

WCU Counseling Program Virtual Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2022

The 2021-2022 WCU Counseling Program Advisory Council meeting was held at the Biltmore Park-Asheville instructional site on March 25, 2022, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Forty-three participants were in attendance. Four of the Counseling program faculty and 39 participants who represented roles as site supervisors, alumni, students, 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). The advisory council meeting occurs at the end of the Counseling program’s annual Supervision Symposium, and this year’s symposium included best practices in supervision regarding gender expansion, clinical supervision for school counselors (which also included discussion on handling Title IX in K-12 schools), social justice issues, suicide/risk assessment, and quantum energy.

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. The Advisory Council meets annually to review current/relevant program operations. As part of our accreditation requirements, participants who are alumni and/or employers of WCU Counseling program graduates were given an anonymous survey to assess the program, including student learning outcomes. In addition, site supervisors and students have separate opportunities to provide feedback either with intern evaluations or course evaluations, respectively, and those are provided to them in May. Listed below are the name of participants, agenda topics, and notes from the discussion.

Participants (39): Participants include site supervisors for the program’s practicum/internship students who are also alumni and/or employers of graduates of our program, and current students:

Sarah Anderson (Carolina Pediatric Therapy)
Katherine Becker (Enka High School)
Genevieve Bingham (Current student)
Phillip Brantley (Mars Hill University)
Caroline Carter (alum/MAHEC)
Christie Clarke (North Buncombe Middle School)
Wendy Cuellar (Enka Intermediate)
Dee Dasburg (alum/Brevard College)
Robert Davis (alum/VA Hospital)
Paula Demonet (alum/WCU-CAPS)
Florencia Seoane (Access Family Services)
Kim Gaines (alum/Estes Elementary)
Susan Garren (Fletcher Elementary)
Marie Graven (alum/VA Hospital)
Kevin George III (Brevard College)
Shaun Hassler (Carolina Pediatric Therapy)
Briana Hastings (alum/Estes Elementary)

Abbey Henson-Ives (alum/Appalachian Community Services)
 Trevor Hermann (alum/Meridian Behavioral Health Services)
 Britta Jones (Current student)
 Valerie Krall (MAHEC)
 Brandy Laurencelle (Access Family Services)
 Molly Luplow (Fernleaf Community Charter School)
 Jay Manalo (WCU-CAPS)
 Annie Mast (alum/Evergreen Community Charter School)
 Courtney Mayse (Meridian Behavioral Health Services)
 Lindy Monteleone (alum/FIRST at WNC)
 Jody Montrie (alum/Enka Intermediate)
 Katrina Oliver (alum/North Windy Ridge Intermediate)
 Liz Parker (Charles T. Koontz Intermediate)
 Emily Pegram (alum/UNC-A)
 Lea Putnam (West Henderson High School)
 Alison Rhodes (alum/A.C. Reynolds Middle School)
 Jennifer Riley (Blue Ridge Treks)
 Claire Shippey (Haw Creek Elementary)
 Rosana Sullivan (Access Family Services)
 Robin Sumner (alum/Ridgeline Therapeutic Alliance/Franklin High School)
 Libby Wicker (alum/Erwin High School)
 Jerri Wommack (alum/Cane Creek Middle School)

Faculty present (4): Russ Curtis, Melodie Frick, Elizabeth Likis-Werle, Lisen Roberts

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Review Counseling program data

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

- Use of new online program (Tevera) to streamline field placement procedures (completing contracts, evaluations, hour logs, etc.)
- NC Licensing Board Proposals regarding diagnostics/assessments and definition of clinical mental health sites for practicum/internship
- Mental health trends at participants' sites/schools
- Ongoing- suggestions for strengthening program and maintaining relationship between program and sites

Notes:

- Topic: Use of new online program (Tevera) Fall 2021 to streamline field placement procedures (completing contracts, evaluations, hour logs, etc.). Tevera recently became HIPAA-compliant and recordings can be stored in system. Program to try this new option beginning Fall 2022. Several participants stated positive experience with Tevera. No complaints or suggestions from participants.

Action plan: Continue as planned.

- Topic: NC Licensing Board proposals regarding diagnostics/assessments and definition of clinical mental health sites for practicum/internship. Potentially, this could limit school

counseling students and graduates who have not pursued LCMHC licensure to not qualify for licensure and would have to take another internship course specific to clinical mental health counseling (and possibly additional courses in diagnostics, however our students already do this). Also, unclear if practicum and internship sites must have formal or informal forms of diagnostics/assessments/appraisals and this could limit sites available for students to pursue for practicum/internship, thus limiting their experience and potentially not being enough sites each semester for students. Next LCMHC Board meeting is April 7, 2022—participants encouraged to contact the Board and/or attend meeting for more information, ask questions, and advocate for school counselors. If proposals pass, they will be effective July 2022.

- Action plan: Faculty will attend Board meeting(s) and ask for clarification of proposals and solutions for those affected (e.g., school counseling students who want to pursue licensure as LCMHC, sites that do not provide formal diagnostic experience, and short time-frame to implement solutions).
- Topic: Mental health trends at participants' sites/schools. Participants identified continued stressors with ongoing pandemic, short staff, telehealth, increase in clients'/students' mental health issues, and counselor burnout. Discussion also covered importance of current students/interns needing experience in both face-to-face and telehealth counseling practices. Action plan: Continued support and acknowledgment stress and changes in providing counseling services with ongoing pandemic. Continued working relationships with student interns and increase in interns, where helpful. One participant acknowledged how helpful previous intern was and continues to use tools intern developed (virtual play therapy room).

Plan:

-Continued feedback will be sought with a survey sent via our program's Facebook page and from alumni who were not in attendance (surveys specific to evaluating student preparedness upon graduation pertaining to our student learning outcomes).

-Continued feedback will be sought with students' graduate exit surveys at the end of each semester on the same factors/program learning outcomes.

-Advisory members to contact Dr. Melodie Frick (program director) or other faculty with additional feedback.

-Advisory council next meeting- Fall 2022 (pending change in time from Spring when annual symposium offered).