

Advisory Committee Fall 2020 Minutes
Massage Therapy
9:00am – October 15, 2020 – Vernon College Century City Center, Room 606

Christina Feldman welcomed the committee members and thanked them all for their participation in this second meeting for the massage therapy program. Members of the committee introduced themselves.

Members present:

David Washburn, LMT and Texas Continuing Education
Instructor
Margie Reis, LMT
Stephanie Barton, LMT, owner
Joan Horwitz, LMT
Kaylee Biles, LMT and Certified Instructor
Dawn Thompson, LMT, owner
Lynn Taylor, LMT, owner
Chandra Dewbre, LMT and Massage Therapist Instructor

Vernon College Faculty/Staff:

Michelle Downes
Shana Drury
Christina Feldman
Justin Sanders

Shana Drury thanked everyone, reminded the committee that Vernon College appreciates their time, and input into this program. Shana reviewed the purpose of the advisory committee with them. From discussion prior to the meeting it appears that there is a need for the program. This committee will help select the curriculum and program outcomes so that the students will have the best program. Their time and guidance will be beneficial in the beginning of this program.

Christina Feldman and Shana Drury stated that this is the first official meeting and there will be a second meeting, to review and approve or make changes. Then it will go through approvals within the college. Then THECB for a move forward in a continuing education program.

Christina Feldman presented the committee with information from the previous zoom meeting and feedback from committee members. Christina Feldman continued the meeting by asking for volunteers or nominations for the role of chair, vice-chair, and recorder.

Chair: Stephanie Barton
Vice-Chair: David Washburn
Recorder: Lynn Taylor

Christina Feldman turned the meeting over to Stephanie Barton.

- Discuss Need for Massage Therapy School – see attached letters

Stephanie Barton began the meeting with the letters and asked if there was a need for a Massage Therapist program at Vernon College.

Lynn Taylor started the conversation stating that she thought there was a great need for therapists. The current therapists in the area are getting ready to retire and they need to get younger people to start learning the tips of the profession. New people need to start in places like a spa or a chiropractor to have structure and work up to an independent massage therapist. Lynn stated that she gets emails and texts monthly looking for new graduates to hire.

Dawn Thompson agreed with the statements Lynn made. Stating that they were close to being in desperate need for new therapists.

Justin Sanders mentioned he had three calls this week about a Massage Therapy program.

David Washburn mentioned the closest school is in Lawton.

Lynn Taylor stated that 35 years ago, she was a student at Vernon College, and students learn the bare minimum from school. Lynn stated that graduates would eventually get more education outside school in the field. The school does not have the time to do anything other than the bare minimum to get the license. That is where a spa comes in and is where graduates get to learn more of their trade. The soft skills needed to meet with clients.

Dawn Thompson stated that students would definitely need the soft skills to begin to speak with a client.

Stephanie Barton stated that she started with a chiropractor and that increased her skills before she became a business owner. Stephanie stated that learning those skills helped her be able to talk to clients and find out what they need and how to help them.

Christina Feldman mentioned that this feedback would be helpful to get businesses involved with the students and have a place for them to learn the things to further their education.

- Curriculum – Texas vs. Vernon College – see attached documents

Christina Feldman asked the committee to review curriculum outline, and presented in the packets. In that packet, Margie Reis actually made a chart from the information on approved courses. Christina stated that this is what is offered through the state of Texas and what Vernon College would be offering.

Christina Feldman opened the floor for discussion.

Chandra Dewbre began with a question about the hours. Asking if message therapy technique in the first semester has 120 hours. Therefore, if it were required would you do 125 in first semester versus 75 in the second just to get the Swedish? Massage Therapy Fundamentals I MSSG 1011 be 125 hours because Texas requires. To do all the Swedish message in the first semester.

Lynn Taylor stated that the technique in her program was taught every period so spreading a little more, do half the Swedish in each semester, and not bunch it up into one part. Lynn's suggestion was to split 100/100 to practice every meeting and have the repetition.

David Washburn stated that he thought there was a case to be made that people brand new to touching other people have to get over that before they can hone a skill. Touching another person takes time.

Justin Sanders mentioned that with the texting and zoom just basic touching is hard to students so that might be something that will need to get over.

Lynn Taylor stated in a previous class they had a student that was ticklish and she became a teaching moment for students to learn how to teach people how to work with a ticklish person.

Stephanie Barton agreed that splitting the hours so that there would some technique throughout the program to keep everything fresh on students' minds.

David Washburn asked about the possibility of adding to the number of hours for health and hygiene. Especially with what we are currently experiencing during this pandemic and the protocols and CDC guidelines.

Justin Sanders asked if that may be something to add to the business and professional ethics. That would be something that could be added and they could learn in the beginning when they before they get into the details.

Lynn Taylor wanted to add to the health and hygiene. Lynn stated, take care of yourself because this takes a lot out of a person. She would like to see self-care added.

Dawn Thompson stated that as a coach in self-care her staff practice.

Justin Sanders stated that he thought that would be a good addition with the current pandemic.

Lynn Taylor asked about the Workforce Development and Critical Thinking course.

Shana Drury explained that she did a comprehensive local needs assessment for the workforce course. After the assessment employers (100%) stated that they were looking for these soft skills. All Career and Technical Education courses will have this and they will be able to test at the end of course and receive work ethics certificate. She explained the course description in detail, which was provided in a separate document.

Lynn Taylor and Dawn Thompson stated they thought it was a good course to be added. The committee was vocal that they all thought it was a good course.

David Washburn thought that it would be good.

