

## Surgical Technology –Fall 2011 Board Meeting

Oct. 13, 2011-Notes

Members present – Teresa Jansen- Program Director, Pat Evans CST, Sue Borman Employer, Ryan Tjeerdsma- employer, Karla Carstenson – Employer, Jennifer Pick – Past student, Sara Vortheims, current student. Thomas Rolfs – Employer, Jackie Otkin – Administration, Lila DeWitt .Members absent – Deb VanderKooi – Community Member, Lila Bauer – Community Member and Dr. David Strand-Surgeon.

Introductions were made and review was done on last year's minutes. Noted that Donna Erbes RN has resigned her position on the board and Thomas Rolfs RN and Ryan Tjeerdsma has replaced her. Teresa gave a description of the programs goals and outcomes and reviewed the standards used to measure those.

Enrollment – Teresa noted that this year for enrollment at 18 students starting the program this year. Maximum students that can be enrolled is 24, so enrollment is steadily improving. Teresa talked about the different marketing being done and need for more exposure of the program. Several of the board members stated they seen the commercial featuring the Luverne site and were impressed with the surgical technology programs demonstrations. They felt exposure is essential for the site in Luverne and thought this was a good start.

Curriculum – Teresa Passed out some of the new changes in Curriculum. Teresa explained that the new 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Core curriculum was published and all accredited programs must be in compliance by Jan.2013. Teresa discussed the changes to clinical case numbers and types of cases allowed to be counted. She gave a copy of the new standards and discussion was on the mandates of specific numbers of cases in each category. Members felt that with the majority of cases in rural facilities it would be more challenging to cover 6 different surgical areas to meet requirements. Discussion was on perhaps rotating student to different facilities and working with clinical sites on explaining the new standards. Teresa will send out an email to all clinical sites with the new requirements and get feedback regarding their thoughts prior to implementation of change. The board felt it would benefit to have their input as well regarding the new standards and to assess the sites to assure the sites we have will uphold the standards as outlined by the new changes. Teresa will update at the next board meeting on the overall thoughts of our clinical affiliates on how to manage compliance with these new standards.

Teresa gave a presentation on a proposal to switch the program from a Diploma Degree to an Associate of Applied Science. Copies of the new curriculum proposal were given to board members and discussion was on the advantages and possible changes. Input from employers was that they felt the content was to compacted and students would benefit from having more lab time prior to coming out for preceptor ship. They felt this would enhance their skills and allow for more procedural practices along with the required competencies assessed in Lab at present. The recommendation was to include another lab that would cover procedures. The other recommendation was to shift content from the OR Procedures class, the board felt that class was to compacted and would like to see the path physiology, supplies/equipment taken out and separated. The board overwhelmingly felt that the AAS degree would benefit the students and also prepare students for clinical and entry level career placement with

the associate degree. Discussion was on how the AAS program will help with lowering credit loads per semester due to the program over 24 months.

Vote was unanimous with all in favor. Teresa will contact ARC/STSA on the proposed changes and what process would need to be implemented to switch to the Associate degree. She will also work with the local curriculum at Pipestone to follow that process needed for submission through the college curriculum committees as well.

Retention – Last year we had 12 students and 5 graduating. Teresa stated absences were a huge factor and this is the first year we did not meet goal of 70%. Teresa is meeting with each individual that is inquiring about the program and is going through all of the requirements. She is also tracking reasons students are not finishing and looking at trends. In comparison to other years, absence is factoring in as well as high credit loads. Teresa did implement the 3 day maximum this year and was very complete in her discussions with students on orientation regarding the requirement. Trends will be assessed as part of the action plan.

Job Placement – Students that graduated last year all have jobs, so 100% placement this year. As an outcome indicator we have met the standard for last 4 years as over 80% placement and our average is 90-95%.

Employer surveys – Teresa has indicated we are scoring above 3 in all of our surveys and are mostly 4-5. She states employers are very happy with students and she is even getting calls asking for students.

Certification – 5 students took the exam and 4 passed, one missed by 2 points. In giving the exam, Teresa states pass ratio is 80-90% last 2 years, average from the NBSTSA is 60% nationwide. She felt the board review has been very beneficial as well as onsite review. Board members would like to know how our pass ratio compares to other programs in our area. Teresa will try and get that information for the next meeting.

Accreditation – The program is up for renewal in May 2014, Teresa stated we are maintaining well as far as outcome indicators and are meeting the standards. Feedback has been positive from both the students and employers.

Equipment and Supplies /Resources– Teresa stated she is in need of an electrical surgery table. Having difficulty with positioning due to the cranks broke on the ones in lab. She will submit on 5 year budget plan again and see if she can get crank fixed. Laparoscopic equipment is working; she purchased a new monitor and light source for over 4,000. She is getting a lot of supplies from area hospitals and has several drop boxes she picks up periodically. Board discussed more uses of simulators? Teresa stated at this time we have the Laparoscopic, appendectomy and hysterectomy simulators. They felt simulation is another avenue to pursue in assisting students in lab to apply their knowledge and skills to practice. Teresa will look at pricing of a bowel resection for next year. They also recommended the addition of more specialty instruments. They felt we have a very good selection of general, OB-GYN and also now laparoscopic and now should focus on more specialty items. Teresa will do some pricing.

Employment opportunities – This year she stated that there have been several openings in various rural hospitals such as Pipestone, Marshall, Worthington and Slayton. Former graduates have gotten jobs in all of these but one. Board felt that was good as far as meeting the needs of the community. Teresa also noted that Sioux Falls has a greater demand this year. So she stated job market is very good.

No other discussion, meeting adjourned at 5:00\

Lila DeWitt – Secretary.