

Medical Assistant Career Ladder Workshop Washington State Department of Health Tumwater Campus August 7, 2012

Attendees

Gail McGaffick, Washington State Podiatric Medical Association, Corinthian Colleges Inc Gena Wikstrom, Northwest Career Colleges Federation Lyn O'Neal, Skagit Valley College Lourie Harrington, Pima Medical Institute Seattle Marti Garrels, Lake Washington Institute of Technology Jodie Pierce, Everest College Elizabeth Engel, Lower Columbia College Claire Glover, The Everett Clinic Leslie Anderson, The Doctors Clinic Prather Stinson, Pima Medical Institute Susan Peterson, Washington State Medical Association Michael Handley, Cascade Valley Hospital and Clinics Peg Gerber, Pima Medical Institute Sonja Hallum, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board Justin Henderson, Skagit Valley College Tom Wolf, Washington State Society of Medical Assistants, The Everett Clinic Brian Lee, Everest College Elizabeth Adolphsen, Everett Community College

Department Staff Kris Reichl Kristi Weeks Blake Maresh Ann Marie Sterling Brett Cain Cece Zenker

Per Section 11 of ESSB 6237, the Department of Health (department) held a workshop with interested stakeholders from Washington State to discuss opportunities and barriers to career ladders for medical assistants. The department will use information taken from the workshop to create a report to the legislature.

The following was discussed:

- I. Credit for prior learning
 - A. Prior learning needs a clear definition

- i. Should include both transfer of credits and on the job training
- ii. Credit for experience will be different for medical assistant-registered vs. medical assistant-certified
 - a. Some medical assistant-certified individuals may be getting highly specialized training
- iii. Transfer of credits should be allowed whether national or regional accreditation
- B. Look at other states
 - i. Michigan and Indiana
 - a. Adopted CAAHEP standards for MAs
 - 1. Allows for easier interstate transfer
 - 2. Allows for deferral to a national standard
 - ii. Florida
 - a. <u>Statewide Course Numbering System</u>
 - iii. Texas
 - a. <u>Record of Previous Education and Training</u>
- C. Some MA programs are certified, others are not
- D. Accepting transfer credits
- E. Proof of prior learning is the responsibility of the student/employee with institution open to review
- II. Information sharing/marketing
 - A. General consensus that community and technical colleges are doing a good job of marketing their programs and sharing information
 - i. Web advertising
 - ii. Hosting of information sessions
 - iii. State Workforce Training and Education Board is currently working on statewide programs
 - B. Encourage engagement from the state/DOH
 - i. Rules workshops and other public meetings webcast
 - ii. DOH-facilitated information sessions at schools
 - a. Presentations to both educators and students
- III. Current and potential partnerships
 - A. Should be broad based and inclusive
 - i. Include professionals, students, and educators of other health care professions
 - a. Both entry level and advanced health care professionals –i.e. nursing assistants, LPNs, RNs, PA, etc.
 - B. Washington State Society of Medical Assistants
 - i. Have an 'informal' conference twice a year
 - ii. There was discussion on broadening the scope of this conference
 - C. Military
 - i. Equivalent training standards
 - ii. JBLM transition office
 - D. Form partnerships between state (DOH), educators, and employers
 - i. State sponsored webinars
 - ii. State sponsored workshops and information sessions
 - E. Advisory committees
- IV. Delivery of education and training
 - A. Use of modules vs. traditional courses

- i. North Seattle Community College uses a modular system
- ii. If modular system is considered, schools will need to work with textbook providers to ensure consistent content
- B. Exam preparation classes
- C. Teach to the individual
- D. Web enhanced courses
- E. Good syllabi and course descriptions are important
- F. <u>State Career Bridge Website</u>
- V. Other discussions
 - A. AAMA continuing education requirements
 - i. Something to consider once MA profession is established in Washington?
 - B. Concern over the use of the word "registration"
 - i. A clear distinction must be made between the use of the words registration and certification
 - a. There may be confusion within the medical community over the term "registered" as there is a registered medical assistant certification issued nationally by American Medical Technologists (AMT)—this is a completely different credential than the registration that will be issued by the state
 - ii. People who hold national certifications must be informed that they will still need a state registration or certification, especially MAs moving from other states
 - C. Recommendation to include in report the limitations of the law as to how specialty personnel fit in
 - D. Concern that 4 year colleges are not at the table
 - i. It is important that they are a part of the partnership—working with career and community college and technical schools and employers