

Minutes for The Counseling Directors Association

The State University System of Georgia - January 23, 2009

Macon State College, Macon, Georgia

Members in attendance: Chairperson: Saul Torres (Georgia Perimeter College/Dunwoody), Maggie Martin (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Kristi Casey-Hart (Dalton State College), Preditia Howard (Middle Georgia College), Ann Loyd (Macon State College), Joy Evans (Gainesville State College), Toti Perez (Georgia Institute of Technology), Phyllis Weatherly (Southern Polytechnic State University), Stephanie Harris Jolly (Albany State University), Jacqueline Awe (Savannah State University), Mac M. Martin (North Georgia State University), Christina Henderson (Gordon College), Rhonda Perry (Kennesaw State University). Also in attendance: Martha Wisbey and Bruce Holmes (Board of Regents)

Items Covered:

1. Approval of the minutes of June 9, 2008 and September 5, 2008 with the following corrections: Add Mac Martin to the June 9, 2009 Attendance List; correct spelling of the following acronyms: SCCCCP and AUCCCD.
2. Martha Wisbey, Jaqueline Awe and Bruce Holmes discussed the crisis on the Savannah State Campus and how it was handled. The only item needing further consideration is: Are we preparing students with disabilities for crises of various kinds on campus? Also, how are we preparing faculty, staff, and other students to recognize that students with disabilities may need special attention during a crisis? Each campus will need to examine that issue.
3. A special word of commendation went to the committee members of the Student Health and Behavioral Issues Report. The report is very useful in understanding how understaffed most of our schools are, what the central counseling issues and concerns are in the UGS system, and recommendations to implement. The next step is for each institution to review the official response to the SHBI task force recommendations and identify areas in which they need most support and/or training as we move into the implementation phase of this monumental effort.

Martha Wisbey asked us how we were faring since the Student Health and Behavioral Issues Report was published. Directors from some schools thought that the report created greater attentiveness on the part of faculty and staff (and on the administrative level) to make sure that their campus was more prepared for a crisis. Greater requests have been placed on the Counseling Centers to lead the way with this effort and/or for being a part of a campus CARE team for students in potential crisis or current crisis. At the same time, only one school will be definitely getting a new professional staff position in the Counseling Center. A few schools indicated that they will likely be unable to fill vacancies should they occur in the Counseling Center. It was thought that the reduction in staff members at a time when staff members should be increasing is of great concern with the increasing severity of problems, increasing numbers of problems, and the potential for liability issues.

Martha Wisbey asked how many of us have special programs for veterans. This is a growing population that often has post-traumatic stress disorder, marital issues, and is coming to us with other special needs. The Board of Regents has asked us to examine carefully what we could be doing for that population.

It was suggested by Martha Wisbey that all directors would benefit from getting on the USG listserv and reading the University System of Georgia website updates. Kudos went to Georgia Tech for their website, and it was suggested that it should be recommended as a good resource for handling distressed students.

4. A discussion was led by Phyllis Weatherly on the Statewide Counseling Salaries and B-Codes. Phyllis shared the handout “Job Titles in Need of New B-Codes in Higher Education Counseling Centers” created in 2003. It appears that many schools have inadequate position titles and coding systems, not recognizing the legal necessity of licensure for professional counselors, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers and related positions and also a minimum of a masters degree. It has been pointed out that often licensed personal counselors have been clumped with other advisors and “student development counselors” who are not required to have a minimum of a master’s degree nor to be licensed and thus the pay has been too low to attract licensed professionals of high caliber, especially those with experience. There is also not a category for professionals working towards licensure. We will examine this issue and related issues further at our June 26th meeting.

