

**ST PETERSBURG COLLEGE  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**May 8, 2019  
6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Teresa Chiavacci, Sue Barber, Marcey Wright, Marlon Alaan, Ray Candolea, Mary Hanlon, Barb Heier, Kirsten Snellenburg, Alex Kerekes, Kory Thomas

**Members Absent:** Norman Schlact, Mary Ellen Barman, Maryellen Sullivan, Shamsah Shidi, Debra Fox, Winston Biltz, Tricia Trinque, Cathy Garvey

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

The members present introduced themselves and welcomed the new member this evening, Ray Candolea.

**II. STAFF UPDATE**

Kory Thomas stated that Lindsay Carhart will again be on staff in the fall for the neuro class. Kory Thomas stated that Barb Heier has resigned as faculty which will take effect at the end of summer. Kory Thomas explained that a faculty position in the process of being developed.

**III. PROGRAM UPDATE**

**a. Pinning Ceremony**

Mary Hanlon stated that this is the first formal pinning ceremony that the PTA Program has held. This will take place May 16, 2019. Awards will be given out to select students at the ceremony.

**b. Graduation Rate – 2019 Graduates**

Kory Thomas stated that currently 85.3% are expected to graduate this May. The graduation rate has been increasing over the past few years.

**c. Employment Rate – 2018 Graduates**

There is a 100% employment rate for graduates within six months of graduation.

**IV. CLINICAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

**a. Current Clinical Sites**

Kory Thomas presented a list of clinical sites to the members to provide feedback. Marcey Wright expressed that rehabilitation facilities are likely to be affected by the reimbursement changes in the fall. This may affect clinical site placement. Ray Candolea stated that his facility is a pilot facility for the new reimbursement model but he does not think there will be a decrease in employment at his facility. The changes that would take place include bundling healthcare services with an emphasis on nursing which would affect reimbursement. Discussion followed

with the members as to how this would affect the physical therapy delivery and reimbursement.

There was a discussion about gait speed and how it is relevant for students to learn in the curriculum. This is a focus especially at CSM as it focuses on the function of a patient during ambulation in their community and environment.

**b. Suggestions for Additional Clinical Sites**

Teresa Chiavacci suggested that clinical instructors need to suggest having students to the administrative personnel at the facilities. Teresa Chiavacci also suggested inviting corporate personnel to the PTA Program's facility to provide details about the PTA Program and clinical sites needed.

**V. OBSERVATION HOURS**

**a. Suggested Sites for Prospective Students**

Kory Thomas asked the members if they had any ideas about how to respond to students looking for observation hours. Marlon Alaan stated that his company always allows students to complete their observation hours. The members agreed that SPC recommending specific sites would not be a good idea if the sites cannot accommodate the student.

**VI. CURRENT TRENDS**

**a. PTA's Role with Joint Mobilizations in the Clinic**

**i. Suggestions for Lab Assessments**

Barb Heier stated that the PTA Program educates the students about the theory of joint mobilization with demonstration, but there is no current practical exam for joint mobilization. Barb Heier mentioned that this was a point of discussion with the CAPTE on site team. Sue Barber stated that the outpatient clinic associated with her facility utilizes mobilizations and that students would utilize it in the clinic. Barb Heier suggested students receiving a skills check in grade I and II mobilizations to which the advisory members agreed.

**b. Acute Care Preparation**

**i. Suggestions for Lab Assessments – at external site?**

Kory Thomas thanked Marcey Wright for her role in setting up acute care observations for the students. Marcey Wright stated she has noticed a difference in the students she receives for clinical rotations at the hospital since beginning the observation hours. Marcey Wright asked if the faculty felt a checklist or structured objectives list would be necessary for students. The faculty did not think it was necessary to have a list. Marcey Wright suggested having her set up as a patient in an empty room at St. Petersburg General Hospital and have the students practice transferring her. Kory Thomas asked if that activity would be included in a class as a skill to complete. Mary Hanlon stated the skills would be demonstrated during lab practical assessments.

## **VII. PROGRAM ADVISORY FEEDBACK FORM**

Kory Thomas stated that members could fill out the form now or could take it home and return it to the Program. The information obtained from these surveys will help the faculty and staff to determine areas of focus for the upcoming year.

### **a. Review of SPC Mission Statement**

Kory Thomas stated that the mission statement has changed for St. Petersburg College and asked the advisory committee members if they felt the mission of SPC is congruent with the mission of the PTA Program. The survey includes a question related to the mission statements.

### **b. PTA Handbook**

This was provided to the members for their review.

### **c. PTA Curriculum Sequence**

Kory Thomas brought up ideas for sequencing of the clinical education experiences. An idea was expressed regarding making the last two clinical rotations back-to-back with the Trends in Physical Therapy course occurring either after the clinical rotations or prior to it. Kory Thomas also expressed the idea of having two longer clinical rotations instead of 3 abbreviated experiences. Alex Kerekes stated that this would limit the opportunity students have to gain experience in a variety of settings. Teresa Chiavacci suggested having a clinical where the student could elect to return to their previous site for a second rotation or if they need exposure to a new setting, they may complete their rotation at the new facility.

### **d. PTA Course Outlines**

Course outlines were presented to the members present.

### **e. Review of Equipment**

Kory Thomas discussed new purchases with the members present; a standing frame was included in this list. Marlon Alaan stated that it is good for the students to have a standing frame in their curriculum as it is commonly found in the skilled nursing setting.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Alex Kerekes.

Minutes Approved by Kory Thomas.