



Minutes of the Disabilities Services/ DSE Advisory Committee
September 10th at 4:00 p.m.
Independent Living Center

Members Present: Jessica Grimes, Aaron Markovitz, Amar Abbott, Janis Mendenhall, Leslie Minor, Lito Morillo, Vicki Jacobi and guest Harvey Clowers sitting in for Jimmie Soto

Secretary: Julie Rothgeb

1. Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements:
 - a. Co-chair- an industry member (vacant) Please consider being a Co-chair
 - b. Co-chair – Jessica Grimes.
 - c. Members – The members went around the table and introduced themselves. The members that were at the meeting via skype also introduced themselves. Jessica mentioned that she would like faculty to find a student who is in the program, to be a student representative and a parent with a student in the program to be a representative.
2. Call To Order:
 - a. Public Commentary – there was none.
 - b. Approve the Minutes – Vicki motioned that the minutes be approved, and Aaron seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.
3. Functions of Advisory Committee Meeting:
 - a. Curriculum Content Advisement – Taft College seeks input from industry.
 - b. Career Guidance and Placement – TC requests paid/unpaid internships
 - c. Community Public Relations – TC requests its industry members to help with events, such as Kern County College Night and other outreach events.
 - d. Equipment, Facilities, and Resources Review – no requests were made.
 - e. Program Review – It was mentioned that the Annual Program Review is an internal process whereby faculty and staff analyze data on success, retention, completions rates. Currently, there are 11-30 have declared. The numbers are increasing.

After Julie has the minutes done, Vicki will submit to the Chancellor's Office for the program name change. Enrollment – In 2015-2016, we had 9 students. In 2018-2019, we had 28 students with a high success rate. It was noted that a range of students take the courses, some take courses out of curiosity; some for professional development, and some because a family member has a disability.

Vicki and Amar mentioned creating a certificate in Assistive Technology (AT) but wanted to know if the program should focus on intellectual, physical, or a combination of both disabilities. In addition, the question was asked about what type of technology is needed. It was recommended that technology ranging from low tech to all tech would be beneficial as well as technology that helps with vision, speech, and text software.

It was also noted that the AT program helps people 55 and older how to read a smart phone, a tablet, how to see it, and how to use it if one is vision impaired.



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A recommendation was made that TC should sit down with schools to see if they are interested in the certificate program. Some of the people that we could contact would be Sandy Niday, Director of Special Education at Kern High School District, Julianna Gaines, the Director of Kern County consortium SELPA, Bryan Cortez, the Administrator for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Special Education Division and Shirley Nicholas, the Director of Special Education at Bakersfield City School District. If we connect with these people, we'll have some of the key major players in Special Education in Kern County.

When asked about jobs, Lito said that his social workers need a Bachelor's degree. They take a test to see how they rank. Then they share their accomplishments during their interview. What they say and how they act during their interview matters. They also look for people with soft skills.

Jessica mentioned that Perkins has a new multi-year application and are asking for input from industry to help with the narrative. A major obstacle is labor market information. Where do we look to find information? The Bureau of Labor Statistics, and free resources? We have to show a need. Is our program innovative enough? Where is this pathway going?

Vicki mentioned that most school districts are noticing a rise in special education. Moreover, it was mentioned that the aging adults need more services. The Kern Regional Center grew over 10% compared to 5% statewide. The number of people being served in our area continues to grow. Unfortunately, funding for services provided through Kern Regional Center is not keeping pace to provide them to hire case managers to work with clients. The other side of the coin is the people being served by the Regional center will continue to require services. There are many providers other than the Regional Center, some are represented on the Advisory Committee like Valley Achievement center, BARC and Taft ARC who provide direct services for people with intellectual Disabilities. Where are the jobs, and how many will there be?

4. Core Indicator Reports:

- a. Skill Attainment
- b. Total completions
- c. Persistence and Transfer
- d. Employment
- e. Non-Traditional Participation
- f. Non-Traditional Completion

5. Program Needs/Vision:

- a. Industry
 - i. Skills gaps - Behavioral management



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- ii. Positions
 - iii. Internships - both paid and unpaid internships
 - b. Taft College
 - i. APR - Due at the end of January
 - ii. Work-Based Learning (Fieldtrips and Speakers)
- 6. **Program Suggestions:** How do we want to make an impact with this program? How do we get more students?
- 7. **Other:**
 - a. Jessica's "To Do" List:
 - Labor Market Information to the members
 - Perkins application
 - Accurate account of the majors – 8 students
- 8. Next meeting: November 20th from 4-6 p.m. location is to be determined

Respectfully submitted by Julie Rothgeb
Approved by Jessica Grimes