Health Information Technology Advisory Meeting
December 19, 2022 12:00-1:30
Zoom

Present:

Kelly Johnson	Elizabeth Welter
Marcie Wright	Dr. Nicole Carter
Katelyn Roberts	Lisa Rodgers
Susan Freed, Christie Clinic	Kerri Thurman
Rakai Garth, Carle	Michele Duke
Mollie Felix, The Pavillion	Amie Musk
Michele Budnovich, DACC HITT Student	Kathy Sturgeon
Grayce Roberts, DACC HITT Student	Dr. Carl Bridges
Jene Schingel	Sarah Skellinger
Dr. Stephen Nacco	Grace Wilson

Information/Paperwork received via email:

Agenda

Kelly Johnson welcomed everyone for attending. Introduced new members, Sarah Skellinger and Lisa Rodgers. Kelly Johnson then thanked all for serving on our Advisory Board.

2021 Minutes
Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting for review. Kelly Johnson asked for acceptance, Elizabeth Welter mentioned to accept and approve the minutes, Kathy Sturgeon 2nd motion.

➢ The first anonymous survey question was asked "Do you prefer the Advisory Board Meeting to be; in person, face to face, or no preference". The majority answered virtual, whereas 8.33% said face to face, and 25% answered no preference.

Professional Practice Experience (PPE)
Kelly Johnson thanked all clinical sites. Discusses a unique project that VA needed help on, where a group of Pathologists needed assistance with a coding problem that they had been trying to find a solution for. This issue was related to proper coding techniques for certain pathology procedures to ensure the pathologists were getting correctly compensated for according to the work they were doing. To assist with this project, Kelly Johnson, Marcie Wright, and a second year student met with the pathologists through microsoft teams bi weekly at first, then on a monthly basis in order to determine the needs and the scale of the project. The VA will cite the

HIT program at DACC for the assistance the program provided in completing this project on the National VA Education site.

Graduate Survey Question
What qualities/skills were expected of you upon employment that were not included in the HIT program? The answer was "Familiarization with Epic and Optum encoder".

Marcie Wright thanks all clinical sites. There was a request to see more Epic training, but Epic is very guarded about protecting their Electronic Health Record (EHR) making it difficult for the students to gain access to practice at their PPE sites. OSF's education department has agreed to assign the HIT students epic modules, so when the students go to OSF for PPE, they will be assigned Epic modules that walk the students through all the processes that the different areas of OSF use in Epic. At this time, Carle and Christie Clinic have indicated they do not have the ability to get the access to be able to create or assign modules in Epic. Rakai Garth states that she has requested access for students to Epic to log in and for work use, she wants to focus more on it, especially for working on projects. Marcie Wright asked about generic training modules. Rakai Garth states"Two epic modules for students to participate in". Susan Freed states that they don't get the security access, although they have a lot of hands-on and shadowing. Security request takes a long time and is too long to get it for the students, before their PPE is over.

Marcie Wright exclaims how great of an opportunity and learning experience the project with the VA was and asks everyone if there any projects that can be given to students, because they are always looking for new student projects and are looking for next year.

Feedback/Recommendations from PPE sites
Mentoring opportunities has been a topic in local professional meetings, discussing the need of a mentor for the HIM students. The connection between a mentor and a student is important because it can help guide the student towards graduation as well as going on to get their credentials and take the RHIT exam. There has been a noticeable drop in the amount of students who actually take the RHIT exam after graduation. If students wait 6 months after graduation to take the RHIT exam, their passing rate decreases by 50%. The longer the students wait to take the RHIT exam, the less likely they are to pass.

An employer survey question was asked "What are the strengths of the graduate(s) of this program?" The response was "We would like to see more students take the RHIT exams. We can only have certified individuals for coder positions, which is our real need".

Kelly Johnson explains how there were some barriers that have been removed within the past few years by Marcie Wright in regard to taking the RHIT test. The main barrier that was removed is that there is not going to be a testing fee post graduation. Every year there is one free

exam that is bundled in with their textbook purchases in that last semester. The real issue has not fully been detected, it has been researched but is not made clear if it is due the impact COVID 19, or the falling off of mentors due to COVID 19. Kelly Johnson then states that if there is anyone who would like to aid in mentoring the HIT students, that Kelly Johson and Marcie Wright will facilitate those connections. Guest speakers are one way those connections can be facilitated, and have been found proven very effective. Guest speaking can be done in person or virtual, and if there is anyone that wants to be a guest speaker then can reach out to Kelly Johnson. The date will be lined up with when that specific guest speaker's particular professional field is being covered in the course.

