Cardiovascular Technology Program

Florida SouthWestern State College

Advisory Board Meeting

Via Zoom:

August 19, 2021-2:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

*Nikki Cobb welcomed committee members and introductions were partially made as some attendees did not have microphones that were working.*

*Members present:*

* *Robert Grohowski, MD, Cardiologist, Millennium Physician, & Medical Director CVT Program*
* *Nikki Cobb, RCIS, Program Director, Cardiovascular Technology Program*
* *Leslie Yaniga, RCIS, Clinical Coordinator, Cardiovascular Technology*
* *Ray Lenius, RCIS, Faculty, Cardiovascular Technology*
* *Brian Crosby, RN, RCIS, Cath Lab Manager, Lee Health*
* *Reva Walters, RCIS, Charlotte Heart and Vascular*
* *Tyler Till, RCIS, Health Park*
* *Brad Rodman, RN, Cath Lab Educator, Health Park*
* *Chris Weigelt, EKG Tech, Cape Coral Hospital*
* *Erin Raikes, BSN, RN, Supervisor Invasive Cardiology, Health Park*
* *Sarah Strehle, President, Class of 2022*
* *Rachelle Beriault, Vice President, Class of 2022*
* *Vanessa Kershenstine, Treasurer, Class of 2022*

*The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and the minutes were accepted.*

2. Overview of Graduate Outcomes

a. Number (1991-2020 = 345, 2020 = 10)

b. Placement statistics (1991-2021 = 92%, 2020 = 9/10, employed-90%)

c. RCIS Registry statistics (1991-2021 = 98%, 2020 = 10/10, passed 100%)

*Nikki Cobb reviewed the data collected regarding graduate outcomes including; number of graduates, 10, from last year (2020), their positive placement, 9 of 10 (one of which we cannot get in contact with to verify job placement), and RCIS registry, 10 of 10 have been successful on the RCIS exam. The national pass rate for the RCIS exam is still approximately 55%. The results of the 2020 graduate and employer surveys were discussed. In general, 80-100% of the graduates felt they had acquired the cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills necessary to function as entry level cardiovascular technologists and that the program resources are appropriate. Additionally, 80-100% of the employers felt, the graduates that they had hired possessed the cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills necessary to function as entry level cardiovascular technologists and that the program resources are appropriate. However, response rates for some of these on-line surveys are low. The program personnel will continue working together and try to develop strategies to increase the response rate including reminding students in class and stressing the importance of completing the surveys.*

3. Classes of 2021, 2022 and the incoming class of 2022

a. 2021 = 10 graduated; Pinning Ceremony was on June 19 (outside at FSW)

2022 = 14 traditional students

2023 = 17 students accepted with an additional 2 to re-enter

b. Attrition/Retention statistics

*Nikki Cobb reviewed the number of our newly graduated students (10), which represent the Class of 2021; all 10 graduated at the end of the Summer A semester, June 19, 2021. They are all ACLS certified and most have applied for the RCIS exam. The class of 2022 is comprised of 14 traditional students. The program has admitted a cohort of 17 students for the Fall 2021 start date and this number continues to be appropriate and results in class sizes that enable positive student outcomes. The changes to the selection criterion, based on a statistical analysis, were reviewed and determined to be appropriate for the CVT Program. This is the third year that on-line applications have been available for applicants to the CVT Program. Program attrition has been steady and continues to meet the JRC-CVT/CAAHEP threshold. Program Attrition has been in the 28-29% range. Strategies to improve attrition continue to include; open labs, tutorial sessions, implementation of response devices during lectures, posting lecture power points and MP3 audio files of lectures at the course Canvas internet sites. The majority of students admitted are graduating within 2 years of being admitted into the program.*

4. Human Resources

a. Program administration and upcoming transitions

b. Instructional staff

*The current human resources of the CVT Program were outlined for committee members.*

