

MNWEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MLT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 2020/2021
April 8, 2021 2:30 Virtual Meeting

The MLT virtual Advisory Committee meeting commenced on April 8, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie Stevens (PCMC), Kris Schneekloth (Sanford Worthington), Deb Dummer (Carris Health, Redwood Falls), Rejean Knobloch (Sanford Rock Rapids, IA), Roxanne Marxen (Rock Rapids, IA), and Heather Moser (MLT Adjunct Faculty).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Hoekman (Murray County, Slayton), Jane Polz (Windom), Lexy Krull (Avera Rock Rapids). Jodi Thier, Luverne is no longer lab manager.

GUESTS:

Tammy Faber (Hegg Memorial Health Care, Rock Rapids, IA), Mike Hanson (Avera Estherville, IA), Julie Duitsman (Lakes Regional in Spirit Lake), Amanda Harris (Sheldon, IA), Chasity (VA Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD),

WELCOME: Welcome to members and guests. Heather Moser was introduced as the new adjunct faculty. Heather is teaching Clinical Chemistry I and II.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOPIC: Simulated Microbiology Lab

DISCUSSION: Simulated Microbiology lab was held January 11 to 15, and January 19 to 22 at the Luverne Center. Instructor was Kristin Fritz who developed the course. Four students attended the course, one student was out on medical leave but will be acquiring her hours at her clinical site. **CLOSED**

TOPIC: Case Studies during Clinicals

DISCUSSION: In the past the Clinical student had to find a current patient with a disease/condition they could research, write a case study with research, and give a power point presentation. Due to COVID last year, Rita started writing case studies the student would read and answer questions. This year she is expanding the number of case studies. For the Capstone class, the student will chose one of them and give a power point presentation to hospital staff and classmates.

ACTION: Rita will assess the outcome of the students' knowledge gained from case studies and the Power Point presentations **OPEN**

TOPIC: Trajecsys Software for Clinicals

DISCUSSION: Students logging in and out will be the only function the students are using this year. Last year was the first year using Trajecsys. Rita realized it was not feasible to use the software for documenting hours per department, evaluations and clinical competencies.

ACTION: none

CLOSED

TOPIC: NAACLS 5 year Interim report

DISCUSSION: Rita reported the NAACLS 5 year Interim Report was deemed satisfactory. All standards were met and no action was needed. Next Self-study report and site visit will be in 2025.

CLOSED

ONGOING BUSINESS:**TOPIC: Enrollment**

DISCUSSION: There are five 2nd year MLTs currently in Clinicals, Four 1st year MLTs, and 4 phlebotomist. Enrollment is down in 4-year and 2-year colleges due to COVID. ONGOING

TOPIC: Marketing Updates

DISCUSSION: Rita has given presentation to the following. All are virtual.

Breaking Traditions Virtual Feb 22, 2021

Virtual Scrub Camp March 5, 2021

High school Zoom presentations:

*Redwood Falls 2 sessions

* MacCray HS 3 sessions

* Marshall HS 3 sessions

Rita sends “kits” that include an Influenza A/B test (the students swabs their mouth), bandaid with inspirational saying, agar plate with M&Ms, and MLT brochure. She gives a 40-minute power Point presentation about the career and MN West program. She will continue to do more presentations to hopefully improve enrollment. ONGOING

TOPIC: Clinicals 2020

DISCUSSION: Last year, due to COVID, students were not allowed at Clinicals beginning around March 23rd. Throughout the semester Rita did varies activities including: Zoom lectures, case studies, virtual labs, and University of MN’s hematology online differential slides. Around May, some students were back to Clinicals and some were not. ONGOING

TOPIC: Job Placement

DISCUSSION: 100% of 2020 graduates are employed in a medical laboratory. ONGOING

TOPIC: Student assessment and statistics

DISCUSSION: Members reviewed statistics provided (see handouts). 2019 grads: 100% passed board exam. 2020 grads: Had started 2018 with 11 students, graduated 9. 5 have passed the boards, 3 have failed (one has failed three times, the other 2 have not repeated the exam), and 1

has not taken boards yet but she has registered to take them. The three that have failed, English is their second language; not sure if that is a factor. ONGOING

NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC: Equipment purchases and future equipment need

DISCUSSION: Equipment purchases this year are a Bloodbanking cell washer and HemCue. Both were purchased from Perkin Grant funds. A new centrifuge is needed; Rita will use donation money to purchase one. Rita is thinking of purchasing a CoaguCheck or equivalent. This can also be used by Medical Assistant and Phlebotomy students in Lab Skills course.