➢ Two more survey questions were asked regarding mentoring. The first question asked was "Do you believe that mentoring HIT students and grads will result in more students and grads taking the RHIT?'. There were 12 participants who answered yes, and 2 participants responded that they were not sure. The second survey question asked was "Would you like to learn more about being a guest speaker in the HIT program?". There were 8 participants who answered that they were interested in guest speaking, and 5 participants answered no.

During the 2021 Advisory Board meeting, there were recommendations for the possibility of making the early RHIT test a mandatory component of one of the final semester courses. By making the RHIT test a mandatory component of the course, this would aid in the number of students taking the test and address the drop of students taking the test. This is intended to be implemented into the program by Fall of 2024. Early RHIT testing is where students in a CAHIIM-accredited HIA or HIT program enrolled in their final term of study are eligible to take the certification exam early. In order for students to take the exam early they must; be currently enrolled in their last term of study and have completed their course work but have not yet graduated. Early RHIT testing is currently available to the students but not very many students use it to their advantage. Early testing gives candidates a significant competitive advantage immediately upon graduation and also helps distinguish them from other individuals.

➢ The fourth survey question was asked "Do you think making early RHIT testing for our final semester students will result in more credentialed grads?". All 13 participants answered yes.

Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) School Score Report
For the reporting period of 1/1/2022-9/30/2022, the Danville Area Community College Pass rates were at 100% whereas the national average pass rates were at 70%. The DACC pass rate increased 16% from last year, and the national average pass rate decreased 8%.

There has been an added Mometrix study guide for HITT 260, which is a final semester class. There is also an updated RHIT test prep manual 9th edition, and this textbook is for HITT 250.

CAHIIM Accredited
The Danville Area Community College Health Information Technology Program Accreditation Review that was finalized this year was a resounding success. The program received a rare "Perfect" score and there were no deficiencies found. Kelly Johnson explained that Marcie Wright had been preparing for this perfect score for quite some time and that they both worked very hard to get there. Kelly Johnson and Marcie Wright both exclaimed the appreciation they have for the instructors and PPE sites.

Updates and New Offerings
Marcie Wright received tenure, and all attendees were congratulating her on her wonderful success. Kelly Johnson welcomed and introduced the new office assistant Katelyn Roberts.

There will be a new 4 course College Express program for local high school students to take starting in Fall 2023. By doing so, this will give high school students more information regarding HIM before they leave highschool. The highschool students can also receive 12-16 college credits at the end of four semesters and are free to the students. This will help bring more highschool students into the HIM world and greater enrollment in the certificate and degree program is highly anticipated as a result.

A new NCRA Accredited certificate in the process of being added. This will be a Cancer R egistry Management Certificate. Cancer registries are data information systems that manage and analyze data on cancer patients and survivors. Cancer registries are maintained to ensure that health officials have accurate and timely information on cancer incidence, treatment, and survivorship. Cancer registrars work with these registries to provide vital data to cancer researchers. This certificate will prepare our students to work as cancer registrars and to sit for the national certified tumor examination.
The target audience for the Cancer Registry Management Certificate are individuals who wish to begin a career as a Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR)
or wish to further advance their existing roles in healthcare by adding the CTR to their skill set and credentials. Applicants to the program must have already completed an Associate's degree in any field and have completed the four prerequisites for the program including Anatomy and Physiology, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology, Computer Basics in Healthcare and Medical Terminology.
Completers will receive a Certificate in Cancer Registry Management indicating that they have received education and training to capture a complete history, diagnosis, treatment, and health status for cancer patients. Completers will also be eligible to sit for the Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR) exam administered by the National Cancer Registrars Association. The CTR credential is vital to those wishing to work in the cancer registry field similar to a nurse or x-ray technician needing a credential to gain employment.
There was a discussion of getting this added to the offerings as it is within the HIT industry.

There was a barrier of almost 2000 hours in person practicum with a CTR in the field. COVID made this impossible and even without COVID it was a very tall order. Fortunately, the NCRA has just developed a virtual practicum to meet the requirement. Students will receive all of the training necessary to become a CTR, including the virtual practicum. They can have either a full-time career in the field or it can be something to supplement their income as many of the jobs are remote.

