

Kishwaukee College
Emergency Medical Services
Fall 2021 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021
Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

External Participants: 8

Greg Conrad-EMS Medical Director-Northwestern Medicine)
David DeLille-DeKalb Fire Department
Susan Lencioni-EMS Program Lead Instructor-Northwestern Medicine
Albert Miller-Current EMS Student
Dan Rink-Sycamore Fire Department
Bill Reynolds-Sycamore Fire Department and KEC instructor
Mike Thomas-DeKalb Fire Department)
Tony Woodson-EMS Program Director-Northwestern Medicine

Internal Participants: 4

Chase Budziak-Dean-Office of Instruction
Leslie Ciaccio-Coordinator-Allied Health
Ashton King-EMS Faculty
Joe Pryzbyla-EMS & CRJ Faculty

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome & Introductions

Tony Woodson welcomed all in attendance and offered opportunity for attendees to introduce themselves. Dean reviewed the purpose of the Advisory Committee and thanked the committee for their role in advising, assisting, and advocating for the EMS profession and Kishwaukee College students.

II. Program Update

Committee reviewed spring 2021 meeting minutes and approved them. Dean shared enrollment and financial information, identifying enrollment declines in the paramedic program since fall 2020. These lower enrollments are consistent with other health care programs at the College. In FY21 the program generated net revenue that was used to support the EMS program on campus and support financial agreement with Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee hospital

III. Program Minimum Expectation Endorsement

Committee reviewed the objectives and minimum expectations for the EMS program, consistent

with accreditation guidelines: The goal of our program is to prepare competent entry-level Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician, and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels. These expectations are listed in the student packet and on the college website.

IV. Curriculum and Student Outcomes

2020-21 Paramedic Class National Test Results: The first-time pass rate is 60%. All 10 students who graduated last year have passed the psychomotor test. 4 completed a retake and passed on their second attempt. 6 have passed the National Written Exam. 4 are struggling. 3 have failed twice and 1 has failed 3 times.

Tony Woodson has reached out to National Exam board for guidance on what these graduates can do. The program has analyzed the root cause and identified that the issue is not knowledge deficit. The impacted students are having difficulty with the format of the new test. They have difficulty taking a written test on a computer. 2 of the graduates have IEPs and had previous tests read to them. To be considered for accommodations, they will need a full round of educational testing. The College Disability Services office has also worked with the national board and found that they are very strict about providing reasonable accommodations. There is a 48-hour refresher course that we are exploring for students to take.

Annual Resource Assessment Matrix: Return rate of student and employer surveys have been low. Feedback collected indicates the desire for more involvement of the EMS Medical Director. Students need additional assistance with using Platinum Planner for competency tracking. Preceptors need to also sign-off on skill completion more routinely. The EMS Program Director and EMS Lead Instructor are instituting policies to improve these areas for our current cohort.

Equipment & Supplies: Committee discussed how the high-fidelity simulator and virtual reality training are a huge benefit to students in the program, which allow in-depth simulations like the ones found on the National Exam. Members of the committee experimented with the technology during the meeting.

V. Industry & Employer Discussion

Industry update: Nationally, state-wide, and locally there are many open EMT-B and Paramedic positions available for graduates, including DeKalb (7 positions by end of February 2021) and Sycamore fire departments. There are ambulances on private and public fire departments that do not serve the communities because of low staffing.

Future suggestions: Encourage students to join a volunteer fire department for experience, recruit students interested in using EMS as a gateway to another medical profession, consider writing minimum competencies for EMT-B students, embed communication and empathy into the curriculum to improve patient assessment and comfort, assist students to be professional in uncomfortable situations, employers would be interested in participating in a health career open house.