

**Long Beach City College  
Human Services Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Fall 2018**

**Date:** November 26, 2018  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Room QQ109, PCC Campus

**Attendees:**

- Mike Biggs, Department Chair, Human Services, LBCC
- Annahita Mahdavi, Full-time faculty, Field Work Instructor, Human Services, LBCC
- Sheri Galvanized, Full-time faculty, Human Services, LBCC
- Father Jack Kearney, CAADE Board of Directors. Interventionist
- Jim McIntosh, Counselor, Fred Brown Recovery
- Mirna Orihuela, College Medical Center
- Drew Williams, ACCBC
- Rene Castro, Century Villages at Cabrillo
- Gene Carbonaro, Dean, CTE, LBCC
- Anthony Pagan, Associate Dean, CTE, LBCC
- Alicia Andujo, Counselor, LBCC
- Vernon Atwood, Right at Home
- Vanessa Pezo, Stars Behavioral Health Group
- Claudia Garcia, FKCE Program Manager, LBCC
- Nathan Swaringen, The Guidance Center
- Monica Edualino, Ambitions
- Gloria Saraye, Grant Assistant III, CTE, LBCC
- Dana Friez, Workforce Development Manager, LBCC
- Charace Thompson, Program Coordinator, LBCC

**Welcome and Introductions:** Department Chair Mike Biggs welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. Members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves.

Mike asked the committee to review the agenda and mentioned updates were going to be shared and action items to be voted on and Sheri and Annahita would be speaking to those topics.

**Approval of minutes from 2017:** Mike asked for input for corrections or additions to the minutes. Motion to approve by Father Jack, seconded by Drew Williams, all voted in favor, motion passes unanimously.

**Overview of Department Plan highlights:** Mike shared the highlights on how the college this year reinvented the boarding program and department. A new format is now in place to access the information. The Human Services Program has 2 AA degrees, and a number of certificates, and in the past four years (2014-2018) we awarded 79 AA degrees and 176 certificates. This outcome shows our students are focused, staying on track and getting the work done.

Another highlight is there are a number of students that sit each year for the certified addiction treatment counselor exam, which is recorded by CAADE. For the third consecutive year, we have had a 100 percent passing rate by our students who have signed up to take this exam.

**Individual Program Reports:** Annahita shared something new that was implemented regarding the drug studies program which was the field work. They are brand new courses and we are in compliance with the state. Changes have been made to what is required to be a lecture and lab and other than these adjustments, we have had great success in getting our certifications and program completions.

Sheri made mention of the Human Services Club and how they have been working to gather donations through a food drive to help the students on campus who are experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. We also collaborate with agencies such as Century Villages at Cabrillo, Star Behavioral Group, and The Guidance Center, among others. Our students are able to have access to experts who can guide them through what trauma is all about because it is not covered thoroughly at the university level. With these subject matter experts and organizations available to us, we encourage the students to do volunteer hours because it is an important component in transferring to a university.

Deborah Miller-Calvert, Director of Student Life has been instrumental in expanding the contacts in the department, most recently through her networking event on campus where she brought in people from outside of the community. This will allow us to help our students on more than one level.

The Human Services Club provides scholarships to our students and we have generated more than \$2,000 this semester alone.

Annahita explained the student population that has studied addiction study, about 90 percent of those students are involved with criminal justice and participants of the field. She commented how it is remarkable to see the resiliencies and understanding of how they make the life different for themselves. She also shared that a few years ago, at the suggestion of the students to come up with a resource that would cater to the needs of formerly incarcerated students since a lot of them are not able to get financial aid or get jobs. Annahita said she did some research and discovered there are great programs at other community colleges and started working with them. This resulted in the creation of a student club called Long Beach City College Scholars, a formal center that is a resource for them. School administration has been very supportive financially of field trips for the students to go to, especially leadership conferences.

Annahita expressed how she was impressed that many of her former students who have received their AA degree or certifications from LBCC have kept in touch. Many are in a program for psychology or social work. She also added that since 2015 for the addiction studies and for the mental health students on the generalist track that she has been able to contract 50 plus agencies to work with them. She thanked Jim with Fred Brown (in attendance) as being one of them.

**Overview of Certificates and Degrees:** Sheri stated how we are meeting today to accomplish some updates to our curriculum and how these updates are to serve our students better and to also help them complete their degrees and certificates successfully. She shared how the department plan program had everyone participating to look at the data that was part of the old

district. As a result of that along with feedback from students, it was decided it would be helpful to make a few changes to the curriculum.

She made reference to the documents that detail what is offered currently and the length of those documents and also the different choices. Currently it appears as too many choices are causing people to feel overwhelmed. The goal is to keep the existing list of classes and have it formatted so it is simple and easy to follow. Also, give students the choice of whether they want to do field work because not everyone is going to work in positions that will be with clients in one-on-one situations.