The DACC board has approved this program and the following steps are to now undergo ICCB review of a 40+ page document that has been prepared to explain why this program is necessary. The goal is to have everything in place to offer the program in Fall of 2023

➢ The fifth survey question was asked "Did you know that cancer registry jobs are among the fastest growing jobs?". Only 5 participants answered "yes" whereas 7 participants answered "no".

Community of Interest

Kelly Johnson asked if anyone had any suggestions for community education/ service learning projects/ mentoring. During the November 17 CIHIMA meeting program student Michele Budnovich did an incredible job presenting her Blockchains presentation to the November 17 CIHIMA meeting. She wowed the State Professional Association so much that they have posted her presentation on the ILHIMA website. Kelly Johnson congratulated Michele.

Surveys

Employer Survey
- Graduates demonstrate the knowledge necessary to function in the job
- Graduates conducts him/herself in an ethical and professional manner
- Graduates demonstrate the ability to think critically, solve problems, and develop appropriate action steps.
- Graduates are able to perform the technical skills required for his/her job.
- Graduates communicate effectively.
- Graduates manage their time efficiently while functioning in their job.
- Graduates function effectively as a member of the work team.
- Overall, the quality of the graduates from this program meet employer expectations.

Employer Survey Free Text Responses
1. Please provide suggestions that will help this program to better prepare future graduates to meet the needs of this employer. If you have NOT recently hired a graduate from this program, please indicate why:
   -Not aware of applicants applying for positions
   -Have not had any openings
   -As government, we have a boarding process. We are unable to compete with private sector salaries at the beginning of their careers.
2. If you had opening, what job titles would you consider appropriate for graduates of this program:
   - None at this time. All positions require a bachelor's degree and/or clinical degree of RN, etc
   - HIT Coder, HIT ROI
   - RHIT

Graduate Survey

35% full time 66.67% not employed

- Students feel they were prepared to perform as an HIM professional.
- 100% Obtained the RHIT credential within 1-6 months of graduating the HIT program.
- 100% of students are not attending a college/university
- 100% of graduates, since graduating, have completed 0-6 hours of college/university.
- 100% of graduates strongly agree that they acquired the knowledge necessary to function in their current job.
- 50% of graduates strongly agree that the HIT program prepared them with the HIM skills to perform as an HIM professional. The other 50% generally agree.
- 100% of the graduates strongly agreed that the HIT program prepared them to; Conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner, manage their time efficiently while functioning in their current job, and function effectively as a team leader.
- 100% of the graduates rated the DACC HIT Program as Excellent.

CAHIIM Summit 2022

All 3 of the HIT- credentialed program instructors were able to attend the 2022 CAHIM Summit. The first major takeaway from the summit was the diversity initiative, where CAHIM made suggestions on changing the verbiage in course outlines and signage to provide greater clarity. The second major takeaway was Interprofessional Practice Experience (IPE) which is a critical approach for preparing students to enter the health workforce, where teamwork and collaboration are important competencies. IPE has been promoted by a number of international health organizations, as part of a redesign of healthcare systems to promote interprofessional teamwork, to enhance the quality of patient care, and improve health outcomes. In response, universities are beginning to create and sustain authentic and inclusive IPE activities, with which students can engage. A growing number of health professionals are expected to support and facilitate interprofessional student groups. Designing interprofessional learning activities, and facilitating interprofessional groups of students requires an additional layer of skills compared with uniprofessional student groups. We are in the design phase of an IPE. We will bring together 2nd year HIT students and Rad Tech Students in a session lasting about 1.5 hours this Spring semester.

1. Introductory session to learn about both program's goals and objectives, IPE, the teaching team, their fellow students, health information practices and medical imaging practices and their assignment. At this session students will be interprofessionally grouped across both disciplines.
2. Preparation for Imaging Patient Scenario.
3. Execute Imaging Patient Scenario followed by a feedback session with the teaching team and group discussions.

Recruiting efforts

Added second round of A&P classroom visits to spring semesters. There was a 30% enrollment increase this fall. The DHS Health Fair was the perfect opportunity to be able to promote the program by doing things such as handing out information packets and goodie bags.

Link and Password to Zoom recording:
[2022 DACC HIT Advisory Board Meeting 12/19/2022, 12-1pm - Zoom](#)
Password: Qmvp@gy0