

Center For Technology Essex
Dental Assisting Program Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 10th 2022
Meeting held at CTE Dental Assisting Program Classroom

The meeting was called to order by Beth Ladd at 6:30pm

Members Present:

Beth Ladd, Chris Ianni, David Jette, Jenny Niles, Debora Teixeira, Michele Cannon, Sally Warway, Dixie Valley.

Members not Present:

Senada Sokocevic

Welcome and board member Introductions:

Community members have the opportunity to attend advisory board meetings, but there were no visiting members of the community present at the meeting held tonight.

Beth Ladd reviewed October 25th 2021 meeting minutes to the board. There were no corrections, deletions, or additions.

Enrollment Update for upcoming school year:

Total of 18 students accepted to be a part of the 2022/2023 class. Of the 18; 17 high school students, 1 adult.

3 of the 18 students are returning students from the current year, and will be completing the 2nd year dental assisting program.

1 of the 18 students is a male.

Max enrollment for the dental assistant program is 24 students. (12 students per teacher)

Dental Assisting Work force/ Recruitment Strategies:

Recruitment is key, both Beth and Chris have a goal to work on ways to have better, more effective advertising. Ideas on promoting the dental assisting program include;
Chris Ianni formulating a front page forum advertisement, 802 Smiles giving out CTE dental assisting brochures, Seven Days advertisement, Facebook paid ads, reaching out to school guidance counselors with brochure handouts. All school brochures are now recommended to be in a digital format.

VSDS , the VT Department of Labor and local dental offices are all aware of the high need of the TDA/CDA workforce. Dr David Jette mentioned a possibility of sponsoring a student through current employee retirement; which would allow the student to be trained at the office during school, and potentially allow the student to have a full time/part time job once school is completed. The goal is to “replace” dental assistants who are in the process of retirement.

Dr.Jenny Niles mentioned having an advertisement budget; also suggested writing to Delta Dental asking for a grant for the Dental assisting program advertising.

Size, Scope, and Quality Document:

Size, scope, and quality document is new to CTE this year. By law the Advisory Board needs to meet once a year regarding the SSQ of the program. Currently the Dental assisting program is still using the traditional “A,B,C,D,F” grading system, with the goal of transitioning to the proficiency grading. The SSQ goal for the dental assisting program will require more Applied Math, literacy, workplace document learning, and a pre-test and post-test for the class. Based on last year's SSQ testing scores, last year's dental assisting class tested very low on math and english. The goal will be to incorporate more of these subjects in the next coming years curriculum/ get scores higher.

A total of 2 students in this year's Dental assisting class were unable to participate in clinical rotations due to not meeting the program criteria.

Bob Travers has expressed to Beth Ladd he wants to formulate a better form of outreach for middle school students, who potentially may be interested in the program. Which would allow them to take their required classes during their Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years; will allow them to focus their senior year on the program alone. Mr.Travers wants to recruit students at a young age, which will allow them to transition to a more technical education easier.

Dental Assisting 2nd Year Apprenticeship:

This will be CTE's first year doing the 2nd year Dental assisting program which will allow high school Juniors, who love dentistry but do not want to go back to their sending school their senior year, practice dentistry in a clinical setting. With the 3 returning students for the upcoming school year, it will allow them to have a paid apprenticeship with the sponsoring dentist/office throughout the entire school year. The pay scale for the student would be up to the sponsoring dentist. Beth and Chris will need to form a curriculum for the students to follow, and be graded on by the sponsoring dentist. It may also be an option for the 2nd year dental assisting student to be able to be on apprentice at multiple offices throughout the school year.

Dental Assisting Program Clinic Utilization/Curriculum Development:

With the continuation of our last advisory board meeting, the goal is to utilize the clinic in a positive and effective way, by seeing dental patients. The discussion included having the need of a sponsoring dentist in order to allow dental assistants to practice under direct supervision. It was discussed that Tracy Towers would be a possible candidate as a RDH to practice at the program seeing patients. Dixie Valley and Sally Waryway mentioned speaking with retired local dentists, and soon to be retired dentists who would be interested.

Beth Ladd proposed needing a separate advisory board to make this happen.

Renewal of Terms for Advisory Board Members:

All present members of the Dental Assisting Program Advisory Board have accepted to stay on for another term.

Additional Board Agenda Items:

Dixie Valley expressed the lack of members and commitment to the VT Dental Assisting Association and that as of June 1, 2022, the association will be discontinued.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Submitted,

Brooke Hamel, CDA, EFDA