 4) support to providers of customized trainings on how to recruit, support, and accommodate participants with disabilities. Other participants in this project include the University of Arkansas, Jobs for the Future, the US BLN, and some other individuals involved with policy issues. The guides will be available on the explorevr.org website. There will be an invitation to states to apply to receive intensive technical assistance. There is an opportunity for at least 16 states to receive assistance.

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

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

- Beth mentioned that Sheila Burkett-Luckey will be the new representative from the DSB. She was hoping to attend the meeting today but had another event she had to attend.

**WA DVR –Dona Fuerst.**

- They have completed case reviews for two out of the three areas, and the third one will be next week. They are identifying areas that need improvement (vocational assessment, documentation, measurable criteria, and database IPE revisions needed).
- They are looking at the potential for creating on-demand online classes that are available for new staff. Planning will likely take 1-2 years to develop these classes. Committee gave suggestions for class content and delivery. In addition, Dona discussed having area trainers that could be more efficient for training new staff.
- 3 new supervisors have been hired (Tacoma, SeaTac, and Spokane).
They have interviewed for two new positions (a High School Transition Coordinator and a Community Rehab Manager) and Dona hopes for news this month about who is selected.

Carl Peterson, Job Developer, will be doing a pilot training in Vancouver in December regarding working with individuals with Autism.

There is still discussion about WIOA and the upcoming changes.

The soft-skills pilot is rolling out slowly. There are follow-up meetings this month to identify any barriers and if any changes need to take place.

- **Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem – no update.**

- **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation – Jana Finkbonner – email update.**
  - Two TVR grants in Washington State weren’t refunded for the 2014-19 grant cycle. The programs not funded are Yakima and NIVRP. Washington State DVR is providing funding to help these programs stay open and serve clients. They both will apply for the 2015 grant.
  - There are two newly funded Washington TVR programs: Spokane and Skokomish. Skokomish has been part of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA).
  - The TVR programs are meeting with DVR and DSB to review and approve the required MOU on November 15th at Samish Nation.
  - The TVR programs are waiting to see the total impact of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
  - The NIVRP Director has done two interviews for WWU VR students in the past year.
  - The NIVRP Director is participating on the WSRC and SILC. A Lummi VR Counselor is participating on the DSB Council.
  - Northwest Indian College’s BA Human Services program plans to begin classes, Winter 2015 but it could be Spring 2015. They are waiting for Accreditation approval for the program.

- **Private Rehabilitation – Cathy Cottingham – no update.**

- **Community Rehabilitation Providers – Kathy Powers.**
  - They are reviewing the current contract with VR. There is a need to be able to identifying the actual cost of services for VR clients. CCER is helping to find a consultant to assist in this process.
  - The Community Employment Alliance is working on legislation. The main priority that the alliance is asking for is DVR matching funds. They are waiting for the Governor’s budget to identify how the McCleary Act will be funded.
  - Orion has been looking at temporary-to-permanent hiring trends. Orion has created a staffing model to become the direct provider for these types of positions to be able to have more control with clients and employers.
  - Orion is creating a new model for training new staff called Coaching the Coach.

- **WWU Human Services Program – no update.**
  - Beth mentioned that Samit Bordoloi, Assistant Professor, will be replacing Trula Nicholas as the representative from the Human Services Program. He had another event today, but will hopefully be able to attend the June meeting.

- **Alumni – Eva Larrauri**
The Governor’s Committee had a successful awards program this year. The keynote speaker was Representative Hubby. There is a desire to revamp the youth leadership forum to become a quarterly internship.

Eva continues to be contacted by alumni seeking career advice.

**RC Students – no update.**

### Program Discussion

- **Update on Students including recruitment & retention**
  - Beth introduced handout with a summary of current students.
  - Beth discussed an optional survey of Student Information that we asked new students to complete. Out of 16 new students, 12 completed the survey.
  - Retention rates for those who started the program from 2009-2012 was 79%. This is a little low, but these years included a couple students who decided to pursue another program after one quarter and several who had to step away from the program due to a disability.
  - Monica discussed an overview of the marketing plan that has been developed. Committee gave several additional ideas and suggestions.

- **RC program mission & objectives**
  - Committee reviewed the mission and objectives and did not have any changes or modifications.

- **Review of curriculum**
  - Beth presented the typical Academic Plan for a full-time student. She provided a brief overview of the courses offered each quarter and the faculty who will be teaching these courses.
  - Committee reviewed the curriculum and had no suggestions for modifications at this time.

- **Review of exit survey results**
  - Beth highlighted the results for the 2014 Graduate Survey. Out of 17 graduates, we received 9 responses (however, most questions were only answered by 7 individuals).
  - Committee reviewed the results and provided input into the curricular areas of focus for this year.

- **Practicum Update**
  - Dana provided an update on Practicum placements for students in winter quarter. She described the sites that students have secured and sites that students are hoping to find a placement.

- **RSA Scholarship Update**
  - Beth discussed how the program was successful in the RSA grant application this cycle.
  - The program is in year 5 of one grant and year 1 in a second grant. The second grant was just awarded in fall 2014.
  - The new grant requires that the program provides career counseling while scholars are in the program as well as immediately after they graduate. Dana will be providing this to
students. Committee discussed ideas for how to incorporate career/professional development earlier into the program and well as throughout the entire program.
  o The new grant has funds available for stipends for students completing their internship at a state VR agency.
  o Beth recently heard from the RSA that students under the new grant only has to complete an internship at a state VR agency, but not all internship hours. There is still information needed as to how many hours would be required or if a student could complete part of their internship at a state VR agency and the other part at another agency.

Next Meeting – June 5, 2015 at CCER in Mountlake Terrace.