

**DENTAL HYGIENE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 4/1/2025**  
**FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE**

**In attendance:**

Ms. Crystal Riggs, RDH  
Ms. Kristina Sinhold, RDH  
Ms. Karen Molumby, RDH  
Ms. Laura Hudson, RDH  
Ms. Natalie Schmidt, RDH  
Ms. Danyelle Smith, RDH  
Ms. Jade Chanda, RDH  
Ms. Meadow Hetland, RDH  
Ms. Chris Weygant  
Ms. Selina Martinez, RDH  
Jessica Larson, Class of 2025  
Maddie Millican, Class of 2026  
Dr. Carol Stevens  
Dr. Magdaline Britto  
Dr. Suni Koshy  
Ms. Dejnane Fevrier, RDH  
Ms. Jami Ware, RDH  
Ms. Yessenia Iglesias, RDH  
Ms. Christy Bessette RDH  
Ms. Cheryl Bolo, RDH  
Alex Schimel  
Ms. Claudia Martinez, RDH

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Karen Molumby.

**Introductions and Advisory Board Meeting Agenda Review**

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new members of the advisory board, including Claudia Martinez, Cheryl Bolo, Chris Weigant, Madeline Millicen and the role of Alex Schimmel. Karen also mentioned that Jessica would be representing the class of 2025. Karen then asked everyone to review the meeting agenda and minutes from the previous year, which she had sent in the chat. After a few minutes, Selina approved the minutes, and Joan seconded the approval.

**Committee Agenda Topics**

**A. Class of 2025 and Class of 2026 Updates:**

Karen, Jessica, and Madeline discussed the progress of the classes of 2025 and 2026. Jessica shared that the class of 2025 had a 100% pass rate on their national boards, a significant achievement for the program. Madeline, representing the class of 2026, mentioned that they are wrapping up their spring semester and are excited to see more patients in the upcoming summer. Karen highlighted the unique challenge faced by the class of 2026, as they are the first class with no prior dental assistant experience, which has required them to adapt and learn independently.

- B. FSW College-wide HLC Accreditation site visit: The College underwent their accreditation site visit on Monday, March 31, 2025 and Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The Governor required all state colleges to transition from SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accrediting agency to any other agency of their choice. FSW had been reaccredited recently in summer of 2021. FSW decided to do the fast track option and selected the HLC as the replacement college-wide accrediting agency.

The accreditation process involves a site visit and a review of various aspects of the college. The dental hygiene program faculty contributed examples to support the mission of the College that would support the accreditation process. The final decision on the college's accreditation status is expected in June.

The program is still accredited by SACS but will relinquish this accreditation if they are approved in June 2025 to be accepted as a member of HLC (Higher Learning Commission). The cost of this process is approximately \$200,000. Alex discussed the college's accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

- C. FSW Administrative Changes and New Programs

Karen discussed the recent changes in the administration at FSW, including the division of the School of Health Professions and the creation of a new School of Allied Health. The nursing department is now part of the School of Health Professions, while the other health programs are under the School of Allied Health. This change was made to ensure equal attention to all programs. Additionally, two new programs, PTA and Advanced Medical Assisting, have been added to the college, both located at the Charlotte campus. The implementation of a bachelor's program for AS degree-seeking students is still in the works due to the HLC's resource constraints. The college is also planning to increase program enrollment.

- D. Concorde University Dental Hygiene Program Launch

Cheryl discussed a partnership between their organization and Concorde University to establish a dental hygiene program in Fort Myers. The program, expected to open by the end of the year, will be an 18-month accelerated program, with an initial intake of 26 students. The program will be located in an existing building and is expected to provide services to the local community. Cheryl will gather more information about the program's specifics, including the application process, during a meeting with Kathy and Amanda Swindle next week. Karen reference an article that promoted the partnership that would involve establishing a bachelors program which would graduate 120 hygienist/year and 72 dental assistants.

Dr. Brad Engle asked about Heartland's involvement with the students, and Cheryl explained that while Heartland is affiliated with the program, the specifics of their involvement are still being determined. Dr. Engle referenced the previous agreement with Hodges University in which the student's tuition was paid for by Heartland and bonuses were given to those graduates to secure employment with Heartland after graduation. Karen reports that Concorde University did establish themselves approximately ten years ago in three areas to include Orlando and Fort Lauderdale. After a short time frame the College abruptly closed their schools with no teach out

to any student enrolled in their programs. The new program will be established at 9299 College Parkway which is in close proximity of FSW.

E. ONLINE - Bachelors of Science, Healthcare Leadership Update:

Karen reported that the Bachelor's degree was placed on hold so the College could focus on the Accreditation processes and will resume active engagement in the application to the State to approve a bachelors degree for all AS graduates from FSW's CVT, Radiology Technology, Dental Hygiene, Human Services, EMS, Fire Science, HIT, Advance Medical Assistant and PTA.

The Advisory Committee was asked to review the following content to recall the discussion from the previous year.

1. 36 general education credits are needed for graduates with a dental hygiene degree. If a DH graduate does not have an AA degree they would need to complete ENC 1102, a Humanities core and another math course to meet the general education requirement.

