

Kishwaukee College  
**Department of Nursing**  
Fall 2021 Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** October 4th, 2021

**Time:** 4:02pm-5:10pm

**External Participants: 6**

**Julie Chirchirillo**-Clinical Educator-Mercy Health

**Dana Siener**-Clinical Director, Professional Development-NW Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital

**Corinne Haviley**-CNE-Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospital

**Brenda Hunt**-Nurse Manager-Rosecrance

**Rhonda Marks**-Chief Nursing Officer-Rochelle Community Hospital

**Dana McKinney**-Nurse Educator-Rochelle Community Hospital

**Internal Participants: 9**

**Dr. Laurie Borowicz**-President-Kishwaukee College

**Jud Curry**-Dean-Kishwaukee College

**Angela Delmont**-Director of Nursing-Kishwaukee College

**Cindy Prendergast**-Lab Skills & Retention Specialist-Kishwaukee College

**Lynnette Meurer**-Instructor of Nursing-Kishwaukee College

**Pat Mitchell**-Assistant Professor of Nursing-Kishwaukee College

**Kathy Schnier**-Assistant Professor of Nursing-Kishwaukee College

**Kay Singer**-Assistant Professor of Nursing-Kishwaukee College

**Kim Jordal**-Administrative Specialist II-Kishwaukee College (minute taker)

**Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Welcomed the participants and shared the purpose of advisory committees: to get important feedback from our professional partners and community to incorporate in our career programs.

**II. Program Update**

Reviewed Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2021. College and program enrollment and course modality information shared. Considering COVID challenges and the impact on Nursing program and clinical partners, flat enrollment is a win. Nursing program has 130 students enrolled; Fall 20 admitted 40+ and currently at 32 students in that cohort. New student withdrawals are related to COVID restrictions, family obligations and questioning going into nursing program and will probably see that moving forward for the next semester. Additional staffing costs due to restricted section sizes and

implementation of virtual clinical has negatively impacted FY21 budget. Clinical sites continue to restrict the number of students who can be placed at a time.

Additional information shared: 5 Nursing graduates in October and 32 graduates coming in December. December grads will include the first group of 10 evening/weekend students who started in Jan. 2020. This group started with 10 and will complete with 10. A new evening/weekend cohort will begin Jan. 2022; faculty and students are providing input to identify strengths and weaknesses for revision of that evening/weekend offering. Program NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rates dropped to 82% now back to 86%; decrease related to many changes and COVID. The program added one new FT faculty member, Lynnette Meurer, who replaced Janis Ormond, and two new adjuncts.

BNA Program Updates: 27 enrolled CNA students; 25 passed and 2 failures. Long-term care facilities have lifted restrictions, which had made clinical placement difficult. Six students currently enrolled with eight starting 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 weeks, Oct. 18. BNA Coordinator/faculty member will be retiring at the end of the academic year.

### **III. Curriculum & Instruction Updates**

Main question to clinical partners: is KC curriculum aligned to needs in community? What can we do to raise value of program for clinical partners, community, and students?

Discussion included the need for students to be on campus and in live clinical settings in order to fall in love with the nursing profession. Increase in negative social media attacks on healthcare professions is discouraging to current nurses and to prospective nursing students. The profession needs cheerleaders and advocates.

Comments on the fact that students with fewer clinical experiences often struggle in how to talk to patients and families. Communication is an important component of nursing. Hospital employers have started onboarding to help in an orientation to help those students. If limited clinical access continues, we need to rethink how we do clinicals and course schedule. Student access to those skills is key.

Discussion of alternative instructional methods: Role-playing is valuable for learning communication and interaction; giving students practice in narrating care as they work is also important for interaction with patients.

### **IV. Industry Update & Labor Market Discussion**

The demand for nurses is increasing, but students and applicants have a greater degree of hesitance. Is this now the time to go into this program? How do we make Nursing profession desirable?

Recommendations included building stronger pipeline between CNA and RN programs. Proposal to offer evening CNA course options, as in past years. [Note: Evening CNA section added to Spring 2022

schedule.] Use of role-playing as a valuable tool for improving student nurse interpersonal skills, especially when they have had fewer clinical opportunities recently. Role-playing already serves an important function in Mental Health Nursing course. Discussion of student need for in-person engagement and interaction, for support, encouragement, and building interpersonal skills. Student lives are increasingly complicated. How do we help students balance life, work, family, and school? Increasing the evening/weekend course offerings to expand enrollment will help some students. The current evening/weekend students are individuals for whom a daytime program would have been impossible, but becoming professional nurses will have life-changing impact on these students and their families.

## **V. Work-Based Learning**

Are there other kinds of work-based opportunities for Nursing students that we have overlooked?

Recommendations included additional placement with school nurses, urgent care facilities and other non-hospital healthcare locations. Discussion of how summers can be used more effectively to allow students to gain clinical experience. Open skills lab times are available during summer on campus. Adequate evening and weekend clinical sites remain a challenge. Additional discussion of student needs for more direct and in-person contact with faculty and peers.

## **VI. Facilities & Maintenance of Program *(if time permits)***

The simulation lab remains a huge benefit. Perkins funds will allow us to invest in additional manikins with greater racial diversity. Amanda Ortiz, simulation coordinator, is getting very good at repairing manikins to extend lifespan. Use of simulation has boomed and additional simulation support and space is a need.

Additional reflections: need for in-person prospective student information meetings. These are important to get the student connection started. Recommendation to involve alumni in student recruitment and encouragement of current students. The college has a new alumni engagement coordinator, and this person may be able to help do targeted outreach of nursing alumni to help connect with future students.

Final thanks extended to participants for interesting conversations and recognition of the challenges of operating with a face-to-face connection. As we can see from social media, now is a difficult time to be in healthcare, and the work of nurses and nurse educators is more important than ever.

## **VII. Plans for Next Meeting**

TBD in spring.