* *President, Dr. Jeffrey Allbritten*
* *Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Eileen DeLuca*
* *Interim Dean, School of Health Professions, Dr. Thomas Norman*
* *New Program Director, CVT Program, Nikki Cobb, MAT, RCIS*
* *Clinical Coordinator, CVT Program, Leslie Yaniga, RCIS*
* *CVT Faculty, Ray Lenius, RCIS*

*Dr. Norman joined FSW as the Interim Dean, SoHP in later 2020. The committee search for a new SoHP Dean is underway with anticipation of the position being filled by the end of 2021.*

*Nikki Cobb joined FSW as the New Program Director for the CVT Program on April 5th of 2021 and has nine plus years of cath/endovascular lab experience and three years of educational experience with another CVT based in South Carolina.*

*Nikki Cobb discussed upcoming needs and opportunities in staffing for the CVT program. An adjunct position will be posted in the Fall of 2021 to assist in some of the clinical/didactic demands of the program as Clinical associates were hard to come by during the COVID Pandemic for the last year. Also, the importance of clinical associates was discussed and the impact they have on the clinical skill labs hosted on campus. The program is continuing to utilize Clinical Associates to provide supplemental instruction during laboratory courses. The CVT program expressed its appreciation of the cath lab employers giving their staff time off to come on campus and help with the laboratory courses. The consensus of the advisory board and the program is that the human resources are sufficient and meet the needs of the program.*

5. Physical Resources

1. Simulator Coronary Pro upgrades for 2 Mentice VIST systems (one new system-VIST G5- August 16, 2021)
2. James Sublett Donation: portable x-ray/c-arm table (December 2021) with goal to replace c-arm in 2022. Looking to house students for clinical internships.
3. Upgrades to the on-campus cath lab and classroom space: Beginning December of 2021 we are

starting the beginning phases of remodeling our cath lab simulation lab to cater to a more current and relevant cath lab setting. The x-ray table with be replace with a portable x-ray/c-arm table in December

of this year with the goal being that in the Summer of 2022 we begin the construction phases for

updating the c-arm in the lab with a portable c-arm. This remodeling will allow for our students to

encounter a newer and more relevant cath lab setting which will also allow for the program to

incorporate peripheral vascular and structural heart aspects into the program.

1. We need a monitoring system as ours no longer works and are looking for any possible clinical sites that are in the market for upgrading theirs. We would like to be considered when upgrading so that the school can purchase a newer and more relevant monitoring system.

*The programs classroom and laboratory resources were reviewed and determined to be more than appropriate. The Program Resource Survey completed by Students and Program personnel both indicate over 80% of respondents strongly agree or agree the physical resources are appropriate. The classroom offers a teaching podium with computer and internet access, document/object camera projector, and overhead projector. The lab includes a cardiovascular catheterization laboratory. The lab also includes two Mentice VIST (a VIST-C & VIST G5) Endovascular Simulators with the following modules; diagnostic coronary and left ventricular grams, coronary intervention, carotid diagnostic and intervention with distal protection, renal diagnostic and intervention, iliac and SFA diagnostic and intervention. The Mentice VIST Endovascular Simulators have recently been upgraded with the newest version of the Coronary Pro software. This upgrade will enable students to practice procedures for both the femoral and radial artery access sites and simulate ACS/STEMI cases.*

6. Clinical Resources and Clinical Coordinator Report (presented by Leslie Yaniga, CVT Clinical Coordinator)

*We currently have 12 clinical sites. The second-year students have rotations through Naples Community Hospital, Physicians Regional Healthcare System, Gulfcoast Medical Center, HealthPark Medical Center, Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, Charlotte Heart and Vascular Institute, Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Manatee Memorial Hospital, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and Tampa General Hospital. Florida Heart Associates is the newest clinical site and is currently constructing an ambulatory surgical suite (ASL) and will be receiving students potentially starting in January 2022.*

*All students go to 5 hospitals and complete at least 500 hours in level 2 facilities.*