Mike added that the State of California (Chancellor's Office) has changed the funding formula for community colleges in that it is going to be dependent on how many degrees or awards we issue as well as the number of completions, meaning a student finishing a class and getting a grade of C or better. LBCC has a history where a number of students sign up for 10 to 15 units and they stop coming, drop the class, complete 2 but they get D's and so on. We want to change that mindset by simplifying the curriculum by becoming more student focused and more student centered to be more welcoming and supportive to the students.

**Revising the number of pre-requisites for field workforce:** Annahita mentioned in the last Advisory meeting the six pre-requisites were approved and she emphasized she wanted students to come through with field work being prepared. Due to when the courses might be offered or the timelines students may have, she decided to change it to four core courses that are crucial for students to have before coming to the field work. They are not new courses and are the following: HS 41, HS 43, HS 50, and HS 252.

**Motion:** Revise the pre-requisites from six to four courses, HS 41, HS 43, HS 50, and HS 252. First attempt, not successful and back to a discussion. Father Jack inquired whether crisis intervention is a part of case management. Annahita confirmed she teaches crisis intervention because there is not a separate course. Father Jack pointed out this was in the syllabus for case management. Discussion continued on how most colleges have separate courses and experiences supporting the importance of having these courses and how it always came back to the importance of having those four courses taken prior to going into field work. Also, having this requirement in place could potentially increase the completion rate.

Annahita said the six pre-requisites were just implemented for fall semester 2018 and the students who have been here previously were not penalized with this change. There was a short discussion on understanding the impact of trauma at the introductory level and whether this was included in the syllabi of the majority of these courses. This led to bringing the motion to a vote by Father Jack and seconded by Jim M. (Fred Brown). **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** Revise the vote from last year's advisory to move HS 48 from "required" to "recommended" for Human Services – Generalist track. Sheri spoke to this item and mentioned although this was voted on last year, the change was never made or implemented. The hope by putting all the courses as recommended as opposed to required is that students would be able to explore the interests they have in the event they are not sure and also gives them the opportunity to learn about various aspects of the field without having to commit to one thing.

The Human Services Generalist degree is the most popular and gets the most graduates and most completions at this time. Annahita wanted to clarify that Human Services has two tracks – one is the Generalist and the one is the Addiction Studies. For Addiction Studies, she

mentioned there is not a lot of room to improvise because we are mandated by state requirements.

Mike asked for a motion to move, Drew made the move, Claudia seconded and discussion opened. Several members shared lengthy professional and educational experiences on their thought processes related to this topic. **This concluded with this topic being withdrawn and tabled.**

**Motion:** To modify the names and requirements for two Human Services AA degrees for clarity throughout the institution and to increase completion of certificates and degrees.

Annahita spoke to this item stating it is changing the drug and alcohol studies to addiction studies and that a majority of colleges are going by the name of addiction studies. It also has the connotation of being a clinical track and it sounds more in compliance with what is happening in general and nationwide. Sheri added that in addition to this, they would like to propose each one of the degrees starting with Human Services, followed by Generalist or Addiction Studies so it is clear the program has these two branches (Human Services-Generalist and Human Services-Addiction Studies).

Father Jack made a motion, seconded by Drew, who shared his organization is going through a state process to change everything to read addiction to cover the plethora of other behavioral disorders that are associated with addiction. Mike called for motion on second discussion and confirmed hearing and seeing none. Vote called for changing alcohol and drug studies program to addiction studies and putting both under the title of Human Services - Addiction Studies and Human Services – Generalist. **All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** To have four required courses for the Human Services-Generalist (HS 1, HS 50, HS 43 and HS 48) and 12 additional units from the list shown on the proposed curriculum and road map). The latter will satisfy the units for the Human Services Certificate of Achievement.

The AA would be 60 units, the Certificate of Achievement would be 24, as that takes into consideration the field work and human services. 60 units for an AA is standard and recommended throughout LBCC.

Father Jack made a motion, Jim seconded. Discussion opened and thoughts were shared on simplifying the format of how the information is presented on the programs. Currently there seems to be confusion among the students and the counselors. The goal is to have the curriculum in place so it is easier for the students to follow, help them get completed and shorten their time as a student and get them moved on their way.

Second discussion on the general education section of the program by various members and Sheri highlighted key points of the proposed curriculum and road map document and giving the students options if they choose not to explore them. Further discussion included how through this education, students can be powerful advocates because they have lived through these experiences.

This lengthy discussion led to a vote on the motion that to be given a Human Services-Generalist AA and Certificate of Achievement would require 12 units from Intro to Social Work, Law & Ethics, Case Management Treatment in Aftercare, and Group and Family Process. The students would then be able to choose from the Human Services classes an additional 12 to 30

units that would be stated to the counselors to include things along the lines of sociology, racism, and others previously on the curriculum. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To have the program study leading to AA in Addiction Studies at 31 units, 22 units from the following required courses: HS 41, HS 43, HS 48, HS 50, HS 252, HS 72A, and HS 72B and 9 units from the following courses: HS 45, HS 46, HS 47, HS 207, PSYCH 14 and PSYCH 1.

