



Psychology & Human Services Department Meeting Advisory Board

Topic: Exploring the Utility of a Social Work and Human Services Certificate

Date: 9/26/25

Location: Los Angeles City College – Psychology & Human Services Department

Facilitator: Professor David Sedghi, Department Chair

1. Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this advisory board meeting was to review stakeholder feedback and explore the value, workforce relevance, and implementation feasibility of introducing a **Social Work and Human Services Certificate** program. The discussion aimed to ensure alignment between academic offerings and community workforce needs.

2. Attendance

Six community partners and stakeholders participated in a preliminary survey to gather feedback regarding the proposed certificate. All six participants were either current supervisors, program directors, or employers in the Human Services field.

3. Summary of Findings

Survey feedback indicated **strong overall support** for the proposed certificate:

- **Value of the Certificate:**
5 out of 6 respondents found the certificate to be *valuable* or *highly valuable* in preparing students for **entry-level positions** in the Human Services field.
- **Workforce Relevance:**
6 out of 6 respondents agreed that the proposed coursework meets **entry-level workforce needs**.
- **Internship Component:**
5 out of 6 respondents rated the proposed **one-year internship** as *important* or *very important* for enhancing job readiness.
- **Support for Implementation:**
6 out of 6 respondents expressed support for **moving forward with program development and approval**.

4. Qualitative Feedback

Participants offered several thoughtful comments emphasizing the program's practicality and community relevance:

"This is a great resource for entry-level positions in Human Services. Having this certificate can make candidates stand out in a positive way."

"The proposed certificate program feels thoughtful and well-timed. From my experience supervising adult learners, many are eager to step into clinical or leadership roles, but often face barriers such as limited time, financial constraints, and competing responsibilities. This program offers a practical and supportive pathway to complete foundational courses, making university transfer more realistic. Most importantly, it reflects the values outlined in our National Code of Ethics by promoting competency and service; by helping to strengthen our community, build a qualified workforce, and ultimately improve the care provided to clients."

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

- The advisory board unanimously supports continued development of the **Social Work and Human Services Certificate**.
- Feedback highlights the need to maintain a strong **internship component** and ensure coursework alignment with **industry competencies**.
- The department will continue to consult with community partners and employers as the program proposal moves through **curriculum approval and implementation phases**.

6. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with broad consensus that this certificate addresses a critical workforce need and reflects LACC's mission to support **student success, community service, and equitable access** to human services careers.