*Professor Leslie Yaniga, RCIS and clinical personnel all report that the students are functioning well and developing the psychomotor skills, knowledge base and affective attributes to allow them to function as cardiovascular technologists in the cath labs. Professor Yaniga also reported that she continues to increase mentoring opportunities for second year students by including them in selected laboratory classes where they work with first year students as they work to develop their psychomotor clinical skills.*

*Last year because of Covid restrictions our 2nd year students were delayed starting their clinic rotation and so we shifted the clinical instruction to classroom/lab/simulation practice in our cardiac cath lab. This worked well and comments from most of our clinic preceptors indicated they seemed to be ahead of previous first rotation students in terms of psychomotor/hands on skills. Because of the success of this, we decided to enhance the clinical component of the program and do a 2 week ‘boot camp’ type experience to get the students ready for their cath lab rotations*

7. Curriculum/Program Review

*Nikki Cobb reported the CVT curriculum continues to be based on the 2015 Educational Guidelines for Invasive Cardiovascular Technology Personnel in the Cardiovascular Catheterization Laboratory however, feels that the curriculum lacks the peripheral and structural heart content that is now present within cat labs and on the RCIS exam. With that being said she discussed the planned curriculum changes of incorporating a new course that focuses on peripheral and structural heart content. It was also discussed how further development of some program courses will be made in order to meet the current demands of the current cath lab setting and the RCIS. Professor Lenius took the RCIS exam in February 2021 to help us to better understand what we may need to enhance upon within our current curriculum and course content. These guidelines were developed by the Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals (SICP) and are referenced by the JRC-CVT/CAAHEP in the Standards for accreditation. The program is continuing to increase the use of simulation in the primary lab courses, CVT 1800L, CVT 1801L, CVT 2840L and CVT 2805C. Beginning this Fall (2021) the students will undergo a “mini cath lab simulation boot camp” before entering their assigned Cath lab clinical rotations. Simulation, based off of clinical site and student feedback, and overall clinical outcomes from the class of 2021 has proven to be a positive change in the curriculum. The program will continue to make any adjustments necessary in order to incorporate any relevant content into the existing curriculum. The consensus of the advisory committee is that the curriculum is very appropriate and the upcoming changes within the curriculum will continue to strengthen the program and meet the educational needs of enter level CVTs. Antidotal comments reflect the feeling that the curriculum and program does a good job addressing the professional education needs of the cardiac care community. Additional enhancements to the curriculum include incorporating advances in the profession including peripheral content along with more on iFR/dFR, IVUS, OCT, and FFR vascular diagnostic/interventional procedures and structural heart repair (catheter based heart valve repair/replacement, septal defect & PFO closure, and left atrial appendage closure).*

8. Medical Directors Perspective

*Dr. Grohowski indicated that, from his perspective, the graduates of 2021 have developed the skills and knowledge to function at or above the level of entry level cardiovascular technologists. His clinical experiences with the current class have been favorable and they appear to be developing well. He indicated they are developing into strong confident technologists and that they did a good job with their case study presentations earlier in the day. He indicated he was not in the cath lab at this time because he is now working with Millennium Physician group. Based on his cath lab involvement going forward, the option of using co-medical Director was disgusted as Dr. Orlando Escarcega will be joining the program as the new co-medical Director. He is a well experienced and diverse interventional cardiologist for Florida Heart Associates and currently works in the cath lab as such. His driving cases are interventional cath and peripheral vascular interventions. Dr. Escarcega was chosen after the students, former and past, expressed how much of an educator and mentor he is to them and really seems to enjoy assisting in their professional and personal growth and development as CVT students. He was also chosen after Professor Cobb visited a clinical site where he was cathing for the day and witnessed his “inclusive” personality and tactics with not only his cath lab tam but with the student(s) as well. We are looking forward to him joining our medical director team for our CVT program. Dr. Grohowski did indicate he was happy to have Dr. Escarcega join the team and expressed the importance of graduating students of the highest caliber and that the quantity of graduates should not be compromised by decreasing quality. He advised the students to continue to keep up to date in the rapidly evolving fields of invasive cardiology.*

