



MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE WINTER MEETING  
(VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM)

**Date of Meeting:**

May 26, 2021 2:00pm

**Members Present:** Dianne Clarke, Joseph Smiley, Shadai Simmons, Sara Sabourin, Donna Marley, Micki Thompson, Mike Jalazo, Sean King, Andrew Maurin, Jay Charboneau, Lolita Johns, Ray Hensley, Raul Catuy, Donna Sicilian, Erin McGowen (Representing Melissa Fuller)

**Members Excused:** Jonita Lewis, Kip Corriveau, Rae Chapman, Rayford Dennis, Tony Williams, Laurallyn Segur, Christopher Yarnold, Robert Neri, Douglas Bonar, Debra Prewitt, Monica Brimm; Will Atkinson, Giovanna Taylor, Ladonna Butler, Lisa Hamilton

**Call to order:** Dr. Dianne Clarke, Advisory Committee Chair and provided for introductions

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Program Updates:**

Dr. Smiley, Program Dean, provided an update on the Human Services program.

**Program Viability Review.** Number of Graduates, Student Success Rates, and Enrollment Count data for 2018 to 2020 were reviewed. There is a positive trend in the number of graduates that will continue during the 2021-2022 academic year. Covid 19 conditions did not impact the overall trend. Student success rates for fall 2020 and spring 2021 were relatively stable at 80.5% and 79% respectively. Withdrawal rates over the same period were 4.4% and 3.8% respectively. Student enrollment count remained stable. The program held up well during the ongoing negative impact of Covid 19 on the college. Face-to-face, LiveOnline, and Online classes were offered during the spring semester and are being offered this summer and fall.

Dr. Clarke expressed commendations for the work in meeting the needs of students given the challenges of Covid 19.

There was a discussion about the overall impact of Covid 19 on students in general.

**Bachelor's Degree.** Progress continues to be made in preparing to start the new Human Services B.S. Degree. Bachelor's degree classes will be start in January, with registration starting in October.

**Program Administration.** A new program director will be hired before the start of the fall semester.

**Career Outreach Specialist:** Sara Sabourin shared an update from the SPC Career Outreach Department. Employers were encourage to engage with SPC students and were given possible ways to help them on their career readiness path. The committee/employers were encouraged to post internship opportunities in "Hire SPC Titans" platform powered by handshake. If you are interested in co-hosting a workshop, reviewing resumes or writing a blog article, contact Sara. An SBSHS Career Summit is being planned for the fall 2021 and if you would like to participate, contact Sara.

**Employment and Internship Coordinator:** Lolita Johns provided an update on student internships and employment. She wants to work with all the committee members to provide excellent internship opportunities for students. The internship procedures and process were revised. We will do a better job in making sure students are aware of exactly what the sites require. A one-page document listing all the SPC Internship Coordinators was presented and discussed.

For the summer, 8 students are enrolled in the HUS 2949 Co-op course. Some students wanted to hold off for the summer to complete the internship in the fall.

If you have a need of interns or entry level positions, contact Lolita.

A subcommittee Think Tank report was presented on innovative ways to complete student internships during the current Covid 19 restrictions. Dr. Clarke commended Lolita for putting together the Think Tank and noted that it was very productive with great information from the employer side and the college side.

**Industry Updates & Discussion:**

Dr. Clarke called for updates from each employer and discussions on the impact of Covid 19.

- **Mikki Thompson (211):** They are hiring. There is a need to look seriously at our hiring and benefits offered to employees. It is a challenge remaining competitive for getting and retaining new employees.
- **Ray Hensley (Department of Health):** We currently have 15 vacancies in the Maternal Child Health Division. Although starting salaries for entry level positions are not as high, the benefit package is. The Maternal Child Health Division has been operating virtually for the past year. The goal over the next three months is to 100 percent service in person.

Concern was expressed about the ongoing pay rate in the industry and the need to band together to push the dialogue with funders about the value of the work that is being done.

- **Andrew Maurin (Suncoast Voices for Children):** They are approaching the first year of providing the Opportunity Passport Program in conjunction with Ready for Life, United Way, and the Casey Foundation. They want to be able to offer an internship opportunity for a student formerly in foster care.
- **Erin McGowen (Juvenile Justice):** Contact information was given for those interested in interning. Pinellas County is down in the number of arrests. Black youth are overrepresented among the youth on probation and in Detention Centers. There is a desire to work with all the different providers present.
- **Shadai Simmons:** The Opportunity Passport Program has been very successful. There is a current effort to provide new housing for making more available beds for youth who age out of foster care. They are almost back up and running face to face. All groups are being done virtually but opening up on Fridays for youth to mingle.

**Program Needs:** An appeal was made for advisory committee members to consider serving as speakers in classes to share information on specialized topics connected with classes or provide industry updates. The goal is to have advisory members more actively involved in a variety of ways.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

**Next Meeting Scheduled:** To be determined.