Western Washington University
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Advisory Committee

June 14, 2013
EVCC - Gray Wolf Hall, Room 105

Minutes

In attendance: Karolyn Hannem, Laurie Ford, Dona Fuerst, Kurt Johnson, Kathe Matrone, Kathy Powers, Elizabeth Boland, and Monica Holmer
By Phone: Tom Krabbenhoft and Sheila Hoover
Guests: Michelle Peterson (RC student representative)
Not present: Andres Aguirre, Cathy Cottingham, Jana Finkbonner, Eva Larrauri, John Korsmo, Teresa Pitt, Erica Johnson, and Lori Magnuson.

Welcome and Introductions

- Beth introduced Monica Holmer, the new Program Coordinator for Human Services & Rehabilitation.
- Introduction of members present & on phone.

Minutes: Beth asked committee for approval of minutes from November 30, 2012 meeting. Committee approved minutes.

Announcements

- Beth reviewed two new additions to the Department of Human Services & Rehabilitation: MA in Continuing and College Education joined us this past fall and new RN to BSN Program will be starting a cohort of about 30 students this coming fall.
- Woodring Faculty Search Updates: new Director for RN to BSN Program, new Director for the MA in Continuing and College Education, and two Human Services faculty members have been hired.
- Susan Kincaid, Human Services Associate Professor in Bellingham, is retiring next week. She will still be teaching part-time in the DL program and will be assisting the Northwest Indian Counsel (NWIC) as they continue to develop a Human Services BA program and hire a Director for the program.
- Beth is seeking to have a Tenure Track position for the RC program approved. The Dean of Woodring has approved the position and is now seeking Provost approval. Beth will be asking some Advisory Committee members to help with the search committee.
- WWU & Northwest Tribal College – Beth is assisting on a grant project “Grow our own native faculty/student/staff”. WWU will be given a sub-contract on this program but it is not yet certain what involvement the RC program will have in this program.
• Lori Magnuson is leaving and moving to the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania in their undergraduate Human Services Program. She will still be teaching courses this summer for the RC program and will be leaving in August.

• Curriculum restructuring ideas – in the last quarter of their program 2nd year students have been coming to class every other week for internship and taking RC 595, Cognitive Disabilities in Rehabilitation online. Erica Johnson is going to change the RC 595, Cognitive Disabilities in Rehabilitation, course to a hybrid format and meet face-to-face on the weeks when internship is not meeting. So students will have a hybrid of online and face-to-face for this course. All three sections of internship were intentionally scheduled for the same date/time to meet to facilitate guest speakers only having to come to campus one time, and will also enable the hybrid format of RC 595.

• Alumni – Erica Johnson and Beth are talking about bringing together a group of alumni this summer to discuss a mentoring process, gain more qualified internship supervisors and develop a list of alumni with a mental health background.

• Erica and Ed co-teach RC 584, Practice of Rehabilitation Counseling, and they have been bringing in alumni as a confederate. This has worked well and is helping increase counseling skills. This course was moved to earlier in the program (the 3rd quarter) to help build students identities as counselors closer to the beginning of the program.

• Students need history and legislation knowledge of RC to pass the CRC exam. If the tenure track position is approved, Beth may look more at increasing credit load to include more of this background into curriculum. The RC program has purchase several copies of CRC study guides for students to be able to check-out. Instructors try to incorporate multiple choice questions into exams to help prep for CRC exam style. (The question was also asked if instructors could give information/themes at the end of each course that would be helpful for students studying for the CRC.)

Member Updates:

• CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) and TACE (Technical Assistance and Continuing Education Program) – Kathe Matrone & Laurie Ford.
  o Kathe Matrone gave an update on funding for CCER and the Northwest ADA Center, as well as an update of staff changes.
  o She gave an update on training and courses offered including such seminars as Train the Trainer, Individual and Organizational Change, and Medical Aspects. There will also be a regional ADA forum in Idaho in September. The TBI conference this past May went well and they are looking forward another conference next May.
  o Oregon has been facing a DOJ lawsuit on issues of employment in non-integrated settings. VR is pushing for additional training and TACE is also involved with this effort.
  o Kathe Matrone is also coming back to teach for the RC program in summer and fall.