9. Students Perspective

*Sarah Strehle, Rachelle Beriault and Vanessa Kershenstine provided the perspective for the second-year students that will graduate Summer of 2022.They expressed a high level of student satisfaction thus far with the program and that the students were proud to be a part of the program. They also how excited and nervous they are to being clinical rotations in the upcoming Fall. They expressed that are comfortable in the cath labs. They also expressed the class’s appreciation of the clinic sites and the staff that will be working with them during their clinical rotations. They also liked the fact the course websites were pre-populated with PowerPoints and handouts prior to their classes, and the availability of MP3 audio files for select lectures. Abraham Zaragoza provided the perspective of a graduate of the CVT program.*

10. Public Member Input (presented by Leslie Yaniga, CVT Clinical Coordinator)

a. Community outreach (AHA heart Walk, Go Red for Women, Heart Week)

Much of our community outreach was curbed during the pandemic however students and staff continue to be involved in community outreach programs including the AHA Heart Walk, Go Red for Women, and Cardiovascular Technologists Week. The CVT program and students will continue working together on these initiatives.

11. JRC-CVT/CAAHEP Accreditation Status

a. The program continues to meet and/or exceed all thresholds. Our lasts annual report was accepted, and no additional reporting needs to be done. The next annual report will be submitted on November 1, 2021.

b. Continuing to meet and/or exceed all thresholds

*With the assistance of Ray Lenius, Nicole Cobb has continued to review the accreditation Standards and Thresholds and the Goals of the program. The CAAHEP/JRC-CVT accreditation self-study was submitted in January 2019, and the on-site review visit was completed in March 2019. The site review team indicated they felt all JRC-CVT/CAAHEP Standards were met or exceeded, and they described several program strengths. There were no recommendations and no unmet Standards. The CAAHEP Board of commissioner voted in July 2019 to grant the CVT program seven years of continuing accreditation. The next CAAHEP reaffirmation of accreditation will be in 2026. The consensus of the advisory board and the program is that the CVT Program goals are appropriate and continue to meet the program's needs.*

12. Continuing Education (presented by Leslie Yaniga, CVT Clinical Coordinator)

a. Transradial approach, future opportunities

*Professor Yaniga has developed an on-line/simulation CEU offering for the transradial approach for cardiovascular catheterization. The course has been designed for working professionals desiring to enhance their knowledge and skills for transradial procedures.*

*We also have a post cath hemostasis course that is a self-paced, online continuing education program designed for nurses that covers hemostasis techniques and post cath recovery of cardiac patients. It incorporates femoral and radial hemostasis.*

*The program will work with the clinical affiliates and is happy to explore any potential continuing education opportunities that may be helpful.*

13. Baccalaureate Degree in Cardiopulmonary Sciences Update (presented by Ray Lenius, CVT Faculty)

*The B.S. Degree Program in Cardiopulmonary Sciences (CPS) is open to the Cardiovascular Technology and Respiratory Care graduates who have received either the RCIS or RRT Certifications. The program began offering courses in the Spring 2011 semester and continues to offer courses during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. The B.S. CPS Program had a small decline in enrollment this last year, which was attributed to the pandemic. The majority of the Cardiopulmonary Sciences students are RRTs, and the pandemic has kept them so busy they do not have time for school. It is anticipated once the pandemic is over, the numbers will increase. There were eight graduates of the B.S. Degree Program in Cardiopulmonary Sciences in 2021. The B.S. Degree Program in Cardiopulmonary Sciences still accepts students from the school of Business and Technology for three classes. These three classes are for students that are enrolled in the Supervision and Management (BAS) program.*

12. Open Discussion

*Leslie Yaniga distributed the JRC-CVT/CAAHEP Resource Assessment Survey for the Advisory Committee to fill out in the email that was provided with the link to this Zoom meeting.*

*The committee members express their gratitude for the Cardiovascular Technology program and indicated they were pleased with the number and quality of the graduates and are looking forward to the curriculum and course changes that the program is planning to make for 2022.*

13. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.*