Shana Drury stated that the workforce course would be moved to the first fall semester to get that finished quickly. The committee agreed to move the Workforce Development with Critical Thinking to the first semester to have them start the program on the right track.

Margie Reis also stated that she thought that was a great way to start the school to begin with that to let them go through.

- Program Outcomes (vote on accepted outcomes) – see attached documents

Christina Feldman discussed the examples of what program outcomes would look like. Christina stated that the committee needed to come up with program outcomes so that we can move forward.

Shana Drury mentioned that program outcomes are very general outcomes for the program as a whole. What a student should be able to do once they have completed the program not the individual program courses.

- Book needed

Lynn Taylor asked what book were we planning to use. Lynn stated that she was told the test was drafted from the MyLady textbook Fundamentals of Massage Therapy, David Washburn mentioned that he thought it was just Fundamentals of Massage Therapy.

Lynn Taylor stated that as a group they could probably make a list of books that would be optional for students.

Joan Horwitz stated that she used the Trail Guide to the Body for several years and found it very beneficial.

Christina Feldman asked the committee to email a list of books for the students to use to her or Justin Sanders to begin to look into for more information before the next meeting.

Lynn Taylor mentioned a coloring book that they used to help with the muscular anatomy.

Justin Sanders mentioned that the program could have a textbook and required supplemental books.

Joan Horwitz mentioned a great e-book that she is using and she could get that information to the faculty at a later time.

Dawn Thompson mentioned that when she started they got a kit with all the things necessary for a student to being the program.

Justin Sanders mentioned that the bookstore could set up a kit that students would purchase a complete kit like the boxes used by the nursing students.

Christina Feldman stated that if the committee would send a list of companies to purchase equipment from for the school.

Justin Sanders asked if they had 12 students in the program how many tables would the program need. David Washburn, Lynn Taylor and Chandra Dewbre unanimously stated 6 tables.

David Washburn suggested Massage Warehouse in Dallas and a purchasing option.

Justin Sanders asked what size room would the program need for six tables as well as a learning space.

Lynn Taylor stated that the room we are currently in would be good size space. (Room 605 at CCC). Lynn stated that partitions would be good for clinical but not during teaching times.

David Washburn did mentioned screens for customers to have privacy to change.

Dawn Thompson mentioned to cover the windows.

David Washburn mentioned that the hospital track curtains could be used as well.

- Equipment
 - What are the essential needs?
 - Companies to purchase from

Shana Drury asked if there as any other equipment necessary.

Dawn Thompson stated sheets, lotion, and lotion holder. Also, a Hydroculator for hydrotherapy. It allows the therapist to have warm water and keeps towels and stones hot.

David Washburn mentioned a sink in the room for handwashing.

Dawn Thompson stated teaching proper hand washing procedure would be a good thing after each client.

David Washburn stated to be sure to go all the way up to the elbow.

Lynn Taylor mentioned that we should find Earthlight tables. Body Logic was also mentioned from a retail side but from a school side maybe a manufacturer would be better to purchase from.

Dawn Thompson mentioned that to contact the message lotion companies like Biotone they might send supplies trying to get students listed.

Justin Sanders stated that they would be up for suggestions for lotions and oils.

- Potential start dates
 - August 2021

Dawn Thompson asked about the potential start dates.

Shana Drury cover that internal approvals plus TDLR approvals are necessary. TDLR is currently behind due to COVID restrictions, if they have to audit before the program can begin it might be longer because they are currently not listed.

David Washburn mentioned that TDLR sent an email concerning the new school regulations in regards to PALMS. Schools will be reporting online, essentially it will go through all the licensing; it will concern the licensing and registration.

- Instructors interested

Christina Feldman had mentioned that David Washburn has shown interest in being an instructor but with the current pandemic, he has some concerns. David did mention that he had some suggestions.

Chandra Dewbre asked about the instructor courses. She did not have the CEUs necessary for instruction.

David Washburn asked if we would eventually look at being a CEU provider.

Christina Feldman and Justin Sanders agreed that we could set up for that.

- Salary

Justin Sanders did asked the committee for help with a salary for an instructor. All costs are handed down to the students so keep that in mind.

Dawn Thompson stated that to make it worth it to a therapist to moving in to a new position. Therapist can make \$60 an hour working.

David Washburn mentioned that he worked as an instructor \$15 an hour for 12 students 8 years ago.

Both Dawn Thompson and David Washburn stated that around \$20 per hour would be a good range.

Margie Reis asked what they plan was for the time of day the program would be offered.

Shana Drury stated that it would vary upon the need to students and instructors.

Dawn Thompson and Chandra Dewbre mentioned evening and weekend would be beneficial.

Joan Horwitz said she did every other weekend.

Kaylee Biles asked if we were looking for more than one instructor.

Christina Feldman covered where to find the application for instructors on the Vernon College webpage. In addition, as we get closer they will create an actual message therapy instructor position for applications.

- Set date for January meeting

Christina Feldman asked for suggestions for dates from the committee.

Chandra Dewbre mentioned later in the month would be better for her personally.

Christina Feldman suggested January 28th at 9:00am and the committee agreed.


Stephanie Barton asked the committee what would make this school exception, standout from other schools.

Chandra Dewbre stated skills set of instructors.

Kaylee Biles stated the hours classes would be offered.

Dawn Thompson stated that there were two things that she struggled with teaching her staff: talking during the message and taking their hands off you walking away and then putting their hands back on you.

Adjourn 10:09

Recorder Signature – Lynn Taylor 	Date 2/24/21	Next Meeting: Spring 2021
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