

WCU Counseling Program Virtual Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2021

The 2020-2021 WCU Counseling Program Advisory Council meeting was held via Zoom on March 19, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Twenty-eight participants were in attendance. Six of the Counseling program faculty and 22 participants who represented roles as site supervisors, alumni, student, and employers of our students/graduates, and represented both clinical mental health agencies, college counseling centers, intermediate and elementary schools, and those in private practice (which corresponds to our specialty tracks of clinical mental health and professional school counseling.

Overall, participants reported positive experiences working with our program and identified strengths of our counseling students/interns. Ongoing discussion will continue regarding the agenda topics. Council will meet, annually to review current/relevant program operations. As part of our accreditation requirements, a survey was sent to participants who are alumni and/or employers of WCU Counseling program graduates. Site supervisors and students have separate opportunities to provide feedback either with intern evaluations or course evaluations, respectively, and provided in May. Listed below are the name of attendees, agenda topics, and notes from the discussion.

Attendees (22): Attendees include site supervisors for the program's practicum/internship students who are also alumni (9) and employers (7) of graduates of our program (noted in parentheses). In addition, we had one student in attendance.

Betsy Aspinwall (WCU-CAPS)
 Angela Austin (alum/Mountain Child Advocacy Center)
 Adam Bodenhamer (employer/Schenck Job Corps)
 Orlando Brooks (student)
 Christie Clarke (North Buncombe Middle School)
 Dan Keith (alum/Equinox)
 Dee Dasburg (alum/Brevard College)
 Paula Demonet (alum/WCU-CAPS)
 Laura McCreary (alum/AC Reynolds High School)
 Susan Guffey (Andrews High School)
 Abbey Henson-Ives (alum/employer/Appalachian Community Services)
 Margo Hull (West Wilkes Middle School)
 Emily Ingram (alum/Etowah Elem School)
 Nicole Killeen (Erwin High School)
 Valerie Krall (employer/MAHEC)
 Molly Luplow (Fernleaf Community Charter School)
 Courtney Mayse (employer/Meridian Behavioral Health Services)
 Xia-Christy Myers Bell (Mountain Child Advocacy Center)
 Amy Mittan Nava (alum/employer/RHA)
 Victoria Reichard (employer/Access Family Services)
 Jay Ruebel (employer/Meridian)
 Rebecca Withrow (alum/Our Voice)

Faculty present (6): Melodie Frick, Phyllis Robertson, Heather Thompson, Merry Leigh Dameron, Russ Curtis, Elizabeth Likis-Werle

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Review Counseling program data and last year's agenda/business

Meeting tasks/new business: Feedback from attendees on these topics:

- Continued interest/availability for Summer practicum/internship interns for Summer '22
- Possible use of new online program (Tevera) to streamline field placement procedures (completing contracts, evaluations, hour logs, etc.)
- New statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Ongoing- suggestions for maintaining relationship between program and sites

Notes:

- Topic: Continued interest/availability for Summer practicum/internship interns for Summer 2022
Action plan: Participants will contact Dr. Elizabeth Likis-Werle if interested in hosting an intern
- Topic: Possible use of new online program (Tevera) to streamline field placement procedures (completing contracts, evaluations, hour logs, etc.). Two participants stated being familiar with Tevera and think it is a positive move for our program, and that it is a user-friendly system for supervisors.
Action plan: Dr. Melodie Frick (and practicum/internship faculty supervisors) will follow-up with site supervisors when Tevera will be in use/instructions, etc.
- Topic: New statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Participants provided feedback that the statement appears appropriate, thorough, adjust language so that it is a living-document, change term 'disability' to 'ability status', consistent 'our program' throughout, and consider if it can be streamlined because so thorough. Once statement is finalized/approved, it will appear on program's webpage and in counseling program student handbook.
Action plan: Faculty will seek students' feedback, revise as necessary, seek approval for posting on our webpage (legal approval?)
- Topic: Ongoing- suggestions for maintaining relationship between program and sites. Participants stated when asked to host our student interns that it is always an easy 'yes' because they know how well trained and prepared they are in our program.
Action plan: Council to contact faculty at any time with feedback

Plan:

- Continued feedback will be sought with a survey sent to attendees, via our program's Facebook page, and alumni who were not in attendance (surveys specific to evaluating student preparedness upon graduation pertaining to our student learning outcomes)
- Advisory members to contact Dr. Melodie Frick (program director) or other faculty with additional feedback
- Advisory council next meeting- Spring 2022