**Cypress College Psychiatric Technology Program Advisory Committee Meeting October 25, 2018, room 316 Minutes**

1. Call to Order (Welcome and Committee Members Introduction)

Shaunna Partika – ELWYN,

Kerry Leonard – Mental Health America of Los Angeles,

Nancy Johnson – Metropolitan State Hospital

Kevin Buckheim – Metropolitan State Hospital

Lauren Mailey – Psychiatric Technology Student/Cypress College

Ryan Mohr - Psychiatric Technology Student/Cypress College

Enrique San Roman – Fairview Developmental Center/PTI

Candy Menzies – U.S. CIM (California Dept. of Corrections)

Leonida Danielsen – West Anaheim Extended Care

Thelma Mapes – West Anaheim Extended Care

Juana Navarro - Psychiatric Technology Student/Cypress College

Dale Pelnarsch - Psychiatric Technology Student/Cypress College

Theresa Estes - Psychiatric Technology Student/Cypress College

Jaime Ramos – Director of Psychiatric Technology Program, Cypress College,

Cynthia Acosta – Adjunct Psych. Tech. Instruct/Cypress College/UCI

Ludmila Vazquez – ELWYN California – Regional Director

Marcus Marquardt – Psychiatric Technology Instructor/Cypress College,

Jane Boyce – Retired Psychiatric Technology Instructor/Cypress College,

Tina Johannsen – Retired Psychiatric Technology Instructor/Cypress College,

Denise Vo – Psychiatric Technology Counselor/Cypress College,

Rebecca Gomez – Interim Dean Health Science Division/Cypress College,

Cassandra Rodriguez – Cypress College Outreach/Health Science Division,

Dragana Filip - Psychiatric Technology Instructor/Cypress College,

Recording Secretary : Dawn Sontag – Health Science Division Secretary/Cypress College.

1. Program Updates

The psychiatric technology program lost three fulltime positions due to retirements of psychiatric technology faculty. We have been using adjunct faculty to fill those voids and will continue relaying on them even more. Adjunct faculty provide valuable help to us at this time during this transition. At this time, we are working on curriculum development with our licensing board and we anticipate that our new curriculum will be approved by the end of the semester. Regarding the previous years, our applicant pool had been low and we realized that our program had never been marketed before. This year we had the support of Cypress College, our Health Science Dean, Psychiatric Technology Faculty and Cassandra Rodriguez (Manager – Special Projects) to help with marketing the psychiatric technology program. Since this support was implemented, we have noticed a healthy applicant pool and we have filled our program. Within the first 30 days of the start of the application period, we had reached our target number of students. This is a goal achieved and we continue to make progress in other areas that we need to address in this program. We have one update – Fairview Developmental Center is closing December 2019, so they are on a closing mode. Our program have depended on Fairview for employment of our students and for clinical sites. Many people have benefited from that collaborative effort. The closing of this developmental center have created a challenge to our program to find new clinical sites. Our graduates have not depended on Fairview for employment in more than five years, but it will be an adjustment that we have to make in a post Fairview Developmental Center era. At this time, we are proud to announce that our psychiatric technology program was awarded a Strong Workforce Initiative Silver Award. The earnings for psychiatric technology reached a 203% increase and 100% employed in the field of study. It was stated “how to improve the living wage in Orange County?” We are $2.00 away from achieving that living wage. We are currently working with the ESL program at Cypress College, as a pathway to the psychiatric technology program. This English training would be a “Pathway” to psychiatric technology program. Currently, we have 30% of our students are taking English classes. They are making progress in reading and answering test question. They are reading the test questions faster and learning better the material. We hope to have this “Pathway” implemented in Fall 2019.