ONGOING

TOPIC: Program modification

DISCUSSION: Due to offering the SIM Microbiology lab, the Microbiology Clinicals had to be separated into two courses. MDLT 2370 will be SIM Medical Microbiology for 2 credits and MDLT 2330: Clinical: Medical Microbiology will be reduced from 4 credits to 2 credits.

CLOSED

TOPIC: Outstanding Educator

DISCUSSION: Rita received Minnesota State Board of Trustees Outstanding Educator for 2020.

CLOSED

TOPIC: Minnesota Pipeline Grant

DISCUSSION: Rita has had several meetings with Jenny Andersen-Martinez, HR Advisor for SW Minnesota & NW Iowa and Rachel Tingle, Talent Advisor over the lab area, regarding the Minnesota Pipeline Grant.

Information about the Grant:

1. Grant is a Partnership with the State of Minnesota and Sanford
2. If student works for a Sanford facility in Minnesota, they can apply to have 100% of their tuition paid for the MLT program.
3. Candidate can live in a different state but has to work at a Sanford hospital in Minnesota
4. Students apply through Sanford
5. Student is required to do 4 hours per month of on the job training while in school. They will get paid their same wage as they are getting paid in their current job at Sanford.
6. 2 year work commitment once pass MLT program

ACTION:

OPEN

TOPIC: Microbiology hours and Clinical sites

DISCUSSION: Pipestone County Medical Center, Sanford Worthington, Lakes Regional in Spirit Lake, and Windom are the only hospitals in the area that have a full microbiology department. However, they are both short staffed and inudated with COVID testing. The VA Hospital in Sioux Falls takes 1 student each year and they do have microbiology. The sites used for microbiology that no longer have a microbiology department are Estherville, Rock Valley,

Marshall, Redwood Falls, and Sheldon. In April, Avera McKennan will take 2 students, 1 week each, for Bloodbanking; but did not have a spot for Microbiology.

Discussion was held regarding having the 2 weeks of Simulated Microbiology and 2 weeks of Clinical microbiology as it presently is. Some voiced that reducing the clinical experience to 1 week would be an injustice to the student. Another option would be to have the simulated micro lab for 3 weeks and no clinical experience at a hospital site. A decision was made to wait and see what the status of Microbiology sites next year. ONGOING

TOPIC: MLT shortage

Discussion: Laboratory managers were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the shortage of MLTs and possible marketing ideas. Comments were made that pay could be an issue why people are not going into the profession.

February 24th via Skype, representative from Sanford (Jenny Anderson, Leah Fisher, Tanya Adams, and Kris Schneekloth) met with representatives from MN West (Amber Luinenburg (marketing), Jackie Otkin (Dean of Allied Health), and Rita Miller met to discuss the shortage.

Information that was shared includes:

1. Sanford will conduct lab tours for students in Upward Bound 56 students will attend
2. Collaboration with Sanford Health, Worthington HS, and MN West to provide resources to Intro to Healthcare Careers Course in Fall 2021
3. MN West to have virtual scrub camp March 5th, currently 110 HS students are registered

Marketing ideas discussed at this meeting were:

1. Send MLT Program brochures to hospital sites
2. Social media
3. One-week long summer camp for 9th to 12th graders
4. Advertise on Indeed or other job search engines to get the people who have graduated with a BS in Biology, for example, that are looking for a job
5. Promotional videos
6. Bus students from small towns to Luverne for classes.

Rita scanned and emailed the following article to members and guests. *ASCLS Today*, The Golden Opportunity: Our Time to Shine, Vol. XXXV, No. 1, January/Feb 2021. Pages 6 and 7 addresses the shortage of laboratory professionals and ideas for recruitment and retaining employees.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Rita Miller, MLT Program Director