

**St. Petersburg College Physical Therapist Assistant
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

09/20/18

Members Present: Kory Thomas, Barb Heier, Mary Hanlon, Kirsten Snellenburg, Alex Kerekes, Cathy Garvey, Marcey Wright, Norman Schlact, Maryellen Sullivan, Teresa Chiavacci, Shamsah Shidi, Mary Ellen Barkman, Tricia Trinque, Dr. Richard Flora

Members Absent: Winston Biltz, Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Debra Fox

I. Call to Order

Teresa Chiavacci called to order the regular meeting of the SPC PTA Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:45 pm on 9/20/18 in OP 203.

II. Staff Update

A. Lindsay Carhart, PT, DPT, NCS-- Adjunct

Kory Thomas explained how Dr. Carhart was hired to be an adjunct instructor in the Neurological Disabilities course with Kirsten Snellenburg. She will be assisting in the lecture course on Thursdays.

III. Program Updates

A. CAPTE Reaccreditation

Kory Thomas explained that CAPTE has reaccredited the Program for another 10 years. The report cited curriculum that needed to be added to meet approximately 10 new content areas. These changes will be updated and made in the curriculum. The Program is still working with the CAPTE consultant until the CAPTE report is due in February.

Kory Thomas stated that one of the items that the Program is working on is linking volunteerism and community outreach activities to the courses. The students currently engage in such activities but not in an actual course.

B. 50th Anniversary Open House

Kory Thomas explained that the Open House will be on the 11th of October. An email has been sent to invite CIs, CCCEs, alumni, and current students. Kirsten

Snellenburg stated that there will be a demonstration of the Anatomage table at this event. This event, held in partnership with the Student Government Association, will provide students opportunities to showcase various skills they have learned while in the Program. There will be posture screenings, equipment demonstrations, and guided tours by students of the Program's new facility. It is a community event to which the various CIs, clinical directors, CCCEs, and alumni have been invited which provides networking opportunities to current students.

C. Outcomes

1. Licensure Pass Rates

All students who took the exam in July of 2018 (27 students) passed on the first attempt with one student receiving a perfect score. One student has yet to take the exam but will be doing so this fall.

2. Employment Rates

The employment rate for 2017 is 100%. Overall employment rate for 2015-2016 graduating classes is 98.15%.

Kory Thomas asked the advisory committee how the PTA market is in the local area. Cathy Garvey stated she feels it is rather saturated. Mary Ellen Barkman stated that her company is not hiring many PTAs at the moment and explained that it is hard to hire a PTA when they have had very little pediatric experience.

Mary Ellen Barkman posed the question that if the market remains to get tight for PTAs, what could SPC do to make the students and Program more marketable. Teresa Chiavacci stated that to have extra specializations for PTAs would require more course work which (based on credit hours) may exceed current state requirements. Tricia Trinke stated that a post-graduate certificate in a specialization may be beneficial for the students. Alex Kerekes stated it may be difficult to find PTs who are willing to take PTAs for a "fellowship" study or any kind of specialization internship. Tricia Trinke said it may be more advantageous for PTs to take a PTA after they graduate because they will not have to worry about the PTA being alone in a room with a patient as a student while they obtain their specialization. Dr. Richard Flora asked if there are industry recognized certificates for these types of items. If not, the programs need to be sponsored through the work force institute at SPC.

3. Graduation Rates

Kory Thomas explained that the graduation rate of the last two classes is 79.41%, further explaining that she feels the selective admissions process is

helping the graduation rates remain high. The graduation rates have been increasing over the past few years. Faculty efforts to retain our students have assisted as well.

IV. Clinical Education Update

A. Sites for 2019

Kory Thomas stated that we need 30 sites for January but currently have 25 who have agreed to take a student. Kory Thomas has also been in touch with the coordinator at Genesis Rehab and is working to acquire a new clinical site with the company's facilities. Genesis has decided to suspend the stipend program that required schools to pay for student placements. Now that this has been suspended, SPC will be able to participate. Currently, the Program is looking for rehabilitation facilities.

B. Web CPI

Alex Kerekes explained how the Web CPI has changed from an interactive course to a PowerPoint training. Kory Thomas asked the advisory committee members to notify any of their CIs that may need to take the training and stated that the faculty and staff are here for assistance if needed.

V. Suggestions for Securing Additional Clinical Sites

Kory Thomas asked for any ideas as to how to increase the number of clinical sites available. Shamsah Shidi asked if we have expanded our radius. Kory Thomas explained that we have done so. Shamsah Shidi also asked if students are looking for their own sites. Kory Thomas stated that sometimes they are able to do so, but we currently like to visit a site to check the appropriateness of the learning environment. Tricia Trinke asked if there was a way to offer CEUs at SPC to entice CIs to take students. Barb Heier explained that we already do offer CEUs. Marcey Wright stated SPC should better advertise this incentive. Kirsten Snellenburg added that it would be of benefit for SPC to host CEUs and offer discounts to former alumni in order to promote our Program.

VI. Current Trends

A. Roles and Responsibilities of the PTA and Dynamic Nature of the Profession and Health Care Delivery System

Kory Thomas asked the advisory members present if there is anything new in the clinic that a PTA is expected to know. Mary Ellen Barkman stated that many

people are doing telehealth. Barb Heier asked if there is a push for telehealth in the area. Maryellen Sullivan stated that currently there is no push for it. Teresa Chiavacci explained that if PTAs have training in joint mobilizations that they should be able to do it in the clinic.

VII. CAPTE Reviewers Needed

Kory Thomas stated that CAPTE is looking for reviewers, specifically clinicians. Kory Thomas asked the members to share the information with their colleagues.

VIII. Announcements

No announcements.

IX. Adjournment

Teresa Chiavacci adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Alex Kerekes

Minutes approved by: Kory Thomas