



ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

Title: Nursing Program Spring Advisory Council Meeting

Evidence Type: Corroborating

Date: 18 March 2021

WAN: 22-0221

Classification: Minutes

PII: Yes

Redacted: No



Western Wyoming Community College
Nursing Program Spring Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2021, 12:00 PM
Held Via Zoom Conference

In Attendance:

Heidi Brown, WWCC
Tammy Walker, WWCC
Julie Leavitt, WWCC
Deanne Garner, WWCC
Amy Downing, Evanston Regional Hospital
Andrew Appleby, WWCC
Beth Stephens, WWCC
Sarah Corhn, WWCC
Mary Roger, WWCC Star Valley Campus
Heidi Currutt, WWCC Evanston Campus
Sunny Thomas, WWCC
Kim Seymour, Inside Connections PRC
Jenny Daniel, WWCC Rawlins Campus
Shelby Williams, WWCC
Codi Alderson, WWCC
Andrea Valdez, Deer Trail Assisted Living
Carla Lee, WWCC
Linda Chavez-Florez, WWCC
Dave Throgmorton, Carbon County BOCES
Joe M Barbuto, WWCC (Independent Consultant)

Heidi Brown called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and invited meeting attendees to introduce themselves via the chat box.

Heidi Brown presented the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if there were any questions or corrections that need to be made. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Carla Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting which was seconded by Shelby Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Heidi Brown introduced and welcomed Sarah Corhn as a new full-time faculty member in the WWCC Nursing Program and Skyla Holderman-Hamilton, Caroyn

Cushner, Erin Ragain, and Sarah Reynolds as new adjunct faculty members in Star Valley and Green River.

Heidi Brown introduced statistics regarding first-time National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rates among WWCC students by different modalities for the last three years. Rates during that time have consistently been above 80%.

Heidi Brown introduced statistics regarding program completion rates over the last three cohorts and by modality. The goal of the program is to have 70% of students graduate 150% of the time. Tracking in this area is by cohort. Student retention is a focus of the program that helps meet that goal. Overall completion rates for the 2017-2020 cohort was 92.5%. Completion rates are considered by modality to ensure that the needs of students are met regardless of how the program is delivered.

Heidi Brown introduced statistics regarding the employment rate of WWCC nursing program graduates. Over the last four years, these rates have remained above 90%, with 2020 having an employment rate of 94%. As the result of a misconception by the Wyoming Legislature that nursing students are leaving Wyoming on completion of the program, employment rates have been disaggregated to present where graduates are working. Data indicates that the majority of WWCC nursing program graduates are employed in Wyoming.

Heidi Brown introduced statistics regarding employer satisfaction rates with WWCC nursing program graduates. This data is tracked to determine if the program is preparing students for the work-force. On a Likert Scale from 1-5, the program has a goal of achieving 3.5, and has remained above 4 in every measured category (safety, clinical judgment, leadership, patient centeredness, professionalism, and health promotion) over the last three years.

Heidi Brown commented that the next portion of the council meeting would invite faculty members to discuss their area of expertise.

Heidi Brown introduced Julie Leavitt.

Julie Leavitt introduced herself as an instructor of Nursing I and Nursing II and coordinator of the CNA Program. She went on to introduce statistics regarding program growth between 2017 and 2021. Currently, as of the Spring 2021 semester, there are 160 students enrolled in CNA classes. Numbers are trending up.

Julie Leavitt commented that employers within the WWCC service region are reaching out regarding Prometrics testing. Students are finishing the program, but not testing in a timely manner. She invited anyone with concerns to contact the Wyoming State Board of Nursing, as they are the body that deals with Prometrics. WWCC has offered

Prometric tests each month of the year at all of the program sites. Sites have remained full and no testing dates have been cancelled. Prometric testing statistics are not available by which program students graduated from, as it is open for people across the entire state and not restricted by service area.

Julie Leavitt introduced two new programs included this year, a high school and public class in Rawlins and an additional lab in Star Valley at the Swift Creek High School. Currently, two high schools in the region are running concurrent classes with WWCC.

Julie Leavitt presented that currently, programs are located in Evanston, Green River, Lyman, Mountain View, Pinedale, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Star Valley, with a need for instructors in Evanston and Rock Springs. She invited anyone interested to apply at the WWCC website.

Heidi Brown introduced Carla Lee to discuss the first year of the program.

Carla Lee presented that in Nursing I, the program had to be creative in order to make adjustments for Covid-19 protocols. Historically, students spend time in the community to promote health to develop skills interacting with people as a student nurse. As that was not an option due to the pandemic, more online resources and virtual simulations were adopted to substitute for clinicals. Students were required to safely pass and administer medications, perform assessments, and develop and implement a care plan.