• TACE Northwest
  o Laurie Ford distributed a handout with an overview of training opportunities that were offered this past year. She also discussed trainings on topics of Personality Disorders and Ethics, Effective Communication, and Transitions, as well as RSA coordinated Affordable Care Act trainings.
• ADA would like to do more training with Veterans Issues beyond the standard topics to include such things like financial counseling or interview training for difficult topics.

• City of Seattle is trying to pass a law that would treat background checks like ADA … you could not run a background check until provisional job offer has been made. (Kurt Johnson & Kathy Powers both commented on how this could be an opportunity for an advocacy area that students could focus on because of the importance it would be for individuals with disabilities.)
  o TACE NW is finishing its 5th year of funding and have been promised one more year (but not officially approved).

• Alaska DVR – Teresa Pitt – no update.

• OVRS (Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services) – Sheila Hoover.
  o Sheila Hoover announced that they have hired Rick Gardener as the Training Coordinator position. They also recently hired a Field Services Manager for northern part of state – Robert Costello. He is an alumnus of the WWU RC program. There is still a Policy Analyst position open as well as a Counselor position in the Baker City office and several other position will be opening soon in OR.
  o Open to WWU RC interns– Sheila is a contact for internships.

• WA DSB (Department of Services for the Blind) – Eva Larrauri – no update.

• WA DVR – Dona Fuerst.
  o Dona announced that the Chief position continues to be open and they have only received 6 applications for the position. The announcement for the position is currently on hold until the Director position is appointed.
  o Dona discussed how their office is under construction and that a new conference room that will hold 55 people is being completed, and the remaining office space is being reconfigured and remodeled.
  o Dona announced that there are open positions throughout the state.
  o She discussed the WorkStride training that CCER has done and how successful these trainings have been.

• Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem.
  o IDES with DOD and VDA are giving veterans a rating sooner. This is the result of a new public law that was past about 1.5 years ago that now states that veterans are entitled to vocational rehabilitation counseling immediately.
  o Karolyn stated that new staff has been hired at Joint Lewis McCord Air Force Base.
  o VA is hiring nationwide, so if students are willing to relocate there may be many options. She also stated that taking a job in another state and getting in the system may assist students in eventually transferring to a job in the location they desire (rather than waiting until a job becomes available in the desired location).
Karolyn discussed VA Rehabilitation Benefit Counselors on college campuses to assist veterans (but these counselors do not carrying a chapter 31 caseload). This is not happening in Washington State yet, but program is growing.

She announced that they just hired 4 SCEPs which are full-time and paid internships. After they have finished the program they are very knowledgeable of the VA system.

Karolyn also mentioned that David would like to come and talk to students about VA opportunities. Beth stated that perhaps Erica Johnson’s Cognitive Disabilities in Rehabilitation class this summer might be a good opportunity to speak to students.

- **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation** – emailed update from Jana Finkbonner.
  
  There will be no TVR RFP, this year. This is the second year in a row. A total of 34 Tribal VR programs will be submitting a one year extension plan, this includes Lummi VR and NIVRP in Washington State.

  Yakama VR is having a Disability Conference on July 10th. It will be a one day conference. Contact Jerry Corpez at jerrymc@yakama.com or 509-865-5121 X6015 for more information.

  The Canoe Journey will be happening the week of August 1st-6th [http://www.paddletoquinault.org/](http://www.paddletoquinault.org/)

  The Director for Humans Services is still open at NWIC. The Human Services BA program can’t be developed until this person is hired. [http://www.nwic.edu/content/employment](http://www.nwic.edu/content/employment)

  Also, the TVRs have been providing input on the DVR State Plan, revision of the WAC and the SILC plan.

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

- **Community Rehabilitation Providers** – Kathy Powers .

  Kathy Powers discussed their legislative focus on a transition bill to support an interface with younger students (starting at 14 years old) to help students successfully exit school with links to DDD and DVR to have better results. She discussed how there is no way to track 504 students, so it would require a huge systems change that would cost millions, so it was taken off the table. The desire is to help families and individuals know who to contact and connecting them to services.

