Western Washington University  
Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling  
Advisory Committee  

May 12, 2017  
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation - Mountlake Terrace  

Minutes  

In attendance: Elizabeth Boland, Dana Brickham, Sheila Burkett-Lucky, Laurie Ford, Monica Holmer, Sarah Knudsen, Eva de Leon, Kathe Matrone, and Kathy Powers.  
By phone: Vicki Tesch, J. Paul Vertrees  

Minutes: Beth asked committee to review minutes from the October 28, 2016 meeting. If there are any changes, please email any updates/changes to Monica.  

Welcome and Introductions  

• Announcements & Welcome  
  o There is a new Dean for Woodring College of Education, Dr. Horacio Walker. He will begin in August.  
  o They just completed the search for the new VP for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. They are waiting to hear if the individual the committee selected will accept the position.  
  o We will be moving to a new building this summer in July. Washington State University is the administrator of the Everett University Center. We will have the next Advisory Committee meeting in the new building so the committee can see the new building.  
  o Beth congratulated Rob Hines on his new role at WA DVR.  

Member Updates:  
• UW – Kurt Johnson – no update available.  

• CCER (Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation) – Kathe Matrone, Laurie Ford, & Eva de Leon  
  o They will be starting a training for vocational rehabilitation supervisors in fall. They are working with colleagues at the University of Arkansas to create the VR Supervisor Academy. The first academy will start in September and they hope to have about 30 participants. It will be a combination of online and face-to-face training.  
  o They are beginning to plan a medical aspects 3-day symposium for January or February.  
  o There was a VR Coalition meeting last week. A lot of the discussion was around implementation of WIOA.  
  o Kathe talked about the changes happening in the region.  
  o They are organizing some upcoming master classes. In May there will be one on autism. In June, the topics will be motivational interviewing, ethics, transitions and working with parents.
They had a successful TBI conference. The theme this year was moving forward and self-care for caregivers.

They are in the last year of the RSA funded Job Driven Technical Assistance Center that is primarily housed out of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. It will end in September. Laurie and Kathe have been doing a lot of intensive assistance with several partners in Montana, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Arkansas. The RSA has indicated that there may be some additional funds to continue some programs for another year but they are not sure yet what that will look like. Laurie has also been involved with some activities with the WIOA Technical Assistance Center housed at San Diego University.

They have filled a new position to help with the infrastructure of projects.

They are looking at the leadership transition within CCER as Kathe and Laurie are planning to reduce their hours in January.

They are also completing a comprehensive needs assessment for ID Division for the Blind.

- **Idaho DVR – Vicki Tesch**
  - Vicki announced that she will be retiring in about a month.
  - They are making some changes to the organizational structure and will be adding a Deputy Director position. They are currently hiring for a Field Chief. They are taking Vicki’s position and creating a program analyst position and a training associate position.
  - They are continuing to work on changes associated with WIOA.
  - The NRA training conference will be in Boise in July.
  - They will have a state-wide in-service in October.

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

- **WA DSB (Department of Services for the Blind) – Sheila Burkett-Luckey**
  - They have many open positions due to people retiring or leaving.
  - They received approval for a new case management system. They are hoping to have the system in place by October 2019.
  - They have four transition specialists on staff who work with youth (age 9 to 21). They are developing their roles and have been organizing workshops in various areas of the state.
  - They are gearing up for summer programs. BRIDGE is a program for students who are planning to go to college to take a class in summer to navigate the college system. YES 1 and YES 2 will provide students with an opportunity to explore different careers and work during the summer. They have a new program, SWAG, on the eastside of WA State for youth who have taken some college classes to learn how to work and attend classes at the same time.
  - They are trying to make their presence known at WorkSource centers.
  - They continue to have motivational interview training this summer.

- **WA DVR – J. Paul Vertrees**
  - Rob Hines has been appointed as the new WA DVR Director.
  - They continue to work through how to implement all the new requirements with WIOA.
  - They have many staff openings in various offices.
  - Paul gave an overview of the new classifications of VRC positions that have been approved pending the budget approval.

- **Veterans Affairs – Karolyn Hannem – no update available**
• **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation** – Jana Finkbonner – no update available

• **Private Rehabilitation** – Cathy Cottingham - no update available

• **Community Rehabilitation Providers** – Kathy Powers
  - Kathy introduced their new location in Mukilteo.
  - Kathy gave an update on the most recent Community Employment Alliance meeting.
  - The CRP cost study that DVR, in partnership with CCER, completed is changing rates.
  - Kathy talked about the change in counselors at DVR in the Auburn area and the impact on Orion. Kathy mentioned that the WA State Rehab Counsel will be looking at the turnover in VR and examining why so many people are leaving.

• **WWU WCE/HCS** – Raine Dozier– no update available

• **WWU Human Services Program** – Samit Bordoloi– no update available

• **NWIC BA in CARE in Human Services** – Greg Mahle - no update available

• **Alumni** – Eva L. de Leon
  - There will be a SRC meeting with DSB next week and they will be discussing various issues.

• **RC Students** – Sarah Knudsen
  - The SARCA organization was recently approved through Western and should hopefully be approved through ARCA soon. Beth thanked Sarah and Dana for working this past year to get this student organization up and running.
  - The 1st year cohort and some of the 2nd year cohort attended a cultural event at the Hibulb Tribal Center in Tulalip.

**Program Discussion**

• **Update on Students**
  - Beth discussed the Student Summary handout.

• **Internship Update**
  - Dana provided an overview of the current internship placements.
  - Dana mentioned the upcoming Open House on June 1st.

• **RSA Scholarship Update**
  - We are ending our 3rd year in the current 5-year grant. We are currently funding 9 students and most will graduate in August. In the 1st year cohort there are 8 to 10 students potentially interested in applying for the RSA Scholarship for 2017-2018.

• **Student Retention**
  - Monica provided an overview of student retention. We anticipate 12 students graduating in August, 1 in December, and 1 in March.
• Student Recruiting
  o Our application window for fall is April 1 to June 1 (applications are accepted after June 1 if space is available). Monica gave an overview of submitted applications for fall.
  o The committee was asked for feedback on marketing materials.

• CORE/CACREP Update
  o The merger will happen on July 1st. The next board meeting will be in a few weeks and they will be voting on the new Standards. Rehabilitation counseling will become one of the specialty areas in CACREP.

• Potential Curriculum Changes
  o With the expectation that the Rehabilitation Counseling Standards for CACREP will eventually require programs to have 60 semester or 90 quarter credits, Beth presented a draft of a new 90 credit curriculum. The increased credits could potentially include courses related to multicultural issues, increased credits in the Theories & Techniques course, legal & ethical issues, increased credits in Medical Aspects course, an advanced practice of rehabilitation counseling, a pre-practicum course, and family & rehabilitation counseling.

• TVR Institute Update
  o Beth highlighted the TVR Institute flyer that was distributed.

Next Meeting – Monica will distribute a Doodle Poll to help schedule the next meeting.