Carla Lee commented that for every planned lab, a student was either isolated or quarantined as a result of Covid-19, and the program was able to find alternatives to deliver the same experience. The methods they used can be utilized in the future, too.

Heidi Brown introduced Sunny Thomas to discuss the second semester of the program.

Sunny Thomas introduced herself as the instructor of Nursing 1200 and 2300. She thanked the agencies that have welcomed students to their facilities. Students were able to continue forward in the program despite Covid-19 restrictions for meeting in person. The program was able to continue forward without too many limitations, with clinicals being the most impacted.

Sunny Thomas commented that Nursing I covers the art of nursing, while Nursing II covers the scientific aspects of the program. Students entering Nursing II have a solid foundation upon which to build additional concepts, and eventually provide a surgical

experience. The program is able to provide theory, a lab or simulation, and a clinical experience.

Sunny Thomas presented that Nursing II students take part in a semester-long project related to community education. She invited people to participate by suggesting ideas or events for Nursing II students to make presentations.

Heidi Brown introduced Shelby Williams to present on simulation.

Shelby Williams presented that there are simulations across the curriculum during each semester, which become more complex by the time students reach Nursing IV. Simulations require students to use the knowledge they've gained in the program, incorporate critical thinking, and consider scenarios that will help them after graduation.

Shelby Williams commented that Nursing I focuses on reinforcing communication and safety within healthcare, Nursing II looks at how to manage chronic disease processes and acute flare ups, Nursing III covers acute care and managing complex situations and Nursing IV is even more complex.

Shelby Williams presented that developments have occurred within simulations in the program and that a simulations team is being assembled. Four faculty members will spearhead the different simulations and offer ideas for each semester. The program has the opportunity to purchase a pixel machine which allows students more practice with that type of technology and improve their effectiveness and efficiency in clinicals and after graduation. Several new mannequins have been purchased, including a pediatric mannequin that shows facial expressions and urinates and cries on demand. Additional pediatric experiences prepare students to be more comfortable working with that population after they graduate.

Shelby Williams comments that the program also has a lower fidelity birthing mannequin that will help students obtain general knowledge that prepares them to work in an OB or any other unit that may have that patient population. This technology strengthens students' understanding of skill sets across several patient populations.

Heidi Brown introduced Sunny Thomas to discuss the second year of the program.

Sunny Thomas introduced herself as the clinical coordinator for Nursing III and IV. She said that Nursing III introduces students to more invasive procedures and more complex situations, with a focus on acute settings and acute exacerbation. Students begin to recognize interrelated concepts and practice hands-on skills.

Sunny Thomas commented that students have been able to visit the Wyoming State Hospital in the past, but not last year due to the pandemic. They are hoping to be able to return in 2021.

Sunny Thomas invited interested meeting attendees to participate in a home health component that the program is hoping to add by having students come into that setting to learn about management and care in that setting. She will contact more individuals about this matter in the Fall 2021 Semester.

Heidi Brown introduced Deanne Garner to discuss Nursing IV.

Deanne Garner introduced herself as the instructor in the first and fourth semesters of the program and the clinical coordinator for the fourth semester. She commented that the fourth semester is unique because students have learned all of their skills and concepts and are able to put them together in complex ways.

Deanne Garner presented that the program has 180 clinical hours in the fourth semester, with 72 of those hours in acute care. She thanked Evanston Regional Hospital for allowing students to come into and learn in their facility.

Deanne Garner commented that students have 48 hours of choice for clinical experiences which can be split between two locations, allowing them to focus on areas of interest and spend time in those areas to determine if that's what they want to do following graduation. She said students also receive a 38 hour clinical experience in long-term care. Due to Covid-19, those clinical experiences had to be adjusted to provide a comparable experience. Students also spend 8 clinical hours in detention centers to focus on substance misuse and mental health issues. Other clinical concepts are available.

Deanne Garner commented that last semester the community center asked for help in administering Covid-19 vaccinations. Students were able to attend a Covid-19 vaccination clinical in Rock Springs, Green River, and Rawlins and assisted nurses and communities to receive the vaccinations in a timely manner.

Deanne Garner presented that nursing students complete a capstone research project that is open to participation from healthcare professionals. It provides an opportunity to learn about the most current evidence-based practices. Students are excited to share what they have learned. It will be done via Zoom this year and notifications will go out as the event draws nearer.

Heidi Brown introduced Jenny Daniel to discuss a course that took a hit this last year.

