

Partnership Academy of Health Sciences  
Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at: 8:03am

**Present:** Cristela Samaniego, Gary Santos, Jose Valdez, Kevin Elling, Kim Behrens, Dr. Myron Lord, Rafael Rivas, Dr. Ramon Resa, Salma Aziz, Dr. Tim Suorsa, Vickie Foster, Karen Fleming, Kathy Chavez, Pam Avila, Rubén Alvarez, Ryan Leasure, Vanessa Salas, Riley Sexton

**Absent:** Connie Andrade, Dan Holloway, Donna Hefner, RN, Jeffrey Hudson, Dr. Richard Rose, Dr. Shashi Ganti, Tracy Skaggs, Elizabeth Keele, Mimi Schuler

**Welcome and Introductions:** Mrs. Cherry Taylor, Executive Director for Porterville Adult Day Services: Mrs. Taylor's presentation to the Board focused on raising awareness of the increased need in our community for competent, well trained and compassionate Home Health Caregivers. This includes family members whom routinely struggle to find the care their loved ones need. According to Ms. Taylor, the American Board of Caregivers new focus is to find solutions to the present unmet needs that retired veterans and mentally disabled adults face daily. Locally, Mrs. Taylor plans to work with Porterville College to develop curriculum that teaches students the required skills to become certified home health caregivers. A strong emphasis will be on helping students strengthen their listening and empathy skills; necessary to make a positive difference in the lives of adults with disabilities and home health needs.

**Minutes of March 10, 2016 meeting:** were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Suorsa

Dr. Suorsa reported that thus far \$26,125.00 has been raised for the 2016 scholarship award. We are pending a response from the Hospital Foundation. Dr. Lord reminded the Board to consider and prepare our contribution to the scholarship fund.

**Report from Porterville College:** Mrs. Behrens

Porterville College is in the process of completing their 5-10 year Master Planning project. The process includes seeking feedback from the community and brainstorming on what programs and systems the college should offer to meet the community's educational needs. Mrs. Behrens stated that the CA EDD expects a 40% increase in the demand for CNA certificate programs along with Medical Assistants, Respiratory Care technicians and other health care certificate programs. The college needs to be ready and anticipates using the \$114,000 grant that is available for equipment, tutoring programs and case management services. As it stands, demand is higher than the capacity as demonstrated by the 199 applications for 20 RN spots. Dr. Elling inquired on the option for students to have concurrent enrollment options to which Mr. Valdez clarified that the protocols are being developed for students to have concurrent enrollment. This would likely happen with the Physical Education department and Sport Medicine courses to create a path for a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology.

**Academy Lead Report:** Dr. Elling

There were 180 applicants during the HSA application week that occurred April 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Elling confirmed that every student who wanted to participate in the academy has been accepted. Despite the fact that there is a waiting list, through attrition those on a waiting list will be accommodated. While we are pleased to see our student numbers grow yearly in the academy, this poses the challenge of having the proper number of faculty and staff to accommodate these high student numbers. Based on faculty and student feedback, sophomore teachers will be imported to the freshmen class and vice versa. This will

allow the freshmen class to participate in life science courses at the cost of postponing taking Chemistry in their sophomore year.

**Student Activity Report:** Mrs. Avila, Cristela and Riley

While high school seniors across the nation are counting down their last days of high school, our HSA students remain committed to their student internships and community events. Such as helping at a Skin Cancer Awareness and Prevention event on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, raising \$622.00 by selling pulled pork sandwiches at Bingo Night and setting a goal of selling 100 – Applebee’s breakfast meal tickets to raise funds for the incoming class. A total of 110 students are completing their clinical internships across town. Mrs. Avila praised all the health care providers and medical offices that have served as clinical sites for the student internships. However, there is still more to be done to secure internship sites because we are contemplating having sophomores participate in internships or shadowing experiences. This is due to the positive impact an internship can have on a student if the experience goes well. Having exposure to clinical sites in their sophomore year will motivate and help them succeed in the academy. Cristela and Riley have been selected to attend NAF’s annual benefit event in which students will present to the NAF national board on a topic of the students choice. Mrs. Avila and the students will travel to New York, May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. NAF will provide \$750.00 for expenses, the rest of the funds will need to be fundraised. Seniors have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to decide which of the colleges they have been accepted they will attend.

**Scholarship Committee Report:** Dr. Lord

Eighteen of the seventy seven students in the HSA meet the scholarship application criteria. The Scholarship Committee received applications from 6 of the 18 eligible students which is concerning to have less than 50 percent of eligible students apply. Nonetheless, scholarship student interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Administration office. This year’s application process included a teacher survey that asked questions related to the students current academic and individual performance in the classroom. Dr. Lord asked Mrs. Aziz to survey the students to determine the reason for such low number of completed applications. Mrs. Aziz will have a report at our next meeting.

**Pathway Office Report:** Mr. Alvarez

The annual Mentor’s Conference continues to grow, this year 600 students are confirmed to attend on April 15 at Port Naz. Mr. Alvarez encouraged the board to attend and support the students. The format will be similar to prior year’s conferences. Students will be greeted by business partners and participate in a welcome reception by a guest speaker. Thereafter, the students will breakout into pathway specific sessions where they will hear from a panel of health care professionals and past HSA students. This year’s panel will also include Jairo Ceballos who was the first Student Representative on the board and now conducting research at UC Merced while he waits to start dental school at UCSF.

**Announcements:**

Micaela Johnson is now in Jordan, teaching the Jordanian Guards medical corps skills. This is the first time the Jordanian guards have been trained by a female. The experience has been very positive for Ms. Johnson who reports that she is greeted with gifts from the guards.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04am.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, May 12, 2016 in the Career Services Center.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Rivas