1. Salient Issues Impacting Psychiatric Technology
2. List of proposed educational fees

 State Bill 1480 will increase accreditation fees from zero to $15,000 to $30,000. This implementation was to take place in January 2019. The board heard our feedback on this proposal and the latest information reflects a postponement, this fee increase may be instated in 2020. In January 2019, our graduates will see an increase in fees for taking their state board exams from $150.00 to $265.00. However, the initial license fee will decrease from $300.00 to only $220.00 for the first two years. Projecting that LVN programs will be having their licensing fees increase the same way. Program review will incorporate fees into the future and the cost will be $5000 - $10,000 for revision. All these costs are for existing programs. Our students need to know about these fee increases ahead of time, for planning purposes. Cypress College will pay for increase in accreditation fees. We will have to ask Cypress College for more money to cover this increase in accreditation fees. Marcus Marquardt asked about Pathway funding being part of this process. A committee member stated that funding in 4-5 years, towards degrees and certificates would be made available to colleges. It is currently in the planning phases.

1. Psychiatric Technology program trends

Like it was stated before, our applicant-pool has increased and this is thanks to Cassandra Rodriguez’s efforts that have helped to increase the interest in the Psychiatry Technology program. The recruiter from Atascadero State Hospital has stated that they will need 150 Psychiatry Technicians in a couple of years. Graduates can apply to Los Angeles County to work in prison apprentice programs. Jane Boyce stated that there will also be a huge need for caretakers in the future. A pathway that makes sense is one that will lead the health caregiver be channeled to the Psychiatry Technology program. Home health will pay $15.00 to $20.00 per hour. Kevin Buckheim stated that in 2015, he was approached by Sacramento regarding staffing ratios. Staffing ratios should be 1 to 8 and 1 to 6 if ratios are meeting needs of hospital. 1 to 8 is too high to meet patient needs. UCI finished a study and sent through. The study listed different ratios, and these were lower ratios. It is understood that there are exceptions for nursing. The concept is to hire LPT’s and LVN’s. Since Fairview Developmental Center is closing, Tina Johannsen was asked if there would be internships be available at Metropolitan State Hospital since they will be getting students at Metropolitan State Hospital. While they are in a psychiatric technology program and before they obtain a license, our students they can go to school 20 hours per week and work 20 hours per week. At this time, Metropolitan State Hospital is going through a transition period. Note – Dr. K has retired from Metropolitan State Hospital. Atascadero State Hospital has an internship in which students are selected via a lottery. In this internship, students are required to work 20 hours a week in the hospital. This is one year experience, since they have a one-year program, and this year is paid to them. At Atascadero State Hospital (ASH), the interns would continue to work there after graduation. Presently, ASH is still understaffed and one of the ASH representatives will be coming in November 2018 to talk to our third semester students. Cypress College Psychiatry Technology program students stated that it is hard to find employers with their current school schedules. They stated that when students were at Metropolitan State Hospital, they were mentors to others – making it a win-win situation. Jaime Ramos stated that at this time Metropolitan State Hospital is expanding, making it a good time to consider internships there. They are expected to have 5 new units there. Additional skilled nursing facility. They are expecting to open 84 positions in the future, as they expand.

1. Ways of implementing the employer surveys

We have been unsuccessful in getting feedback from employers. Need to hear feedback during this meeting, from employers present at this advisory meeting. Tina Johannsen asked if it would it be helpful to have online surveys? Rebecca Gomez stated that we can do this through our research department. Another idea was that if it is possible that employers fill out surveys as part of the probationary period. The program faculty might have to target our graduates in order to get this data. Online surveys are felt to be effective in getting data. A committee member stated that there can be 160 applicants for an open position. This is too many people for the possible employer to interview. The criteria can be 5 years or more of experience are what some employers are looking for. One member stated that Coalinga State Facility is eager to hire new graduates. If our graduates were to work there, then they could later on – transfer to prime facilities. This information is a viable option for graduates. The Prison Health representative stated that CIM is getting ready to open; they have 50 beds for mental health.

