

Notes from meeting at Cuyahoga Community College 9/22/05

Present – Irene Diritsky, Program Coordinator, Tri-C; Barbara Mikuszewski, Dean Health Division, Tri-C; Michael Bailis, Faculty, Tri-C; Mike Ketterick, Off Campus Credit, Tri-C; Bob Buchanan, Human Resources and Debra Davis, Staff Development - Northfield Campus; Sharon Williams, OCSEA Chapter VP; Carla Clasen, Center for Healthy Communities

Irene noted that the curriculum does not seem to have a lot of skill building exercises. Debra pointed out that their expectation is that it will be primarily the more seasoned TPWs who will participate in this course and that they need more of a “background” in mental illnesses.

Irene pointed out that the Northfield’s campus is in Summit County, not Cuyahoga. Mike stated that in that case, we need to be sure we are not stepping on other community college’s toes. Discussion followed about how best to do this. Barbara said she would contact the President and ask him to inform the other colleges about this pilot. We will emphasize that it is important that the class occur on-site for the workers. Bob will write a letter supporting this for Barbara to include in her contact with the President. Carla will send Barbara a summary of the project for her to use.

Irene explained that Tri-C offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Human Services. There are two tracks, Generalist and Chemical Dependency. This course can be offered as a special topics class. There will be no prerequisites required for this class. Mike provided a Fact Sheet about the Human Services program to Northfield’s staff. Irene will develop a three year plan demonstrating courses that would need to be taken to obtain a degree, although the more usual time for their students to complete requirements is about six years, because most of their students are working. Irene and Barb stated that this three credit hour course might also be used as part of a nine credit “award.”

It was decided that Northfield’s TPWs would not be required to orient to the campus. A counselor can be part of the first class to explain the support that is available to students, and this would be the orientation. TPWs need and will have Internet access to the campus, just like any other Tri-C student.

Who will be eligible to take this course? Sharon said that for those who are interested, it will go by seniority. Bob and Debra asked what kind of marketing needs to be done to interest TPWs in the course. In addition to the benefits of obtaining college credit, it should be emphasized that this curriculum was developed in response to the needed competencies survey and that TPWs’ peers have had input into the process from the beginning.

It was agreed that one class period per week would be optimal, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Barbara strongly suggested that 12 weeks would be better and a less intimidating time frame than 16 weeks. Since a total of 45 hours is required for a 3 credit hour course, students would have class time and could also be expected to do out of class work that

they could do as part of their jobs and could apply “hands-on” experience to the class content. It was suggested that the class could utilize the Blackboard web application.

Vickie Fitts will be the instructor. Irene will need to check with her about what day of the week to hold the class on. It was felt that Friday would not be a good day. Debra and Bob asked that Vickie meet with Nursing and Training and Development personnel at Northfield and felt it would be a good idea if they could have a meeting of TPWs at that time to meet the instructor. Sharon also suggested that, if at all possible, Cathy Graves be available to talk with TPWs. Cathy is a former employee of Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare Organization, Dayton Campus, who took a course similar to this one offered through Sinclair Community College. She is an enthusiastic advocate for this concept and would have credibility with the TPWs. Carla will talk with Linda Mowrey about this possibility.

Bob and Debra would like to talk with another company or agency that has been involved with on-site education of their workers by Tri-C. Barbara and Mike Ketterick said that Tri-C has done this with other companies and will supply names and contact information for them to talk to.

Bob and Sharon will take the results of this discussion back to their committee.