



## **Fall 2020 Program Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Program: Health Assisting**

**Date: 10/22/20**

### **Members Present:**

- Amanda Neenan (Instructor)
- Krista Marcoulier (Instructor)
- Unelia Videira (Instructor)
- Ruthie Exama (Program Chair/Industry/Parent)
- Ariana Verdiglione (Student)
- Camilla Verdiglione (Industry/ Parent)
- Lois Tobin (Industry)
- Lynn Giordano (Industry)
- Meaghan Neenan (Athletic Trainer Non-Traditional Industry)
- Jada Exama (Student)

**Program Facilitator:** Unelia Videira (Instructor)

**Committee Chair:** Ruthie Exama

**Subject: Curriculum Bias Form**

**Discussion:** Reviewed. No Biases identified.

**Subject: Student Enrollment/Placement**

**Discussion:**

- Freshmen: Exploring Health Assisting Currently
  - Will only be exploring 7 instead of 8 due to current Hybrid/Covid Model
- Sophomores cohort: 25 (2 males)
- Juniors: 24 (2 males)
- Seniors: 21 (1 male)                      Seniors on Co-Op: 1
  - Next month our program should have a few more students out on Co-Op in the Pharmacy Tech Capacity.
  - Current Seniors are not licensed. CNA testing was suspended.
  - Clinical suspended for the time being due to COVID.



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- Co-Op could become suspended if there's a COVID breakout.
- Skill Lab hours can not be counted towards licensing. We will continue to practice in the lab until clinical hours are approved by DPH/DESE.
- Possibility of CTE/Health Assisting enrollment to increase next year
- Lawrence General is sponsoring a program at NECC for certification in nursing assisting. Lawrence will employ without certification at this time (Due to testing suspension secondary to COVID as long as employees are over 18 and have a high school diploma).
- Young senior cohort, younger than 18 years old, graduating this spring

**Subject: Remote Learning Best Practices**

**Discussion:**

- Student reports remote learning is working well. Enjoys synchronous and asynchronous schedule.
- Value added assignments and curriculum reinforcement is the goal of remote learning.
- New curriculum will be taught in-person.
- No specific threshold as to the number of COVID cases prior to transitioning to fully remote model.
- Student reports Remote Learning can be difficult

**Subject: New Trends in the Occupational Area**

**Discussion:**

- COVID - impacting facilities financially
  - Creating COVID zones (10-12 beds privates rather than semi-privates)
  - Increased
  - After 14 days
  - No visitors during patient time in COVID zone
  - Once out of the zone, social distancing and strict PPE adherence is the focus, during visits.
  - Flu vaccine required



- End of life patients are not allowed to have family present.
  - Making use of ZOOM
- No social gatherings (dining, or activities)
  
- Hogan
  - Visitor - strict COVID protocol adherence -social distancing
  - Staff Testing -regular COVID testing, protocol is to increase to weekly staff testing if one covid positive case.
  - Residents remain in same cohort 24/7
  - Restructured dorms
  
- ENSATS HA program using Zoom to outreach. Ruthie will reach out to the Activities Director and has provided the contact information to possibly set up outreach to her facility.
  - Allison Cox - 978-283-0300
- ENSATS HA program reviews PPE donning and doffing. Typically, students are not given precaution patients out in the clinical setting.

**Subject: Employee Outlook**

**Discussion:**

- Lahey
  - Biweekly COVID testing
  - False Positive- no longer needs to be re-tested with two negative COVID tests.
- Lawrence
  - Changes in COVID protocols



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- High need for NAs in Industry across the board.
  - Loss of CNAs due to COVID
  - Recruiting Programs: Career Fairs / Referral bonuses for both staff and new hires
  - \$20/ hour rate with night shift differential in larger facilities making it difficult for smaller facilities to compete
  - Decrease in job applicants across the board
    - Night Shift is either fully staffed or insufficiently staffed
- Rosewood:
  - Hiring CNA currently
  - Hiring using placement agencies
  - Stephanie McPhearson (?SP)
    - 978-535-8700.
- Seacoast:
  - Will not hire without Certifications
  - Ruthie will inquire about hiring with a DPH Waiver for Co-Op.

### **Subject:**

### **Portfolios**

### **Discussion:**

- Ruthie & Lois preferred the in-person Portfolio Presentations
- Digital Portfolios - provides the experience needed for digital interviews
- In-Person Portfolios - provides experience for live interviews (Practice Professionalism - including dress, eye contact, preparedness)



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- Seniors - will be working on a research capstone project

**Subject: Recommendations**

**Discussion:** None

Hogan offering online training (students can participate)

**Subject: New Business**

**Discussion:**

- HA Program purchased two new mannequins to assist with skills training
- COVID Budget Impacts
  - 70% reimbursement for PPE given to industry
  - Significantly impacted ENSATS HA budget.
- EMRs used in Industry: PCC, MediTech, and EPIC

**The meeting adjourned at (time): 1920**