

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

September 28, 2017

I. Call to Order

Teresa called to order the regular meeting of the PTA Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:58p.m. on September 28, 2017 in room OP 203.

II. Members Present

Teresa Chiavacci, Mary Hanlon, Richard Flora, Kirsten Snellenburg, Doug Harwood, Kory Thomas, Barb Heier, Marlon Alaan, Maryellan Sullivan, Debra Fox, Cathy Garvey, Tricia Trinque, Monica Roberts, Norm Schlatt

III. Members Absent

Sue Barber, Maryellan Barkman, Shamsah Shidi

IV. Introductions

V. Program Update

a. CAPTE Reaccreditation Process

Kory Thomas reported the CAPTE visit was rescheduled due to the hurricane to November 5th – 8th. She has been contacting all the individuals involved to reschedule their time.

Mary Hanlon reported she has been through several accreditations, and she discussed the evolution of the accreditation process over her time at SPC and how it has gotten more complicated and in-depth with each iteration.

Kory Thomas reported maximum duration of a re-accreditation is 10 years. The PTA program has been working with Becky McKnight, an accreditation consultant, for almost 2 years. She discussed how much support we have from faculty and management. Areas for improvement include assessment procedures, and the accreditors will likely want to see more data for newly implemented processes, lab rubrics, and possibly other areas.

Barb Heier discussed how each member of the team has gone through the program with a fine-toothed comb and everyone is familiar with the program overall.

Kirsten Snellenburg discussed how she appreciated the ability to get insight into each of the other instructors' methods and courses, and how Kory Thomas has led the team to get ready for this accreditation in far less than the normal amount of time.

Teresa commented that the best advice for the faculty during the accreditation is to “be yourself” when meeting with the accreditors. A progress report is pretty much an expectation, not a disappointment, from the accreditation.

Cathy Garvey asked when the update to the progress report is required. Teresa replied it depends on what findings were discovered, possibly with parts of it due at different times.

Kory Thomas stated the report will be delivered to the PTA program within approximately two weeks after the accreditation.

Teresa Chiavacci stated the accreditors will provide an exit report prior to their departure, and the level of subjectivity has been reduced as much as possible.

b. New Space

Kory Thomas discussed the move into the new space, how smooth it was, and how much help we've received from supporting staff including Liz Rickerman.

Kirsten Snellenburg discussed how having combined labs is beneficial, and how nice the new lecture rooms are with updated technology, multiple projectors, etc.

Mary Hanlon discussed how nice it is to have windows in the lab, and how different the separate office spaces are for productivity, but decreased staff interaction.

c. New Staff

Kory Thomas announced new staff member Jennifer Davis as the O&P and PTA Lab Coordinator.

Dr. Flora and Kory Thomas talked about what Jennifer Davis is doing for both O&P and PTA related to inventory, storage room management, that allows the instructors to relax a little more and spend more time with students.

Kory Thomas discussed Jennifer Davis' role in analyzing clinical data that comes from clinicals, managing locker assignments, and creating online forms for clinical site sign-ups.

Barb Heier talked about how Jennifer Davis is very organized and jumped right in when the move occurred.

d. Current Students

Kory Thomas reported we have 34 of 34 freshmen at this point.

Barb Heier reported one student had trouble with one quiz, did great on the test.

Sophomores: 28 of 35 remain. Almost all that left had family issues as reasons for leaving the program. One student had an issue in the clinic and had to be dismissed from the program.

Teresa Chiavacci talked about using the student who was dismissed due to clinical issues as an example of the grievance process for CAPTE.

e. Combined Labs

Kory Thomas reported all 34 freshmen are in a single lab for both Mary Hanlon's and Barb Heier's classes. The staff and space allow for it, and she reported how the students felt they were getting more consistent instruction.

Mary Hanlon discussed how the combined labs removed the formation of cliques and created a single personality for the class without separate Monday and Wednesday labs.

Barb Heier discussed that in the spring semester the labs will go back to separate labs due to the complexity of the information being taught.

f. St Pete General Hospital

Kory Thomas reported SPGH has coordinated with us to allow students to come in every Friday to observe. This came about because students reported not being ready for acute care. She reported 5-6 students per Friday with a faculty member would be allowed to visit.

Teresa Chiavacci asked about liability. Kory Thomas reported our legal counsel reviewed the paperwork, and it's different from the actual contract we have with SPGH for being a clinical site.

VI. Clinical Education Update

a. Available sites

Kory Thomas presented the summary of the history of clinical sites. In 2018, we need 90 slots, and currently have 88. It's possible we may still lose students, and it's

possible sites may drop. Kory will be confirming the sites this month, and she feels the program is in good shape.

b. Ideas for maintaining and increasing clinical site numbers

Kory Thomas opened it up to the floor for advice about maintaining clinical site numbers.

Norm Schlatt asked what we do now.

Kory Thomas stated we used frequent communication, and we have a several of loyal sites that are reliable for student placement.

Barb Heier mentioned providing free SPC courses has helped without straining the budget.

Norm Schlatt mentioned offering swag as incentive. He also offered to take a student in the summer. Norm mentioned SPC students are higher quality, better prepared than students from other local. Norm said he would talk to sites to help “talk us up” to help new sites feel better about taking one of our students. Theresa Chiavacci liked this idea.

Tricia Trinque suggested we create a testimonial sheet. She stated she hasn't taken a student recently because her PTA's are all part time and couldn't adequately teach a student. She asked if there's a creative way to allow a student to be under more than one PTA CI. Maryellen stated she's done that kind of thing in the past, and everyone in her clinic is credentialed.

