

Advisory Board Meeting

APSU MS in Counseling Program

January 12, 2022, 5:30 PM

Clement Room 206 & Zoom

Members in Attendance: Cameron Bentley, Yvette Childs, Kim Coggins, Ashley Dale, Jessica Fripp, Cassie Gibbons, Eva Gibson, Shana Graves, Amanda Keller, Heather Mendoza, Emily Pica, Kim Rollins, Tammy Smith, Andrea Sonnabend

Member Absent: Christopher Carlson, Kim Cherry, Nicole Knickmeyer, Brianna Magee, Amy Quinn, Hannah Simonson, Judy Springer-Weimer, Nicolette Tomaszewski

1. Welcome (Coggins)
2. Updates to the program (Fripp)
 - Dr. Amanuel Asfaw leaving the program and moving on to other things with his family.
 - Dr. Cassie Gibbons joining the program as a Visiting Teaching Professor
 - Continued collaboration with growing PsyD program
3. Response to COVID (Fripp)
 - Fall 2020 marked a return to a hybrid format with combinations of face-to-face, online synchronous, and online asynchronous courses offered.
 - Masks required through Fall 2021
 - Social distancing enforced through Summer 2021
 - Clinical placements returned to more typically functioning for most sites, but continued kudos to clinical coordinators and site supervisors for their creativity and dedication to making this work for our students.
4. 2020-2021 Program Accomplishments (Gibson)
 - Collaboration with the CMCSS Learning Center to provide parent and student workshops. This initiated in spring 2021 and will continue into the spring 2022 semester.
 - Hosted a virtual National School Counseling Week celebration in spring 2021. In person celebration scheduled for spring 2022.
 - Student presentations and awards
 - Chelsea Fair, TCA Conference 2020, 3rd place conference poster (“Addressing Racial Trauma”)
 - Roxanne Hallisey, TCA Conference 2021, 1st place conference poster (“Inside the Container: The Role of Therapeutic Techniques and Counseling in Psychedelic Assisted Therapy”)

- Kat Lutz, TCA Conference 2021, 2nd place conference poster (“Affirming LGBTQ+ Identities in School Counseling”)
 - Student Leadership:
 - TLPCA Student Representatives: Cheyanne Looper & Roxanne Hallisey
 - Faculty Accomplishments (see Annual Report for specific details)
 - 13 publications
 - 17 community, local, national, and international presentations
 - 4 funded grants
 - Over 10 professional service positions
 - Faculty Awards:
 - Dr. Eva Gibson; APSU Socrates Award for Excellence in Teaching (August 2021)
 - Dr. Kim Coggins; TLPCA Counselor Educator of the Year (June 2021)
 - Dr. Eva Gibson; American Counseling Association Southern Region Sapphire Award (April 2021)
 - Dr. Jessica Fripp; ASERVIC’s Bigg Pine Award (Best Research Article of the Year) in the *Counseling and Values Journal* (2021)
 - Faculty Promotions
 - Dr. Jessica Fripp: Association Dean of the College of Behavioral Health Sciences (June 2021)
 - Dr. Kim Coggins: Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (August 2021)
5. Annual Report Review (Coggins)
- No additional questions regarding information provided within this report
6. Feedback from the field (Fripp)
- How are our students doing?
 - Andrea and Kim R. both shared that the APSU students they interact with either in practicum/internship or as post-graduate hires are all performing well and indicated the experiences they are getting as a part of the program are preparing them well for work in the field.
 - Kim R. shared that one of our first-year students working within the school setting has already received praise and support at district level meetings!
 - The consensus from all board members is that they would like us to have more people, more students and more graduates due to the high needs in the field and at their specific sites.
 - What are our students’ strengths and areas for growth?
 - Tammy discussed the need for incoming school counseling interns and school counselors to demonstrate initiative to support the best learning outcomes and indicated that this is a strength in many of our students.

- One theme discussed is the importance of self-care and the need for this to be communicated and practiced at all levels. Students and alumni indicated that this is emphasized in the program but difficult to implement for themselves. Faculty discussed and will continue to explore ways to continue to support students' development of healthy self-care practices, especially as the mental health field is getting higher and higher client demands in school and clinical mental health settings.
- Yvette suggested that more exposure to different school settings could be beneficial since school culture and functioning are different across age levels and locations. Shana agreed with this and Eva indicated this may be something to incorporate into the School Culture course.
- Shana indicated that additional training to teaching could be beneficial as well as more support transitioning from 30-50-minute practice sessions to 10-minute check ins with students.
- Amanda indicated that having more support for student connections across large cohorts could be beneficial for developing relationship and contacts that can be maintained through the program and as they enter the profession.
- What do you need from us? How can we support you?
 - The need for more students was reiterated here.
 - Heather indicated the need to ensure that students are able to focus both on the big picture and on the important small details that are a vital part of a school counselor's job.
 - Kim R. requested a form that school counseling interns can use to pre-identify strengths, areas of growth, areas of interest/passion, etc. This form could be used to guide school counselor placements as well as supervision of student interns.
 - Andrea indicated that students could benefit from increased familiarity with diagnosis and documentation. She shared that this is an area they grow in across their time with her, but could benefit from more foundational knowledge. Shana agreed that she would like more training and practice understanding the DSM-V along with the discussions about how different diagnoses may present across different clients.
 - Tammy agreed regarding documentation and requested additional discussions with students regarding what documentation looks like for school counselors.
 - Eva discussed adding in a shadowing element to the School Culture course to help give students an opportunity to address some of the items brought up in this meeting (better understanding of different settings, observing lessons and documentation, etc.)
 - School counselors strongly supported the experience in undergraduate field studies for future school counselors.

- Cameron requested more frequent check in's with clinical coordinators to collaborate on students and to ensure clear consistent communication and better student support
- Updates on your sites?
 - Andrea and Kim R. both restated the increased need for counselors in both of their areas in the past 2-4 years. They reiterated their need for more people.
- Discussion: Ashley asked how we could better help job embedded school counseling students
 - Shana indicated that specific times for brainstorming and asking questions could be beneficial along with increased help with data in general. This training occurs in the final spring semester for school counseling students a change in course progression may need to be explored to better meet school counseling students' needs. Kim R. also stated that this could be a professional development topic to explore.
 - Members supported the idea of bringing in a lead counselor to some internship meetings to facilitate questions from our job embedded school counseling students.

7. There was no further discussion or questions and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00