  DVR and CRP meeting with reps from all around state discussed snapshot cost study results and proposals including: 1) training and partnership – developing a culture of ‘we are all in it together’ and more consistent practice across the state and 2) how to make rules catch up with practice (for example: Kathy discussed how they had someone come in from Boeing who stated that they judge someone by how well they perform in an interview and not how they believe they will perform on the job. Orion will pay for a client to have a week of an “on the job interview” to show how someone will perform the job rather than just basing hiring off of how someone performed in a conference room for a job interview).

  Community Employment – in the state-wide contract meeting with DVR opportunities for developing a stronger position in VR and mental health services.
were seen, as well as the need to identify and meet national benchmarks for assisting individuals with disabilities.

- **RC Students** – Michelle Peterson, student representative.
  - Michelle discussed how the Internship courses have been wonderful opportunities for students to get into the community and understand systems and needs much more. Students are doing internships in VR (Mt. Vernon, Seattle), VA Hospital, DSB (and are now full-employees there as well), Edmonds Community College, a private consulting firm, and in the mental health rehabilitation field in Compass Health.

**Program Discussion**

- **Update on Students**
  - Beth discussed the handout detailing a summary of current students in the program.
  - There are 12 students who are on track to graduate in August. 2-3 students had to lengthen their internship and will graduate in December 2013.

- **Student Recruiting for Fall**
  - Monica gave an overview of applicants for Fall 2013. There have been 32 applications submitted and 28 are still active (7 were applicants who carried over from last Fall). 13 have been offered admission and have accepted. 4 are in the process of completing a background check and then will potentially be offered admission. 8 are in the process of being interviewed and Beth will choose from these applicants to fill the remaining spots in the cohort (a cohort usually has 20-22 students). 3 applicants have not submitted all the needed materials and will most likely not be able to start in Fall 2013 because of space.
  - Beth expressed that she wants to ensure that the RC program is advertised at Western in Bellingham so that Human Services students are aware of the program. About ¼ of students in the RC program come out of the Human Services program.
  - Michelle Peterson suggested that a list of valuable locations/organizations to volunteer at was created for new students. Dona Fuerst volunteered to give some suggestions.

- **RSA Scholarship Update**
  - Beth discussed some of the new proposed guidelines to long-term training grants that would significantly impact the RC program. For example, the guidelines now include that all students must complete an internship in a VR agency before graduation, that students selected for the grant must be highly capable students who can complete the payback requirements, and that the department would provide career counseling and contacts.
  - If another grant is awarded, Beth stated that it may be structured to only be for 2nd year students.
All 1st year students starting this fall will not have any RSA funding because additional funds have not been released from the RSA. There is a possibility of funding for their 2nd year.

Kurt Johnson encouraged members in the next month to create some talking points for the new proposed guidelines for the long-term RSA training grants to distribute to DVR agencies & other agencies to help get discussion and questions toward these new guidelines started.

- GENEX Scholarship – Criteria?
  
  Beth announced that Western’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program has received a 20,000 scholarship award from GENEX. 2 years ago GENEX started a program where their case mangers could nominate their alma mater for a scholarship. An alumnus of the RC program working at GENEX nominated the program and the RC program was awarded the scholarship funds.

  Beth sought input from Advisory Committee members regarding how to distribute funds and criteria for awarding scholarship money.

  Kurt Johnson recommended that the RC program ask for proposals from students in how much money they would need and how they would use the funds. This method would allow for a variety of scholarships awarded according to need. He recommended that the students be given specific instructions for what they should include in the proposal and how it should be organized. He volunteered to help review the wording of the announcement/call for proposals.

  Any other thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated and can be submitted to Beth.

- Program Evaluation Report
  
  Beth distributed the RC Program Evaluation Report and asked members for any changes or revisions. One change was noted and then members approved the report.

- RC Advisory Committee Charge
  
  Beth asked members to review the RC Advisory Committee Charge. Members agreed with the charge and approved it.