



**MINUTES**  
**PTA Advisory Committee**  
**September 30, 2020 – Via Zoom**

**Date of Meeting:** 9/30/20

**Members Present:** Kory Thomas, Barb Heier, Mary Hanlon, Kirsten Snellenburg, Teresa Chiavacci, Marcey Wright, Lindsay Largent, Debra Fox, Marlon Allaan, Maryellan Sullivan, Ray Candolea, Monica Roberts, Sue Barber, Alex Kerekes, Camden Russell

**Members Excused:** Charleston Fritts, Don Keller, Mary Ellen Barkman, Norman Schlact, Deanna Stentiford, Cathy Garvey

**Others Present:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Teresa Chiavacci called to order the meeting at 6:37 pm.

**Unfinished Business:** Kory Thomas stated there have not been many changes regarding the staff with the exception that Marcey Wright was hired to assist in the lab and with the virtual clinical affiliation in the summer. The students received an incomplete grade for the virtual clinical affiliation due to the inability for some skills to be assessed via the virtual format. The faculty are currently working with the students to assess them on their clinical skills via a simulated clinical experience that corresponds to the remaining Web CPI criteria.

**Program Updates:** Mary Hanlon stated that the freshmen are participating in a partial on-site lab and a partial virtual lab. Mary Hanlon stated that students are working with each other in the lab donned with PPE. The lecture courses are delivered via Zoom. Kirsten Snellenburg stated that she is very impressed as to how the students are adapting to a virtual learning environment. Mary Hanlon explained that the college also opened on Saturdays for a month to allow for adequate time in the lab for course completion.

Kory Thomas stated that all students who took the exam in July passed except for one, who will retake the NPTE in October. Five other students chose to take the exam in October.

Camden Russell added that he feels his peers are better equipped to study a condition more thoroughly as well as the treatments that accompany it.

Ray Candolea asked how students were assessed on their relationship with the PT as a PTA, the time constraints of documentation, and how they understand and operate under HIPPA. The faculty explained how it was presented and assessed.

Lindsay Largent stated that she has secured clinical sites for the upcoming rotations but would prefer to obtain more SNFs for the students. She stated if anybody knows of any facilities that will accept a student to please let her know. Kory Thomas added that an SPC form will be signed by students prior to participating in a clinical experience acknowledging the risk the pandemic poses to them in the

affiliation.

There was a discussion about how facilities will require COVID-19 tests or PPE. This will be dependent upon the facility.

**Student Update:** Camden Russell stated he feels his class has adapted well to the online platform. Camden Russell added that the group has been cohesive in encouraging and supporting each other.

**New Business:** Kory Thomas asked for the advisory committee members to fill out the advisory feedback form and return them to her when they are able. Documents were provided to the committee that will assist them with completing the form.

Kirsten Snellenburg stated the program is utilizing a secure program, Honorlock, for students to take the lecture exams online. The students take the exam while being monitored by the webcam. Kory Thomas stated that the largest disadvantage to this software is the internet connection.

Kirsten Snellenburg stated the textbooks utilized in the program are available online. Debra Fox asked if she could obtain access to these textbooks.

Maryellen Sullivan asked how the videos in place of clinical observation hours worked out. Kory Thomas stated that students who applied to the program were sent links of physical therapy treatments to watch and were asked to write a brief essay about what they observed in the videos. Overall, the new procedure went well this year.

**Industry Updates & Discussion:** Barb Heier stated that she has noticed there were not many students from any schools during the summer at her place of employment. Barb Heier stated that the COVID-19 guidelines are changing daily regarding students.

Sue Barber stated at her facility students are not permitted to treat patients with COVID-19. At this facility (James Haley VA), there is a dedicated COVID-19 team.

Monica Roberts stated that there will be a virtual career fair in October for all SPC students.

**Adjournment:** Kory Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Alex Kerekes

**Secretary**