Kory Thomas mentioned if there is more than one CI, they both be involved in the grading. Feedback from the previous summer stated there were 2 sites with multiple CI's, but they all weren't involved in the grading. She also stated the student should be able to handle multiple CI's.

Debra Fox reported it is becoming more common to have PTA's who have more flexible schedules at the sites she visits for a variety of reasons. It's a trend that isn't going away.

Kory Thomas asked if CAPTE had a stance on how many CI's a student should have. Theresa Chiavacci responded, “No.”

Tricia Trinque mentioned it would be helpful to let clinics know flexible environments are acceptable and sites would be more willing to volunteer.

Barb Heier stated there should not be more than 2 CI's.

Debra Fox stated that for larger PT companies with multiple sites, therapists work at multiple sites based on patient load, and students could follow a single clinician to each site as a good example of real life.

Maryellen Sullivan discussed having a representative at a more experienced site help a new site come up to speed on the process of being a clinical site, and mentor new CI's.

Kory Thomas stated she wanted to bring site representatives into SPC for dinner to meet them face to face.

Teresa Chiavacci stated she would be willing to help make calls to sites to get them to come to the open house.

Barb Heier discussed offering a free CEU during the open house to bring people in.

Mary Hanlon offered the idea of hosting the west-central district meeting here.

Teresa asked if we post on the west-central district site that we're looking for clinical sites.

Kory Thomas asked if people in Tampa know about SPC.

Norm Schlatt, "Not as much."

This lack of awareness of SPC makes it so sites in Tampa don't know about us and aren't aware of our need for clinical sites.

Mary Hanlon reported some sites pull away from us, start taking students from South or Kaiser, and find they miss us and want us back.

Kory Thomas stated we pay for up to 10 CI credentialing course, up to \$150 each.

Cathy Garvey stated Bon Secours doesn't take students as a rule due to productivity. She is working with her management at Rehab Care/Kindred.

Marlon Alaan reported Genesis charges to take students. He asked if SPC sends a letter of appreciation to CI's and stated it would be helpful to maintain loyalty.

Kory Thomas stated we don't currently send those but she is in favor of it.

Kory Thomas raised the idea of offering a CI award every year.

Teresa Chiavacci discussed using the FPTA meeting as a platform for raising awareness of the need for clinical sites on a broader basis than just SPC so sites across the state are more aware of the impact of the availability of clinical sites on the profession.

c. Web CPI Implementation

Barb Heier talked about the Web CPI, in 2009 there was a pilot with Marja Beaufait, and at the time it wasn't needed, but with the first two clinicals, a lot of time was spent getting paperwork done. The online version was easier, shorter, more clear with better defined rubric, more flexible regarding when specific skills are offered. There were issues with multiple CI's, but it was handled manually and worked out.

Kory Thomas brought up that for free CEU's from the APTA, the CI needed to have 160 hours of contact with students. Maryellen Sullivan stated the primary CI in PT clinicals usually get the CEU.

d. CI Award/Open House

Mary Hanlon asked if the open house was better on a weekday or weekend. The consensus was a weekday was preferred.

In the spring, there will be a student showcase and the advisory committee would be invited. The students will create project boards displaying things they have worked on.

VII. Upcoming Events

a. National PT Month

a. Screenings for HEC Employees

Kory Thomas: Friday, October 6th, students will offer a balance, strength, and posture clinic in the gait lab and be able to practice time management and patient interaction. It is voluntary, and we need more volunteers.

b. Lobby Event for Students, Faculty, and Staff

Kirsten Snellenburg: In the main lobby, PTA students will do gait and posture analysis and backpack assessment of students and faculty, alongside other departments doing workshops from their areas. Students began rather timidly but warmed up. Refreshments are offered. It helps promote our profession within SPC.

c. Special Olympics

Alex Kerekes has been working with Special Olympics, has 8 2nd-year students signed up in November to do screenings with the Special Olympics athletes.

Cathy reported she did it as a student and found it an excellent experience to learn functional tests.

Tour of PTA Department

VIII. Announcements

Miscellaneous

PTA Program Promotion

Teresa Chiavacci asked what we are doing to promote all the features and factors we offer at the SPC PTA program including things like the gait lab, and suggested doing more to promote our program. Kory Thomas suggested using the newsletter as a vehicle. Teresa Chiavacci suggested taking time at the beginning of CEU courses offered at SPC to talk up the PTA program, the need for clinical sites, etc.

Mary Hanlon suggested an SPC PTA Program Facebook page. Consensus was using more social media.

Debra Fox suggested sending the newsletter out to the clinical sites to raise awareness of the program within the community. Take pictures at the Special Olympics and post them as they are happening on Facebook, promote the new facility on Facebook, upcoming events, etc. We need to be cognizant of permission/release to put people's pictures on Facebook.

Monica Roberts suggested using the general Facebook Workplace to post upcoming events, stated if we send event announcements to her she could place them on the Workplace and the Career Pathways calendar.

Nova Southeastern

Dr. Flora mentioned that Nova Southeastern may have a campus in Clearwater, and in the next few years there may be opportunities for our students to get involved with their DPT program and gain experience through their program.

Phillies Minor League Baseball

Kory Thomas announced they are possibly interested in partnering with our program in the summer of next year.

Dr. Flora stated if we can get a pilot working with the Phillies, it may work with other sports teams. It may be good marketing for clinical sites as well as student applications.

Minutes submitted by: Doug Harwood

Minutes approved by: Kory Thomas