Partnership Academy of Health Sciences

Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at: 8:00am

**Present:** Kevin Elling, Della Myers, Dr. Myron Lord, Rafael Rivas, Salma Aziz, Dr. Timothy Suorsa, Vickie Foster, Cheri Taylor, Kathy Chavez, Pam Avila, Ruben Alvarez, Whitney Moorhead, Jocelyn Contreras, Rebecca Reyes, Kevin McCurdy

**Absent:** Christina Garcia/Anita Suarez, Gary Santos, Jose Valdez, Kim Behrens, Tracy Skaggs, Dr. Kellie Sulier, Dr. Amirali Mirenayat, Abel Ojeda

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Carrie Gonzalez is a 1993 alumnus of PHS and will be teaching Global Health, General Health and Professional Ethics. Ms. Gonzalez has had a professional nursing career at SVMC.

Rebecca Reyes is a Pathways Office Work Base Learning Coordinator. Ms. Reyes has been an educator since 1991 in the Springville community and looking forward to helping students meet their goals.

Whitney Moorhead will be covering Ms. Salas’ leave of absence as a PAHS Counselor.

Ruben Alvarez is returning to provide support to the HSA as a Work Base Learning Coordinator.

Kevin McCurdy is a potential board member as a SVMC representative. Mr. McCurdy is the Director of Nursing, Emergency and Urgent Care Services at SVMC.

Jocelyn Contreras is this year’s student representative replacing Riley Sexton.

**Minutes of May 11, 2017 meeting** – Approved as presented.

**Update on Class of ’17:** Salma Aziz

Mrs. Aziz provided a PowerPoint presentation with last year’s student statistics that included a summary of the colleges and universities where students went post-graduation; 32 students enrolled in community colleges, 22 at California State Universities, 6 at the University of California system, 2 at a private universities, 3 at Technical Schools and 1 entered the work force. According to Mrs. Aziz, it is important to note that many of the students attending community colleges were admitted to four year universities however due to financial constraints opted to enroll in community colleges. Additionally, the PowerPoint offered comparisons between the HSA students and other pathways students in relation to overall GPAs, gender and other factors. Overall our HSA students consistently have had a higher GPA than other pathway students.

**PAHS annual Scholarship Report:** Dr. Lord

Dr. Lord reviewed in detail the Treasurer’s report that Dr. Suorsa distributed to the board and a Scholarship Summary that reflects in detail the amounts that have been raised, committed to past recipients and amounts forfeited. Dr. Lord acknowledged SVMC’s Board of Directors, Medical Foundation and League of volunteers for donating most of the $130,900 that has been raised since 2013. As a result of this Scholarship Fund 30 students have received an award. Our first graduate; German Ruiz just completed his pre-med undergraduate studies at Fresno State and is well on his way to becoming the pediatrician he wants to be. Mrs. Avila publicly acknowledged Dr. Lord’s efforts to make the scholarship fund raising so successful. It’s important to note that we are the only academy among all the pathways that offers a scholarship.

**Notable Summer Events:**  Ms. Jocelyn Contreras/Mrs. Avila

Ms. Contreras is right on schedule to fill Ms. Riley Sexton’s shoes as the new Student Representative on the board. The students have been in full swing to start the year off right with Freshmen Orientation, preparing for Relay for Life and establishing the new Student Council. The focus for this year will be to use social media to further strengthen student participation in events. Thus far, 75 students have signed up to participate in Relay for Life and Red Cross Club. Ms. Avila and Ms. Gonzalez attended the annual NAF conference held in Texas where the focus was on the role technology and the internet will play in presenting Integrative Projects. Ms. Avila acknowledged that NAF lacks a strong Health Science breakout session presentation. Therefore, highly recommends that we contact NAF to request that we be allowed to present at next year’s conference. In Mrs. Avila’s ten years’ experience she has seen an increase in the need for meaningful student internships. Students learn by doing and having hands-on exposure to health care.

**Brief overview of the development of PHAS and insight into why our academy graduates are leaving here after four years so well prepared for careers and college:** Ms. Avila

At the risk of tooting our own horn, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the success our graduates have had following their participation in our HSA. PUSD is the only district in the country with 13 academies of which 4 have attained NAF Distinguished Status. We have had the youngest paramedic hired by the city of Visalia Fire Department who has already made a significant contribution in the community by delivering a breached baby while out on a call. A graduate of our academy received the distinguished recognition to be named the first female fire fighter of the year for Tulare County. The success of our students is owed to the dedication of the staff and faculty who motivate them to achieve their greatest potential. This is evident by Mr. Eric Hernandez a 2017 graduate who just got hired by CEP Physicians to work as a Scribe at SVMC in the Emergency Department. Mr. Hernandez credits his internship in the ED that gave his interviewers the confidence to hire him. He knows medical terminology and is familiar with the flow and process in the ED, which gave him an edge over an applicant who’s never spent any time in the hospital. He will work as a Scribe while he completes his prerequisites at PC to later transfer to a four year university on his path to become a surgeon.

**Loose Ends:**

* The Pathways office will be rolling out a new marketing strategy in an effort to secure additional business partners for the 13 academies. This new campaign will be introduced at an informational conference to be held at River Island in Springville on September 6th.
* Mrs. Foster’s motion to consider Mr. Kevin McCurdy for the Hospital Representative position in our advisory board was seconded by Dr. Elling with unanimous approval.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56am. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th at 7:45am in the Career Center.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Rivas