Jenny Daniel presented that Nursing 2900, which covers advanced field work and provides an extra opportunity for students to participate in clinical trials and receive

additional credits, was limited due to Covid-19 protocols. It was decided to not have the course last fall or this spring in order to ensure clinical sites were available for standard students. Hopefully, more clinical agencies will be available in the fall and Nursing 2900 can resume. The course prepares students to work with particular agencies.

Heidi Brown introduced Beth Stephens to discuss the professional side of nursing and the Student Nursing Association (SNA).

Beth Stephens introduced herself as teaching Nursing III and IV at the outreach facility in Evanston and as a faculty co-representative with Julie Leavitt.

Beth Stephens commented that, despite the pandemic, that the program has remained active and has been able to overcome barriers to provide fun activities. The SNA mimics any activities that are happening on the main campus at their outreach sites.

Beth Stephens presented that during the last year, the SNA has raised funds through online raffles to raise money for their adopt a senior program and adopted Christmas families in Star Valley, Rock Springs, Rawlins, and Evanston. The money is used to purchase gifts for senior citizens in nursing homes. Enough money was left over this year, that the SNA was able to offer extra help for families at Christmas.

Beth Stephens presented pictures of SNA activities and invited attendees to offer any thoughts or ideas for areas that might need extra support.

Beth Stephens commented that the SNA is working to keep more students active during this time people are stuck at home and offers a virtual exercise program. Students are challenged to try different activities. They can register online to win a prize.

Beth Stephens announced that they are hosting a 5k in Rock Springs and Julie Leavitt confirmed that it will take place on April 24, 2021. She said it is open to the public.

Beth Stephens presented that the SNA also provides awareness colors for different months including green for St Patrick's day, gray diabetes alert day and red for mesothelioma awareness month. It is geared towards bringing attention to WWCC and students are encouraged to take a selfie and use the hashtag "#Western SNA." Doing so brings attention on social media about the nursing program and the SNA. The next one will be in April. In May, they will have white for national nurses day, green for mental health awareness in May, red for teacher appreciation week, and blue for national foster care awareness month.

Beth Stephen invited the group to ask questions or suggest ideas for the SNA.

Heidi Brown commented that Covid-19 has presented challenges, but that CARES Act money has helped to get additional space. She introduced Codi Alderson to discuss how they've been creative with space and as the person responsible for organizing where everything goes and how it's put together.

Codi Alderson introduced herself as an instructor of Nursing III and Nursing IV and as the lab coordinator. She said that the CARES Act money has been a good consequence of Covid-19 and that it allowed the program to purchase a lot of equipment, including new simulators, medications, and IV pumps. The IV pumps are the same that the hospital uses, so students will be able to go right into clinicals with familiarity using the pumps. The additional equipment purchases require new space in which it can be stored. WWCC has let the nursing program utilize Room 1309. She presented pictures of the lab area and new simulators.

Codi Alderson presented videos of the simulators working.

Heidi Brown commented that the program is looking forward. A second simulation space is needed to accommodate students going through clinical without crowding. The program has tried to have the theory and clinicals together to cement the connections between the two. More room is needed. WWCC has a plan for a new Health Sciences Building.

Heide Brown commented that there have been 88 applicants for the incoming year and six advanced placement applicants. The program was concerned about the impact Covid-19 would have going forward.

Heidi Brown presented a video displaying the proposed Health Sciences Building and discussed the placement and options considered for the building. It was decided to place it on the end of an existing building on campus. It will include common space, study rooms, and would allow more courses to be on campus. CARE Act money was spent with consideration to how it could be used for the new building. They are hoping for money from the state and WWCC will have to do a large portion of the fundraising to pay for the building. She went on to discuss other aspects of the building and how it benefits students. The building would also have offices for faculty and allow for program expansion.

Heidi Brown invited attendees to make comments and ask questions.

Dave Throgmorton remarked that they also had a good facility in Rawlins and that he is delighted to see where the program is headed. He felt that Nursing was the signature program for WWCC.

Heidi Brown asked if there is anything being missed by the program and that faculty are listening and want to be there for the attendees to ensure that needs are being met.

Heidi Brown commented that students who earn a PN Certificate and become licensed as an LPN have the opportunity to become IV certified during the third semester of the Nursing program.

Heidi Brown invited faculty members to provide additional information.

Deanne Garner thanked the meeting attendees for working with the program and students.

Sunny Thomas commented that Heidi Brown is the new program director.

Heidi Brown announced that Tammy Walker will be with the program permanently as an administrative assistant.

Heidi Brown thanks attendees for participating and invited them to email her with any additional ideas, questions, or comments. Despite Covid-19 the program has been able to get through barriers and offer more opportunities. The next meeting will be in the Fall of 2021.

Heidi Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.