Western Washington University
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling
Advisory Committee

May 13, 2016
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation - Mountlake Terrace

Minutes

In attendance: Elizabeth Boland, Dana Brickham, Cathy Cottingham, Raine Dozier, Jana
Finkbonner, Laurie Ford, Beckie Hill, Eva Larrauri, Kathe Matrone, Kathy Powers, and J. Paul
Vertrees
By phone: Andres Aguirre, Vicki Tesch

Minutes: Beth asked committee to review minutes from November 20, 2015 meeting. The committee
had a few changes. If there are any other changes, please send any updates/changes to Monica.

Welcome and Introductions

• Announcements & Welcome
  o WWU hired a new president, Sabah Randhawa. He is coming to WWU from Oregon
    State and will start on August 1st.
  o The Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Research, Kathleen Kitto,
    announced she will be retiring at the end of the 2016/2017 academic year. There will
    be a national search for this position.

Member Updates:
• UW – Kurt Johnson – no update

• CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) – Kathe Matrone, Laurie Ford, & Eva Larrauri
  o Waiting to hear back from NIDILRR regarding their ADA grant proposal. They hope to hear in
    summer but they are not certain. They had a good meeting last week in DC with NIDILRR at the
    NARTEC conference.
  o They lost their IT support person and are in the process of hiring a replacement.
  o They are continuing to plan conferences. The most recent conference was a state-wide Traumatic
    Brain Injury Conference in April. They are developing a contract with the WA Division of
    Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) to coordinate an employment conference for their
    employment specialists in August at St. Martins.
  o They are finishing developing online job toolkits in four areas (employment support, business
    engagement, labor market information, and customized employment) for the JDVRTAC. In
    addition, they are developing and producing webinars in the four areas.
  o RSA has recently funded additional TACs that will be producing free online toolkits and webinars
    on topics including work force innovations, tribal programs, transition and youth, and program
    evaluation. If you are not receiving information about these webinars, please contact Laurie and
    she can facilitate getting you added to the email distribution list.
Kathe and Laurie are involved with some of the intensive TA projects with various states. They are finishing projects with Nebraska VR and North Dakota VR. In the future they will be working with Maine VR, Montana VR, Tennessee VR, and Arkansas VR.

The seven state agencies from the Region 10 VR Coalition decided they wanted to continue to work together and will have a regional meeting next week in Vancouver, WA. They anticipate having about 35 people attend from 3 states.

The CRP Cost Study was completed on time. WA DVR is reviewing the results and how they want to apply this information to their contracting process with CRPs.

Eva mentioned that the ADA Symposium will be in Denver this year and she will be presenting the project she worked on with the WA Department of Corrections.

Eva is collaborating with the TBI Knowledge Translation Grant. They are focusing on how to provide training for DOC front-line staff who work with offenders with disabilities who may have traumatic brain injuries. It is a 5 year grant.

They recently updated their online disability language and etiquette course.

They have seen a lot of request for ADA surveys from Oregon.

They will also be working with Snohomish County on their goal to have an accessible community.

There is a possibility for a grad student to help with the ADA surveys if anyone is interested.

- **Idaho DVR – Vicki Tesch**
  - They just completed a Department of Labor two day WIOA conference.
  - They are focusing on changes coming due to a new case management system being implemented on July 1.
  - They have an opening for a VR counselor in Coeur d’Alene.

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

- **WA DSB (Department of Services for the Blind) – Sheila Burkett-Luckey – no update**

- **WA DVR – Andres Aguirre and J. Paul Vertrees**
  - WA DVR has been focusing on the implementation of the next phase of WIOA. The next phase will include establishing some committees with the Workforce Training Education Coordinating Board on implementation of greater integration and collaboration. Andres stressed the need for MA in RC programs to continue to focus on the counseling and guidance process and how important this is with WIOA.
  - They are reviewing the data from the CRP Cost Study and looking at how to best use and make decisions moving forward with the data.
  - They are continuing to hire field staff. They are recruiting for benefits technicians in Spokane (3) and in King County (2) and will phase in 4 more in Area 3 based in Tumwater. The education requirement for the position is a BA with a certification in benefits planning (the certification can be received within 12 months of hire). The other positions that they are going to be recruiting for are in transition and they are in the process of finalizing a job description. Lori Magnuson will supervise the positions. The desire is that these positions will provide a link between school districts and VR. There are additional positions in various job classifications throughout the state.
  - They have proposed a VRC re-class but are waiting to hear more during the state collective bargaining in late 2016 or early 2017.
• **Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem – no update**

• **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation – Jana Finkbonner**
  - Northern Arizona University has a new TA Center for the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs. They will be having a regional Talking Circle in Portland on June 13 and 14.
  - They are planning a WA State VR Tribal Directors Meeting on June 23 in Chehalis.
  - Jana has been participating in the interview process for two staff positions for the new grant that NWIC and WWU received.

