

**ST PETERSBURG COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2019
6:30 – 8:00 PM**

Members Present: Marcey Wright, Ray Candolea, Deanna Stentiford, Teresa Chiavacci, Nicholas Cavell, Cathy Garvey, Norman Schlact, Tricia Trinique, Debra Fox, Kory Thomas, Mary Hanlon, Kirsten Snellenburg and Alex Kerekes.

Members Absent: Monica Roberts, Doug Harwood, Maryellan Sullivan, Mary Ellen Barkman, Barbara Heier, Sue Barber and Don Keller.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The members present introduced themselves and stated their roles in the physical therapy profession.

II. STAFF UPDATE

Kory Thomas stated that Barb Heier has resigned and the current full time faculty members include Kory Thomas, Mary Hanlon, and Kirsten Snellenburg. Kory Thomas stated that they hope to fill the vacant faculty position by the start of the spring semester. Kory Thomas also explained that they have hired an adjunct faculty member to assist with the anatomy and kinesiology lecture and lab course. Teresa Chiavacci asked if the job is posted online. Kory Thomas stated that the job title is Academic Chair of Clinical Education and is posted online.

III. CLINICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

a. Current Clinical Sites for 2020

Kory Thomas stated that in the handouts, the current clinical site list is a list of sites that have agreed to take a student for clinical sites. Kory Thomas asked the advisory committee members for ideas of how to increase clinical site retention.

b. Ideas for Improving Commitment from Clinical Sites

Cathy Garvey asked if there was a way of broadening the Kindred contract to include all facilities that Kindred operates. Kory Thomas stated that she would look into it.

IV. IDEAS FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Kory Thomas asked if there were any ideas to have certificate programs that would benefit PTAs in the field.

Marcey Wright suggested having a fall risk certificate. Kory Thomas stated that there are many nursing students at SPC and asked Deanna Stentiford if having a

certification for nurses would be of benefit to those students. Deanna Stentiford stated that she was not sure if a rehab-centered certificate would be very marketable to the nursing students. Deanna Stentiford stated that it might be marketable to CNA and LPN students.

V. CURRENT ISSUES

a. PT/PTA Relationship – Any Trends?

Kory Thomas asked the members if they have seen any trends in current PT and PTA relationships. Nick Cavell stated that in his last clinical experience, he experienced more written relationships by treatment notes between the PT and PTA. Marcey Wright has had PT students that are asked by their PT programs if they are interacting with PTAs. Ray Candolea has recognized an improvement in the PT and PTA relationship as well as the OT and COTAs due to the outcome coding at the facility and having to communicate with each other regarding patient care.

b. Medicare Reimbursement

Kory Thomas stated that CMS may be decreasing reimbursement by 15% for billable services if a PTA delivers the rehab care. Kory Thomas stated that a template letter from the APTA is in the packet presented to the members that explains the change in CMS reimbursement. Kory Thomas encouraged members to send the letter to CMS.

Cathy Garvey stated that her facility is currently hiring techs to teach patients therapeutic exercise while having PTAs treat lower level patients.

c. Fall Bundling Change

Ray Candolea stated that the PPS system is changing to a PDPM that includes nursing services instead of just rehabilitation services. There will also be specific ICD 10 codes for diagnoses, which will involve the physical therapy team and nursing services to coordinate which codes will apply to a patient in order to obtain reimbursement. Debra Fox asked if the minutes spent with a patient become irrelevant for reimbursement. Ray Candolea said yes.

Kory Thomas asked if the payment changes would affect a PTA graduate's ability to obtain a job. Teresa Chiavacci stated no, while Cathy Garvey stated yes, as her facility has already eliminated certain PT and PTA roles.

VI. NATIONAL PT MONTH

a. How do your Facilities Celebrate PT Month?

Kory Thomas stated that the College would have a physical therapy banner out front as well as a lobby event hosted by students for students and staff of other programs at the College. Kory Thomas also stated that students may conduct ergonomic assessments for faculty and staff on campus. Nick Cavell stated that a

backpack assessment could be conducted to teach other students how to appropriately fit a backpack.

VII. REPORT ON FIRST PINNING CEREMONY

Mary Hanlon stated that the pinning ceremony was wonderful. It took place at the music center at the St. Petersburg College Gibbs campus. The invitations were sent out and guests needed to RSVP. Marlon Alaan asked if the pinning was similar to a white coat ceremony. Mary Hanlon stated it was the same.

VIII. WEB CPI REVIEW

Mary Hanlon presented the Web CPI to the members present and spoke about the criteria contained in the new platform. Kory Thomas stated that we currently use the Web CPI as the hard copy version is obsolete due to copyright issues.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marlon Alaan announced that the Ray Candolea was awarded by the FPTA for 30 years of membership.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Alex Kerekes.
Minutes approved by Kory Thomas.