Annahita shared that she redesigned the program keeping in mind the courses that are required by CAADE and are also pre-requisites for the field work. She mentioned that students need to be informed regardless of what track they have chosen, whether it is a degree or a certificate, if they choose to sit for the state exam, they will need to have the nine units. This information is currently lacking in the college catalog and is causing a lot of confusion.

Motion to approve the change in the required core courses and recommended courses; Drew motioned, Father Jack seconded for purposes of discussion. Discussion question: If an AA degree is an academic degree, why is field work part of that? Annahita shared that from her experience that students want their AA degree and want to sit for the examination. Having the required courses will help them be prepared if they take this route and avoid confusion.

Discussion continued that it needs to be clear what the student's goal is, an example was given where one thinks they are finished only to discover they still need more classes. It was emphasized again that the language needs to be there clearly for the students, and the end user clarifying it for that.

A lengthy discussion continued with the proposed changes to the program of study. Annahita reminded the committee there is not a lot of room for flexibility as there are state guidelines to follow. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To have the name change of Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies to Certificate of Achievement in Addiction Studies. Also, make the track a total of 22 units to include the following courses: HS 41, HS 43, HS 48, HS 50, HS 252, HS 72A, and HS 72B.

Mike asked for a motion to approve. Discussion by Father Jack inquiring why there is a need for a 22-unit Certificate of Achievement when you have a full track. Annahita spoke to this saying the college benefits from having certificates and showing completions.

Further discussion on how the certificate could benefit the student. One member gave an example of how the certificate would be a good track for people who were willing to come through the equivalency part of the program, which we offer to those who want a very specific place. This would be for those who want to go work in the profession and not move up the ladder.

Gene added to the discussion saying why don't we just make this the entire certificate – all of the HS classes, minus the two psychology classes, which will be 33 units. These meet all of the HS classes for the CAADE exam and recommend they take the psychology courses as part of the GE requirement.

Amendment to motion: Father Jack proposed this and Annahita stated the following to make a change to the motion to offer a certification degree in addiction studies. The following 11 courses will be required: HS 41, HS 43, HS 46, HS 48, HS 50, HS 252, HS 47, HS 45, HS 207,

HS 72A, and HS 72B. Also, it should be noted and mentioned to also take Psych 14 and Psych 1 as they are transferable. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To delete the certificate of accomplishment for alcohol and chemical dependency. Discussion determined having one route for both certificates is sufficient. Annahita brought this motion to the table, Father Jack opened discussion for clarification whether we are going to move with this. No additional concerns, Mike brought this to a vote, all in favor, **motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To discontinue the Certificate of Accomplishment, Co-Occurring Disorders as it is redundant and the committee chose the previous motion that includes this item. Drew made the motion for a vote, Father Jack seconded, all in favor, **motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To eliminate HS 255 Alcohol and Drug Prevention Education from the course catalog. Mike spoke to this item as this course has been on the books for a long time and is covered in all of our other courses. It is redundant and this topic was brought up last year to eliminate but not acted upon. Father Jack made the motion to a vote, Drew seconded, all in favor, **motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To add two courses to the Addiction Studies track as recommended by CID: 1. Diverse Populations in America; 2. Addiction Counseling. These classes are to be offered once a year, hopefully by Fall 2019.

Drew made motion, Jim seconded for discussion. Father Jack proposed a friendly amendment that this be passed with the provision that it clearly be labeled that these classes may be substituted for HS 207 on the counseling requirements. Annahita liked this idea and further brief discussions took place, which included a few individuals questioning the connection between diverse populations. Annahita shared that cultural competency is big in the field like treatment so the components of cultural competency are covered in those courses. No further discussion. All in favor, **motion carried unanimously.**

### **Final Comments and Recap**

Discussion centered around where Father Jack wanted to clarify that those individuals who have advanced degrees who want to become addiction counselors may not necessarily have to go through the entire program and that they could submit their transcripts to Drew to evaluate and provide input. Drew added they get hammered all the time and a lot of the requirements have changed, forcing them to step up their game. He added they used to get transcripts and gave the example if you were an MFT, you kind of got a little pass to be a certified addition treatment counselor. This has changed and specialized training is required to work in the profession now and having five doctorates, for example, does not fulfill this requirement if you haven't done a program at the community college level at minimum. He concluded that we are the best frontline defense for his organization to train.

Rene Castro brought up the idea of considering a focus group where the community partners could speak to the more general questions that can influence the committee. By doing this, it has potential for a lot more synergy in the bigger discussions.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.