5. Alma Keita was not present but registered a “thank you” and a “thank you note” for the efforts of the Peer Consultation Visit and the fine work done by the team. As a result of this effort, we discussed the necessity of having clear and distinct procedures for “Peer Reviews” as we have already clearly defined them from “Professional Consultations” about a specific issue or set of issues arising from requests that do not follow that criteria. It was voted that all future “Peer Consultation Requests” should follow explicitly the criteria and protocol for “Counseling Center Peer Site Visits”. A distinct and separate protocol needs to be written for cases that do not fit this criteria. Because of their time-consuming nature, it is suggested that they should be handled as a “private consultation” for a fee rather than one sponsored by the Counseling Directors Association. We shall discuss this further at our next meeting and consult with the Vice Presidents within RACSA before finalizing the protocol.

6. Bruce Holmes and Mac Martin distributed information about their three hour workshop on Psychological First Aid for non-counseling center staff. This is available to any USG higher education institution. The purpose of this workshop is to better prepare non-counseling center staff for campus trauma and their role in handling the frontline, networking and referrals when necessary, and other related issues. Campuses are encouraged to call either Bruce or Mac to utilize their services.

7. Phyllis Weatherly, Chairperson of the Education Committee, led the discussion on upcoming trainings and officially thanked Cathy Brack and Bruce Holmes for their excellent workshops fall semester. The Georgia Psychological Association's evaluations of Cathy's workshop on "Beyond Crisis Intervention: Working with Trauma Survivors in a Counseling Center" showed very high ratings in all areas. Bruce's half day workshop was not evaluated by the GPA evaluation system but it was very helpful in understanding the structural networking system of a major trauma on campus.

It was voted that there would be no training this spring, 2009 nor summer, 2009. Instead, we could seek out training from a number of different highly qualified sources. Phyllis passed out a two page resource of associations and workshops occurring in 2009. There were other potential workshops that we will look into:

- A. The group voted to ask Mary T. Sise to submit a two day training proposal for consideration. She has given workshops throughout the country on topics such as "Healing Trauma after the World Trade Center" and "Healing Trauma" for those individuals who move into PTSD, Dissociative Identity Disorder and lesser psychological conditions.
 - B. We voted to pursue the possibility of a two day RRSR/Essential Skills for Clinicians Training at two locations (North Georgia and South Georgia).
 - C. Phyllis Weatherly and Maggie Martin will look into the possibility of a three hour Gatekeepers Training Workshop.
 - D. Invitations went out to all members to contact Phyllis if they know of additional evidence based critical incident and trauma workshops in support of the Crisis Response Network for the 2009 - 2010 year or longer.
8. Maggie Martin pointed out that we need to re-examine our by-laws in connection to the CDA Officers duties and enumerate the duties more explicitly. We also need to add the position and duties of the Chair Emeritus. This was voted upon and it passed unanimously. The following by-laws committee was appointed: Joy Evans (Chairperson), Maggie Martin, Rhonda Perry, Toti Perez, Kristi Casey Hart, and Mary Jane Phillips. The committee was to be asked to review the by-laws and write recommended duties for each position. The recommendations of the committee will be reviewed and voted upon at the June 26, 2008 meeting.
9. Saul Torres announced that he would not be able to serve as the Chairperson for the Crisis Response Network, a term he normally would fill after serving as the Chairperson for the Counseling Directors Association because of professional responsibilities at his institution. The Counseling Directors Association thanked him for his two years as the Chairperson of the Counseling Directors Association. Maggie Martin was asked if she minded serving for another two years as the Chairperson of the Crisis Response Network. She agreed. She was

Page 4

voted in unanimously.

10. Augusta State and Clayton State are awaiting an upcoming peer site visit. We will follow up the progress of the site visits with Toti Perez, Chairperson of the Peer Site Visits Committee at our next meeting.
11. There is a request for all Counseling Directors Association Committees to report at our next regular meeting, June 26, 2009.
12. Jacqueline Awe has volunteered to help with the upkeep of the Counseling Directors' contact information.
13. The term of Mary Jane Phillips as our new Chairperson of the Counseling Directors Association will begin June 1, 2009. Our next meeting will be at the Georgia College and State University campus, June 26, 2009. Further information will be sent to the directors before the next meeting.
14. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Evans