Mental health population is increasing in prisons. Nursing skills will be very important for our new graduates to have. Facilities are willing to hire Psychiatry Technicians where they do their clinical hours. Some of our graduates become Charge Nurses at the locations, because the employers saw what strong students they were. One member stated that there is a need to educate employers to know what our graduates are able to do according to their scope of practice. Our graduates should gain employment at Nursing Skills facilities to gain experience. Having LVN or CNA status can help get graduates obtain employment in order to gain experience. Cynthia Acosta raised a question if we can get our students in a clinical site at UCI Medical Center. Dragana Filip stated that Children’s Hospital of Orange County opened up a new site for children. They took Cypress College out, in order to make room for UCI students. It was stated that maybe we can incorporate certifications within the program (i.e. C.N.A., etc.). This is something that we can start talking to Sacramento about, the director of the psychiatric technology program stated. Our psychiatric technology program is in hiatus during the summer and the summer is a great time for the students to find work as a psychiatric technician. This will gain them experience on the job. A committee member stated that Jump Start is a community program designed to fill the gap, intended to be 24 units and just for graduates of the program. This jump start program is intended to get the foot in the door. Under this program, 60% of classmates get placed after 12-week program (spring/fall).

1. Clinical placement needs

The program director reiterated that Fairview Developmental Center is closing and the program needs help in finding clinical sites that can hold 10-12 students. Specifically, we need to find behavioral modification sites. For this type of clinical experience, we could use schools caring for students with special needs, and/or behavioral problems. Any ideas? The director of the program ask to be send to him via e-mail to jramos@cypresscollege.edu

1. Committee Member’s Input
2. Occupational trends/needs for Psychiatric technicians in the community

No discussion at this time.

1. Projected licensure/Academic Needs

Prisons/Measure H Contracts. Psychiatric Technicians working with homeless populations. Marcus Marquardt stated that they have a speaker from DiDi Hirsch Mental Health Services is coming to speak to our students. He continued by stating that this organization administers suicide hotlines. They hoping to have the suicidal lines administered using volunteer personnel. They are hiring veterans.

1. Innovative Employment Opportunities for Psychiatric Technicians

We already spoke on this subject earlier in this meeting. This is not a problem at this time. Give us info if you have it for us. There is a program called Tele-Medicine (from Santa Barbara to San Diego). Any program other program that offer services within our scope of practice. Students gave feedback at this time stating that in rehabilitation facilities, the patient ratio is higher. A member added that behavior modification work for Psychiatric Technicians could be a stepping stone for employment opportunities. Dragana Filip stated that the Rehabilitation at St. Joseph’s Hospital is trying to define assessment tools for detox patients for our students. Also strategies to help the individuals.

1. Student Input
2. Theoretical/Clinical needs and/or recommendations

A Cypress College student stated that in surveying other classmates, they heard that there was an incident of slight allegation of cheating that had occurred. Marcus Marquardt stated that there is now assigned seating in place in order to prevent cheating. Student wondered why they were just hearing about the cheating allegation. A Cypress College student stated that the clinical hours are too early. It was stated that they felt a majority of current students have work and kids to deal with, and that the clinicals are too early because of those factors. The response was that clinicals hours are that early because when they are employed as a Psychiatric Technicians, it is most likely at the time when your shift will start. A Psychiatric Technician student stated that he felt that exceptional students were being rewarded, other students not being noticed. Our students work hard. The statement made is, “Who do the students think is working hard - from other students?” The Psychiatric Technician Club is working on giving out caring awards. Good Citizenship and Most Improved will be some of these awards also. A Cypress College student stated that they felt there are two extreme groups currently in the program. Those groups are: Experienced in life group is giving 120% effort and Millennials group that are not taking things very serious, giving bare minimum effort. Our educators do notice the lazy students. It was stated the hard working students should stay professional, as they have been. Focus on your own individual behavior. When you are in class, you are building your own resume. Your employer is seeing students behavior, whether that is good or bad behavior. Currently, 3rd semester students are being trained to be in charge of units at clinicals. Also, a faculty member stated that he sees that progression in maturity of students while they are in our program. Tina Johannsen stated to our students are to be the role models for the rest of the students. Regarding the suspicion of cheating in course PT125, students are seated in alphabetical order. There is a different seating chart each week, so that the same students are not sitting near each other. Maturity in students takes time. The instructors need to be encouraging and nurturing during their time in the program. Students need to focus on morale and values. Psychiatric Technicians need to adjust to people and situations.

1. Academic activities recommendations

No discussion at this time.

1. Honored Alumnus

Dragana Filip, MSN/Ed., RN, PT. (Psychiatric Technology Adjunct Instructor/Cypress College) Cypress College Psychiatric Technician Program Graduate – December 2009