



Health Information Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Location: SPC EpiCenter

Members Present: Denise Fonzo, Lucelly Miller, Melissa Myrick, Tonia Thompson, Lisa Wilusz

St. Petersburg College Staff Present: Susan Biszewski-Eber, Marilyn Browne, Marcia Castle, Sheila Newberry, Kristin Pecchio, Mrs. Kengia Sabree, Deanna Stentiford

Members Absent: Keeva Russell, Consuelo Waldrop (student member)

<p>Topic/Discussion</p> <p>1. <u>Old Business</u></p> <p>➤ Review and approval of 6/13/2019 Meeting</p>	<p>Mrs. Kengia Sabree called the meeting at 8:04 a.m. on Thursday, 11/21/2019.</p> <p>1. Discussion/Action</p> <p>Before getting started on Old Business, Kengia asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves.</p> <p>The minutes from Summer were reviewed and approved by Melissa Myrick and seconded by Denise Fonzo.</p>
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2. New Business

➤ Current Status

- Current Students
- Current Graduates
- Number Students in PPE III/ Potential Graduates

➤ RHIT Pass Rates

2. Discussion/Action

Number of current students: Unduplicated Headcount (Current Term vs. Previous Fall Term):

- HIT – 120 vs. 122
- HCINF – 7 vs. 7
- MEDCD – 74 vs. 61

2019 Graduates YTD:

- HIT – 15 YTD and 18 scheduled to graduate Fall 2019
- HCINF – 26
- MEDCD - 40

Credentialing Pass Rates

Provided by CAHIIM – 3rd Quarter data will not be available until December 9th.

- RHIT YTD 2019 – 71% First Time Testers: 17 Testers/12 Passed. National average is 76%.
- 100% Repeat Testers (5 Testers/5 Passed)
- SPC's Average through 2nd Quarter 2019 is 77% versus National Average of 71%.

Provided by the Testing center and funded by Perkins (through 6/30/19):

- RHIT – 76% (20 Tested/16 Passed)
- CCA – 68% (25 Testers/17 Passed) CCS – 100% (2 Testers/2 Passed)
- CHTS – 100% (1Tester/1 Passed)

Kengia stated that there is some work that needs to be done on the pass rates for both RHIT and CCA. She plans to meet with workshop facilitators to discuss ways to increase pass rates in workshops. Also need to

find a way to convince students that if they don't pass they should take again right away. Students get upset/discouraged because they are missing by just a few points and are waiting too long or not retesting again.

Kengia asked the group their advice on the future of medical coders, specifically at the certificate level because enrollment is increasing. A long discussion was held regarding the roles of Medical Coders. The following were some of the topics discussed:

- Encourage Medical Coders to continue their education and earn their RHIT. Consider other roles that coders can transition into. Coding auditors should have their RHIT.
- Computer Assisted Coding (CAC) is changing the role of the coder. Entry level coders are transiting into other roles and more experienced coders are getting promoted. Coders should not rely on CACs because they will lose their skill.
- Cost to train coders is very expensive. Coders at BayCare are getting trained and leaving. BayCare utilizes an external vendor for training/auditing coders. BayCare has open positions for seasoned coders. Average age of coder at BayCare is 57/58 years of age.
- Coders need to get their foot in the door and get experience but- employers are looking for longevity. Some coders are applying for upper level positions when they didn't stay on their previous job to receive enough experience.
- Tonia mentioned hiring veterans, who can use their GI bill to continue their education.
- Tonia also mentioned that the HR at Sarasota memorial isn't comfortable with asking employees to sign letter agreeing to an 18 month contract.
- Susan advised everyone that there are programs out there to help them offset the cost of hiring/training.

- She mentioned that career source offers funding for incumbent worker training. SPC's Workforce Institute could be helpful in completing the application for funding. Or - the employer could go directly to Career Source. Susan suggested that employers should consider creating an apprenticeship position or build your own apprenticeship program. SPC will come in and help develop the program.

She also discussed going through workforce for refresher courses or exam prep courses which are typically 4-6 weeks. These courses can be online or face-to-face.

Kengia suggested creating online component for exam prep courses to allow students to have access to the material for longer periods. Kristin asked about HIM2960, which is the exam prep course but once the course ends students lose access to this material.

A discussion was held about funding exams, and using the test prep course offered by FHIMA. FHIMA costs, and since Perkins is funding current workshops, we offer this to students free of charge. FHIMA will be promoted to out of state students and in-state students will be encouraged to attend workshops. Perkins also funded practice exams, which can be taken advantage by all students.

Susan mentioned that students are hungry to get experience to get a job but they need the certification first. Apprenticeship would allow students to go both and certifications can be built into the apprenticeship.

Kengia mentioned that some students are taking their time scheduling their exam or- they schedule it and miss the opportunity. We will talk more about this next meeting to discover ways we can inspire students to become certified and ways to make this opportunity more competitive. Kengia also mentioned that in Fall 2020, students will be allowed

➤ Program/ Curriculum Changes

to repeat the HIM2960 for each certificate that they become eligible for.

Program/Curriculum Changes

- HIM 1000 & HIM 1110 and HIM 1102 & HIM1212 are being combined and revitalized.
- The program is not accepting students in Summer 2020, therefore the next group of students will be admitted for Fall 2020.

Kengia stated that the combination and revitalization of the above courses will be ready for Fall 2020.

If you know of a student or employee who is interested in any of the programs, please send them our way even though we are not accepting students in the Summer 2020 because registration for Fall opens in April.

Kristin brought up that the students can still take HIM 2012, HIM 2223 and HIM 2652 in the Summer term.

Kengia informed the committee that have hired three new instructors to help with the transition of the new curriculum.

Denise asked if there would be a teach out and mentioned that she would prefer to continue teaching the current courses during that time.

➤ Apprenticeship Initiative

Susan provided an update on the apprenticeship initiative. She announced that SPC is now a registered apprenticeship site, which means that employers no longer have to become registered. She mentioned the new community health worker apprentice with Community Health Centers of Pinellas County. The community Health worker apprenticeship and a concept for a Specialized Medical Coder Apprenticeship Pathway. The recommended related technical instruction is 144 hours. However, it could be less than 144 and it

➤ Workforce Recommendations

could include a prep class for the industry certification. And the wages could be based on obtaining the certification.

The first workforce recommendation is for medical coding:

We need to get our coders to better understand types of coding and specialties.

Melissa brought up that students need to be getting more experience and remain in positions longer. She feels that students should remain in positions a minimum of 2 years to get a full range of experience. It was mentioned that some students are more interested in earning more money regardless of their lack of experience. Susan mentioned that this could be contributed to the culture of the environment.

Kengia asked the committee their advice on no longer having selective admission for the informatics certificate program. She used IT as an example since their courses are open and their enrollment is up. A unanimous vote passed to remove selective admission from this program effective Fall 2020.

Marilyn Browne reminded everyone to complete the Advisory Committee Member CLNA survey. She explained that the government engages to see if we are meeting the requirements for Perkins. This is the committee members' time to voice their needs and opinions. She also discussed the invitation to serve on the Advisory Committee Taskforce. She mentioned that Dr. Williams is very grateful for our committee members and thanks them for serving on our committee.

She asked for any members to let Kengia know if they would be interested. Marilyn also mention that the process to join or to continue on the advisory will be more simple and next year there will be a link to apply.

3. Adjournment

3. Discussion/Action

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Castle, Recorder