
Nursing Department Community Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday November 8, 2023, at 1600-1700

Location: Online via TEAMS

1.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nursing Mission Statement read by Debra Rapaport, Director of Nursing:

To provide exceptional nursing education using innovative academic, simulated, and clinical experiences that prepare our graduates as safe, competent, direct-care nurses poised to meet the diverse healthcare needs of our community.

In attendance: Sevda Raghib (SPH), Amy Linder (Benefis), Christy Modrow (PureView), Deb Charlton (VA), Tessa McGree (SPH), Debra Rapaport (HC), Kelly Clark (HC), Laura Senn (HC), Nathan Munn (HC), Ann Willcockson (HC).

1.1.1 Review of Minutes –Updates from last meeting

- Our first quarter 2023 pass rate was 78%, but the May 2023 pass rate was 100%.
- Faculty Jamie Garcia graduated in May with her MS, Clinical Nurse Leader.
- The nursing department hired Simulation & Skills Lab Specialist, Kelly Clark, in August 2023. She oversees the supplies and lab equipment, coordinates simulations, assists instructors with lab set-up and clean-up, and is teaching 6-credits of fundamental labs fall semester.
- Jamie Garcia attended the previous Advisory Board meeting. Her name was added to the minutes dated April 13, 2023. There were no other changes to the minutes and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- In the future, HC will provide a program update, then ask the advisory board questions to allow our healthcare partners to give their input to improve our program.

1.1.2 Update on Cohorts - enrollment, recruitment, promotional events

- Four RN Cohorts: 14 students in their first semester, 14 students in their second semester, 16 students in their third semester, and 15 students in their fourth semester. The fourth semester students will graduate December 16, 2023.
- LPN Cohort: 11 in Helena and 4 in Hamilton. They graduate December 16, 2023.
- Recruiting efforts and promotional events
 - On October 17, 2023, the nursing department partnered with Helena Wins, combining a high school healthcare career fair with HC's biannual Career Fair.
 - HC Nursing is working to arrange a visit with East Helena High School students interested in healthcare in November 2023.

1.1.3 NCLEX Pass Rates

The board discussed the pass rates.

- PN's 2022—100%
- RN Pass rate for 2022 - 96.3% (27/28 passed first attempt)
- RN Pass Rates for Jan. 1, 2023 through Jun. 30, 2023
- 27/30 passed first attempt 90% overall pass rate for first attempt.
 - The three students retook the test and all passed on the second attempt.
- Laura Senn shared that Courtney Radke, Instructor, includes lessons to prepare the senior class for the NCLEX test.

	NCLEX-PN	NCLEX-RN
Montana	92.68%	92.16%
National	86.44%	88.55%

- Helena College remains at or above the National Pass rate which meets our Program Outcome #1 regarding first time NCLEX pass rate.

1.1.4 Program /Curriculum/Faculty and Staff Update

- Applications and Application Process
 - The number of applicants is lower compared to previous years.
 - Nineteen students applied in May 2023 to start the fall 2023 semester. Two students did not qualify. Two accepted placements elsewhere and one deferred placement until spring 2024.
 - Nineteen applied for spring 2023 semester. Three deferred (came this fall) and three did not meet RN qualifications. (one was placed in the LPN program)
- HC Nursing made major changes in the application processes in the past two years in an effort to help ensure that our students were able to be successful in passing NCLEX and getting licensed.
 - A qualifying point system was added. The initial point accumulation (62) was too high. After making some adjustments, applicants who achieve 58 points or higher on their application score will be accepted. The accumulated score includes GPA, TEAS score, and points for work experience, embedded General Education courses, and other degrees.
 - There is not a LPN to RN bridge pathway, but LPNs may apply to our regular RN program which has the same pre-requisites except they take the NLN NACE Foundations exam rather than the TEAS test. The NLN NACE Foundations exam measures their fundamental knowledge and is scored the same on our application. The NLN is offered through the HC testing center in December or can be taken directly through NLN.
 - LPNs admitted to the RN program can receive credit for prior learning credits for their license.
 - The procedure is being finalized for consistency.

1.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS-QUESTIONS FOR OUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

1.2.1 Do you employ any Helena College Graduates? If so, how are they doing?

- Benefis does not currently have HC grads as employees in Helena but hope to hire soon to man the new building which opens in March 1, 2024.
- St. Peter's Hospital (SPH) has many graduates employed. The HC student come through the SPH residency and internship programs that give them a foundation to work at SPH.
- PureView does not have any recent nursing graduates employed but some of the nurses are HC graduates. Currently PureView has RN and LPN students doing clinicals at the two PureView locations with positive feedback.

- Fort Harrison VA Hospital loves the HC students and will offer a new Transition to Practice (for ASRNS) and Residency (for BSN) programs.

1.2.2 Have you identified any gaps in the knowledge or training of our graduates? If so, can you please expand on the identified gaps?

- All of the community partners identified the following:
 - An ongoing need for improved communication, time management, and critical thinking skills.
 - The students need help developing “what do I do next” skills.

1.2.3 Are any changes needed in our curriculum? If so, please share suggestions.

- None identified.

1.2.4 How can we at Helena College better partner/ collaborate with you?

- The community partners felt the partnership was good.
- The VA asked how they can be a better partner.
 - Answer: Continue to work with HC on clinical placements.

1.3 OTHER

- Nathan Munn, Psychology Instructor, discussed a Public Health elective designed toward social work but could benefit nursing students. Another alternate class for nursing students is Abnormal Psychology.
- Ann Willcockson, Director of TRIO & Special Retention Initiatives, is excited to see the increase in interest in hiring LPNs. She will market the LPN pathway to students as well.
- Pinning is December 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church.
- Accreditation is scheduled for March 19 to 21, 2024. The advisory board will be asked to participate. Expect a calendar invite soon.