Western Washington University
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Advisory Committee

June 5, 2015
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation - Mountlake Terrace

Minutes

In attendance: Samit Bardoloi, Elizabeth Boland, Dana Brickham, Sheila Burkett-Luckey, Laurie Ford, Eva Larrauri, Cheryl Mathison, Kathy Powers, and J. Paul Vertrees
Not present: Andres Aguirre, Cathy Cottingham, Jana Finkbonner, Nanna Hanchett, Karolyn Hannem, Sheila Hoover, Kurt Johnson, and Kathe Matrone.

Welcome and Introductions

- Introduction of new members
- Announcements & Welcome
  - Beth announced that as of September 1st she will no long be the Chair of the Department of Human Services & Rehabilitation.

Minutes: Beth asked committee to review minutes from November 11, 2014 meeting. The committee had a few changes. If there are any other changes, please send any updates/changes to Monica.

Member Updates:
- UW – Kurt Johnson – no update
- CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) – Laurie Ford & Eva Larrauri
  - Last year CCER was surprised when the RSA decided not to fund any continuing education programs. They have been very successful in moving into more of a contract based and entrepreneurial approach to secure funding. They also are continuing with the NW ADA Center that serves Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. In addition, they continue to work with the 7 VR partners in these four states. The biggest change will be fewer opportunities for trainings due to the cost without the additional funding of the RSA grant.
  - The planning for the JDVR Technical Assistance Center continues to move forward as well.
  - The CRP cost study is underway. The first steering committee meeting was last week and they are now working to identify participants and when to collect data this fall. They anticipate that the results will be available by the end of the year.
  - They continue to work with the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration in Washington State. They are looking at what happens to youth as they exit the juvenile justice system. About half of the youth have disabilities that would qualify them for VR services, so they hope to identify changes they can make in the system to have a smoother transition for these youth into employment, education, or the next step that is appropriate for them.
  - CCER will be hiring for a position that will focus on instructional design but they hope to find an individual who also has a rehab background.
o The NW ADA center has recently hired one full-time new staff member in Alaska and part-time contract position in Oregon. They have had many training requests. Currently, their biggest training project is for the WA State Library Systems to provide ADA language and etiquette training across the state. There have also been language and etiquette trainings with the Woodland Park Zoo staff as well as upcoming training with the city of Seattle staff. In the language and etiquette training they discuss the five titles of the ADA and address some programmatic access for Title 2. The training also discusses the different areas of disabilities. The Center has been working with SILC for the ADA Anniversary Celebration on July 22nd from 4-6pm at Westlake Center. As an SRC Advisory Member, they are working on their comments to WIOA. Eva is working on updating the ADA website and is hopeful that it will be completed soon.

- Idaho DVR – Nanna Hanchett – no update

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

- WA DSB (Department of Services for the Blind) – Sheila Burkett-Luckey
  o Sheila shared a little of her background at DSB.
  o DSB is working to identify what it may look like after WIOA legislation.
  o They hired a new BEP (Business Enterprise Program) Manager.
  o They had an all staff training that identified six areas that they will be working on and developing a strategic plan for this year.
  o They are gearing up for their three youth summer programs (Yes One, Yes Two, and Bridge Program).
  o They are conducting trainings about motivational interviewing and MI skill building. They are working with IFIOC to test a new coding tool for MI training.

- WA DVR – J. Paul Vertrees
  o Paul shared a little of his background at DVR.
  o They have a committee of managers at their central office working with some field staff on some of the basic elements of the changes from WIOA. The four changes that they are currently working on are 1) having IPEs completed within 90 days, 2) new requirements for meeting and consulting with employers, 3) preemployment transition, and 4) establishing performance measures that are going to be more in line with the workforce system and how they are going to evaluate counseling staff in regard to these new measures.
  o They have hired Katie Mirkovich as the Community Relations Program Manager and Lori Magnuson as the Transition Youth Manager. Michelle Mulknurn was also hired as the new Policy Maker and will be heading the committee working through all the WIOA changes. They are still seeking someone for the Supportive Employment position. They continue to need qualified counselors and they are looking at many factors that are influencing the need (retirement, salary, culture, environment, etc). There is a supervisor position opening in Tacoma.

- Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem – no update

- Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation – Jana Finkbonner – no update

- Private Rehabilitation – Cathy Cottingham – no update
Community Rehabilitation Providers – Kathy Powers

- Orion is now the disability answer desk for Microsoft.
- Kathy talked about the cost study that Orion is conducting with CCER. She talked about the need to define ways to measure data for the cost study. The steering committee includes a variety of providers including the Community Employment Alliance.
- Kathy talked about the need to understand how WIOA will change provider’s relationship with DVR.
- Orion is now a non-degree certificate program through the Workforce Training and Education Boards and will be able to do direct training for individuals who have GI dollars or other similar resources.
- WA State Rehab Council continues to ask RSA why DVR is under JJRA. There is currently no new information but it is likely that it will take a grass root effort from clients to voice their concern to see any changes.

WWU Human Services Program – Samit Bordoloi

- Samit shared a little about his background.
- Over the summer the HS program will be discussing a curriculum revision. Samit hopes to change the Capstone course to a course that focuses on helping students look at what they will do after they graduate. This would include an opportunity to introduce graduate program options. He hopes to include an elective course on disabilities.
- The HS program will have a new program director starting this summer.

Alumni – Eva Larrauri

RC Students – no update

Program Discussion

Update on Students

- Beth discussed the handout about a summary of current students.

Update on Internship Placements

- Dana gave an overview of internship locations for students this quarter.
- Committee members gave additional ideas for internship placements for future quarters.
- Dana discussed the idea of having an Open House in mid-September for community providers, alumni, and current students. This could be a good networking opportunity. There will be emails in the future when the details of this event are finalized.

Student Recruiting for Fall

- Monica shared an overview of recruiting for fall. Currently there are 19 applicants. The application deadline for fall has been extended until mid-June and there is the opportunity for applications later in the summer as well for qualified applicants.
• **RSA Scholarship Update**  
  o Beth is accepting RSA Scholarship applications from current 1st year students. The Scholarship will be for the 2015-2016 school year.

• **Program Evaluation Report**
  o Beth talked about the “Closing the Assessment Loop Report” from 2013-2014. Beth will be completing a Program Evaluation Report in early summer and will distribute the report to the Advisory Committee for feedback.
  o CORE is in the process of completing standards revisions. These revisions typically happen every five years. An RFP was put out to collect some better research around roles and functions of rehab counselors. The data will be presented to CORE at the summer meeting. After a committee formulates a draft of the findings and the updated revisions, there will be an opportunity for public commenting. The RFP included the requirement that the research would be published in one of the national rehab journals.

• **Portfolio Development**
  o In the internship class there is a portfolio requirement. Beth asked committee members for thoughts on changing this to an overall portfolio (repository of information) that would be a collection of syllabi and coursework. It would also move to being a part of the comprehensive exam rather than the internship class.
    ▪ Committee members suggested that this could be a good idea and gave several ideas (e.g., electronic portfolio, letter from internship supervisor about internship experience, reference list of individuals who students have communicated with, internship hours/agreements, case notes, PowerPoint presentation).

• **Review of Site Supervisor Evaluation of Student Practicum/Internship Performance**
  o Beth asked committee members for thoughts about updating evaluations.
  o Paul volunteered to have DVR area managers and internship supervisors review the forms and give feedback.
  o Kathy talked about looking at the evaluation and how it aligns with the curriculum and key learning objectives from each course.
  o Beth asked other members who were interested to review the forms and then in the fall meeting there would be more discussion.

Next Meeting – November 20, 2015 from 10am-2pm at CCER in Mountlake Terrace.