

College of the Canyons
Sonography Program
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2022; 5:30-6:30pm

Convened: 5:32 p.m.
Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Ashley Aparicio	Adjunct Faculty / COC
Nancy Bailey	Work Based Learning Program Specialist / William S. Hart School District
Kathy Bakhit	Dean, Health Professions and Public Safety / COC
Angie Fernandez	Ultrasound Technologist / RadNet
Joseph L. Green	Dir. of Staff Dev., Ed. Dept. / Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital
Harriet Happel	Dean of Career Education and Integrative Learning / COC
Michelle Mirolla	Assistant Director, Diagnostic Imaging / Kaiser Permanente

The purpose of the meeting is to receive industry feedback regarding the viability of a new Sonography Program that is in consideration to be offered at College of the Canyons.

Industry

a. How many Sonographers do you hire?

Michelle Mirolla: There is a need for Sonographers. The Diagnostic Imaging Department at Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City currently has twenty-one Sonographers. The process of hiring outside Sonographers at Kaiser is difficult, as they tend to be hired internally. It would be ideal to have four additional Sonographers on staff.

b. What is the turnover rate?

Michelle Mirolla: The turnover rate of Sonographers at Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City is low. It is rare for positions to be posted due to the low turnover rate but they are still needed.

Angie Fernandez: RadNet in Valencia is short-staffed and the turnover rate is very high. This location is continuously looking to hire Sonographers. There is one full-time Sonographer and three part-time Sonographers at the Valencia Location. Almost every RadNet location is continuously seeking to hire Sonographers.

Joseph L. Green: Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital does not have a high turnover rate in either the Imaging or Ultrasound Departments. The Hospital currently has two per-diem positions that are posted. Part-time Sonographers must work six shifts within a six week scheduling period. Per-diem Sonographers make themselves available for a

shift that they are able to work. There are three shifts per day and each shift uses three Sonographers. There is a need for more Sonographers.

c. Do you support the idea of starting a Sonography Program?

Angie Fernandez, Joseph L. Green, and Michelle Mirolla are in agreement that a Sonography Program is needed.

d. Do you recommend any specific specialty?

Angie Fernandez suggests that the Sonography Program have a general, vascular, and obstetric concentration.

Joseph L. Green stated that the Imaging and Ultrasound Departments at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital mainly utilize vascular and abdominal Sonographers.

Michelle Mirolla stated that Sonographers who specialize in general, obstetrics, small parts, and breasts are hired at Kaiser Permanente. A Sonographer must be certified in OBGYN in order to work at Kaiser.

e. What should we keep in mind as we start this process?

Michelle Mirolla: The Panorama City sight would only be able to take one student at a time. Cross-sectional anatomy as well as MRI and CT scan comparisons should be highly focused on in the curriculum. The program should allow students to accumulate the hours that are needed in order to meet the requirements to sit for the Board exam.

Joseph L. Green: A more vigorous process should be developed for the clinical experience.

Angie Fernandez: Students should be taught the importance of knowing a patients history.

f. Can we rely on you for clinical training? Affiliation agreements?

Angie Fernandez and Micelle Mirolla can obtain letters of support for the program.

Joseph L. Green will advocate for clinical training at Henry Mayo Hospital.