

Complementary Health Programs
Fall 2022 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 19, 2022
Time: 9:00am – 10:00am

External Participants: 6

Gary Burge – Elements Massage
Howard and Colleen Morris – WM Day Spa
Denise Kallas - Massage Envy
Cassandra Stratton – Tricoci
Mitzi Pearson – Hand and Stone Massage
Steven Cichy – Oak Crest Retirement

Internal Participants: 6

Dr. Jessica Berek – Dean of Instruction
Leslie Ciaccio – Coordinator of Complementary Health Programs
Julie Kimpan- Freeman – Instructor, Massage
Kimberly Morgan – Instructor, Massage
Susan Lanning – Instructor, Massage
Dr. Terry Funston – Director of Curriculum
Cindy Karasewski – Administrative Specialist I

I. College and Program Updates

College Updates: The College has seen an increase in enrollment for the first time in 11 years and continues to work on a variety of college goals. The Health Sciences Division was the recipient of the PATH grant which is covering all costs associated with a variety of short-term programs. Additionally, the College is holding a Health Sciences Open House on Wednesday, November 2 from 5-7pm featuring all allied health programs.

Program Updates: Massage program enrollment is considerably up from last year. Recruiting for Esthetics will begin in the spring and the program will start again in Fall 2023 since it is offered every other year. The curriculum change of removing TPM 100 (Introduction to Massage Therapy) was approved; this means students can directly enroll in the program without completing a pre-requisite course. The TPM 100 course was a barrier to students interested in the program. The Massage program completed a five-year review last academic year, future goals were discussed. Esthetics will complete a five-year review this year. The program is researching an electronic record and intake system; employers shared which tools their sites use and benefits of the various platforms.

II. Strategic Planning and Discussion

Employment Outlook: National statistics indicate an above average increase for massage therapists; all on the meeting confirmed this is reflected in their own staffing needs. There are not enough therapists available to meet existing demand. Currently esthetician roles are mostly filled, and that demand is for massage therapists. The possibility of adding nail technician training to esthetics was discussed and will be researched. Additionally, several employers mentioned interest in having student interns. Internship structure may vary by employer and will be researched.

Increasing Enrollment: Due to the need by employers, is there a possibility to further boost enrollment in the Kishwaukee College programs? Various strategies were discussed including grant funding to support the cost of enrollment for students. One suggestion was that other schools require students to learn social media strategies to help them gain a client base but also highlights their school and training. Additionally, there was discussion about having a spring start of the program, in addition to the current Fall start. There are some concerns about splitting the enrollment demand but will investigate further.

Collecting Employer Feedback: Program stated a goal for the year to collect and more formally evaluate employer feedback on how Kishwaukee College students have performed to improve the program. An initial survey will be shared with employers later this semester.

III. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 9am (proposed)