



Group Meeting Notes

TEI Group: Counselor
Date/Time/Location: 6/5/2017, 1-3pm, Wyoming Hall 312
Members in Attendance: Tonya Gerharter, Steve Staab, Angela Burge, Jason Horsley, Mary Alice Bruce, Missy Nack, Bill Schilling
Support in Attendance: David Yanoski

Information Reviewed: Mary Alice described the current program at UWyo. The school currently offers a MS in counseling, which allows students to declare a concentration in school counseling. The program has a strong clinical focus with a specialty in play therapy. In addition, the program is also offered in Casper, with intensive weekend classes.

PTSB has a School counselor endorsement requiring a master's degree in school counseling. However, state law allows other masters level counselors, including LPCs and LSWs to serve as school counselors to mitigate shortages.

Discussion: One of the main issues that comes in in the school counselor community is a scope of practice issue. What is the role and job of a school counselor? Should school admin be able to use them for a variety of duties, or should these responsibilities be narrowed? What should a counselor do/not do? What should /should not be the role? Districts are required to have school counselors K-12, but the law doesn't specify duties.

Funding is another issue. The Research Work Group (RWG) reports that there really is more work than counselors out there, but funding issues prevent schools from hiring more. Some schools have used special education money, but that keeps the personnel in a special ed department rather than available to all students. Federal law does try to create a 1:250 counselor to student ratio, but this is problematic in many schools, and depending on how it is counted, small schools with few students may hide ratio issues at larger schools.

The group brainstormed several categories that they would like to consider for possible proposals. These are preliminary and subject to change as more data is gathered. The first is increasing the number of endorsed school counselors in schools. Possible actions may include stipends. Second, the need for better career counseling. Possible actions include the development of community outreach to allow community to work with students around careers, exploration of career options and pathways, and professional development opportunities including a statewide PLC. Third is program alignment to school needs. Actions may include identifying gaps between curriculum and school needs/realities, identifying critical competencies and ensuring that curriculum addresses these, all with the goal of a premiere

Trustees Education Initiative Work Group Meeting Notes

program. In addition, professional development offered by the university and work with the athletic department to better prepares counselors for advising on NCAA regulations was discussed. Finally, scope of practice concerns which may involve working with the ASCA standards and some sort of marketing effort to clarify the role of counselors.

Votes/Actions: The group would like to survey the existing counselor work force. An initial list of question categories was brainstormed, including:

1. Job duties
 - a. Assigned to do
 - b. Actually do
 - c. How is time allotted to the various duties
2. Ratio of kids to counselors
3. Turnover/ why are counselors leaving (what have you heard?)
4. What pd opportunities are available to you? What pd opportunities do you want?
5. Relationship with admin
6. Contracted days
7. Feedback on UWyo program
 - a. What gaps between your preparation and job exist?
8. Satisfaction with job
 - a. What affects job satisfaction
9. How are you evaluated? With what instrument?
10. What role does preparing students for NCAA athletic/academic requirements play in your job? Would better training in these requirements be of use to you?
11. Other demographics
 - a. Time in position
 - b. School description
 - c. Education? Where?
 - d. Certification/Endorsement
 - e. ???

The group agreed to begin drafting questions. The timing of the survey is in question, response rates may be low over the summer. Tanya can access contact information from the state.

Deadlines / Tasks /

Responsibilities: All – draft survey questions prior to next meeting

David – check on timelines for next proposal cycle. Can we wait until Aug/Sept to start collecting data?

Next Meeting Details: Anaya will send out Doodle poll for the weeks of June 19 and 26.