• **Private Rehabilitation – Cathy Cottingham**
  - Cathy talked about how private rehab is slowing moving more into rehabilitation counseling from insurance claims management. This includes an acknowledgement of the benefit of rehab counselors within private rehab with MA degrees and the better results they are seeing from these counselors. She believes that there is movement toward having different levels of claims management depending on the education level of a counselor.

• **Community Rehabilitation Providers – Kathy Powers**
  - The new contract for state VR providers will come out on July 1. The new contract combines independent living services and CRP services. Rates will remain the same in the current contract but will have a clause that the results of the CRP Cost Study may change the rates.
  - There are some national trends around sub-minimum wage and sub-prevailing wage certificates. There are several lawsuits in WA with providers who had a federal sub-minimum wage certificate but not a WA state certificate.
  - Kathy talked about seeing the impact of WIOA on the Workforce Development Council.
  - They are seeing a lot of staff turnover, especially in south King county.

• **WWU Human Services Program – Raine Dozier**
  - The Human Services Program recently had a curriculum revision that eliminated redundancies and that now allows students to specialize a little more by having 3 required elective courses.

• **RC Students – Beckie Hill**
  - 1st year students in the Practice of RC class have been learning many new counseling skills. Spring quarter has been a more stressful quarter with this Practice class but students do feel they are learning and growing in their counseling skills.
  - Several students are attending the IARP conference next week.
  - Students are already looking for their Practicum and Internship placements.

**Program Discussion**

• **Update on Students**
  - Beth discussed the Student Summary handout.
• Update on Internship Placements
  o Dana gave an overview of current internship placements.
  o She highlighted the locations where current first year students are hoping to complete their practicum and internship in 2017. Dana asked committee members for ideas for placements for a few students.

• RSA Scholarship Update
  o There are currently 8 students on the RSA grant and most of these students will graduate this summer.

• Student Recruiting for Fall
  o Our application window for fall is April 1 to June 1 (we will accept applications after June 1st if space is still available). We currently have received 11 applications. 6 have been admitted and we are still waiting for some paperwork from the other 5 before offering admission. There are an additional 16 individuals that have initiated an application for fall.

• Program Evaluation Plan Update
  o Beth talked about how the RC Program Evaluation Plan was initially approved by the RC Advisory Committee in 2010.
  o WWU will be in their 7th year review of accreditation through the Western Association of Colleges and Universities. In the 3rd or 4th year review, WWU was asked to focus on improving student learning outcomes assessments. Beth is a co-leader for a committee for preparing graduate-level programs in assessment.
  o Beth highlighted Appendix A in the RC Evaluation Plan. The RC program has surveyed graduates to gain student learning outcomes and has implemented new ways to collect this information during the program as well. The plan has been updated to collect data about how students are meeting 5 goals of the program (to prepare entry-level rehab counselors with the necessary knowledge; to prepare entry-level rehab counselors with the necessary skills; to prepare culturally receptive entry-level rehab counselors; to prepare ethical entry-level rehab counselors; and to prepare entry-level rehab counselors who understand and apply research to their practice). The committee asked questions and gave feedback.

• CORE/CACREP Update
  o On July 1, 2017, CORE and CACREP will merge and all rehabilitation counseling programs currently accredited by CORE will become automatically accredited by CACREP.
  o Students who graduate in summer 2017 will be able to say they graduated from a CACREP accredited program (students who graduate in summer 2016 can also say they graduated from a CACREP program on July 1, 2017). Currently, in WA State, RC graduates are eligible to sit for the LMHC licensure exam and accrue needed hours. Starting in 2023, only students who have graduated from a CACREP accredited school will be eligible to sit for the NCC exam – and this will then affect the eligibility in WA State.
  o CORE is currently going through a standards revision process. There will be some forums to collect public feedback. The standards will be voted on in June 2017 for
implementation by CACREP in July 2017. CACREP will have ‘generic’ standards that apply to all programs and then specialty area standards. CORE is considering the standard of increasing programs from a 48 semester credit hour program to a 60 semester (90 quarter) credit hour program. By 2020, all programs currently accredited by CACREP must be a 60 semester credit hour program.

- If the RC program has a credit hour increase (from 72 to 90 quarter credit hours), some changes in the curriculum/program could include:
  - Add a pre-Practicum course
  - Add a 1-2 credit course each quarter that focuses on diversity/ethics/special topics
  - Go from an 8 quarter program to a 9 quarter program
  - Add training for internship supervisors
  - There would be a requirement for 3 tenure-track positions (the program currently only has 2 tenure-track positions)
  - Reorganize theory and practice class … restructuring into a 20 week course (this change is actually going to be implemented in the 2016/2017 school year).

Next Meeting – we will send out an email with a doodle poll for a date for the fall meeting.