General Education Courses for Baccalaureate Degree - 36 Credits			
Categories	Recommended Courses	Credits	DEH
Communication (9)	ENC 1101 Composition I (Core) (WI)	3	0
	ENC 1102 Composition II (Core) (WI)	3	3
	SPC (Spc 1017 or SPC 2608)	3	0
Humanities (6)	Core Humanities Gen Ed (WI)	3	0
	Humanities Gen Ed	3	3
Social Sciences (9)	AMH 2020 or POS 2041	3	0
	PSY 2012 Introduction to Psychology	3	0
	SYG 1000 Principles of Sociology	3	0
Mathematics (6)	Core Mathematics	3	0
	Mathematics Gen Ed	3	3
Natural Sciences (6)	Core Natural Science w/Lab	3	0
	Natural Science Gen Ed	3	0
Total Credit Hours		36	9

44 DH program credits will be transferred to the bachelor's degree.

40 Upper level credits (25 bachelor major core and 15 concentration credits) are required.

- a. A DH student would graduate with 129 credits if they do not have an AA
- b. The Bachelors of Science Healthcare Leadership will consist of five concentrations:

- Organizational Management
- Behavioral Health Sciences
- Cardiovascular Sciences
- Respiratory Care Sciences
- Health Data and Information Sciences

- c. Proposed Major Core Courses:

**Major Core Courses – 25 Credits**

<i>Course Code</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
HIM 3170	Healthcare Finance Management	3
MAN 3301	Human Resources Management	3
HSA 3423	Healthcare Law and Policy	3
HSA 4184	Leadership and Management in Healthcare Organizations	3
HIM 4507	Healthcare Quality Improvement and Risk Management	3
HSC 4652	Healthcare Ethics and Professionalism	3
HSA 4702	Research Methods for Health Professions (WI)	4
HIS 4901	Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Capstone	3

d. Proposed Organizational Management Concentration:

**Organizational Management Concentration – 15 Credits**

<i>Course Code</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
HSC 3209	Community and Population Health	3
HSA 3430	Healthcare Economics	3
HSC 3661	Communication in Healthcare	3
HSA 4191	Health Information Systems	3
HIM 4624	Health Data Analysis	3

2. Program Expansion and Renovation of Dental Materials Lab

Karen discussed the expansion of the program is tied to the infrastructure funding needed for classroom renovation. The expansion would allow for a maximum enrollment of 30 students and would involve converting a classroom into a simulation lab. The cost of renovation is estimated to be between \$750,000 to over \$2 million.

3. Community Involvement: Faculty members, Natalie Schmidt, Christy Bessette, Jami and Dr. Britto discussed the Program community activities.

- a. The GKAS day event was held on March 1, 2025. 59 children were provided a free cleaning, limited exam, radiographs and sealants were placed. The age of the participants were younger than they have been the past few years. The event had sophomore and freshman students working together as well as dental hygiene information videos about sports mouthguards, nutritional foods, a visit to the dental office and brushing and flossing, The freshman and sophomore students present a pre and post survey to capture how well the participants retained the dental information.
- b. The Vendor Day Dr. Britto explained the purpose behind the vendor day which is scheduled for the next day. The program has acquired new equipment like an oral cancer screening device (velescope) and will be getting the oral scanner in June. Faculty emphasize the importance of foundational knowledge

alongside new technology. Students will participate in an oral cancer awareness event in April, conducting screenings with ENT's.

- c. Christy Bessette reported that the dental hygiene program has expanded its community outreach and educational activities. Students now create oral health presentations in English and Spanish for WIC clients, visit pre-K programs to teach oral hygiene, and educate nursing home staff on denture care. They also conduct a community oral health project at Lighthouse Commons, providing education and dental cleanings to campus residents. The program has partnered with the VPK program associated with Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center.

Another partnership program that was implemented in fall with Cypress Cove is to educate nursing home staff on denture care for its residents. This was re-established since the COVID and Hurricane IAN situations.

- d. Other Community Activities The sophomore students participated in the LCDS dinner meetings from October - February.

#### 4. AI Integration in Dental Practice

Jami Ware discussed the potential of the program to transition to digital sensors and the integration of AI software in their dental clinic. Selina and Cheryl's shared their experiences with using AI for patient education, while Claudia highlighted its usefulness in periodontal classification and patient communication. The team also discussed the importance of AI in their daily practice, with Zuly emphasizing the need to navigate its risks and benefits with integrity. The conversation concluded with a focus on the evolving nature of AI and its role in dental practice.

#### 5. AI Integration in Curriculum Discussion

A discussion on the integration of AI in the curriculum, acknowledging its inevitability but expressing concerns about its impact on student learning and clinical skills. The team debated whether AI should be used as a tool for screening patients or for generating assignments, with some members expressing concerns about students relying too heavily on AI. The consensus was that AI should be taught as a tool, but students should also learn to apply their knowledge without it. The team agreed to discuss these issues further in their faculty meeting.

#### 6. Technology's Impact on Learning and Development

A discussion about the impact of technology on learning and professional development. Carol expressed concerns about the potential negative effects of relying too heavily on AI and automation, arguing that it could hinder personal growth and skills development. Jade suggested that students should still be comfortable with both traditional and AI-based methods, as not all offices may have

the technology. Karen emphasized the importance of meeting accreditation standards and providing students with exposure to various tools and technologies.

The group also discussed the upcoming requirement for fingerprinting for dental hygienist license renewals in Florida. The FBOD will require fingerprinting. The specifics a timeframe to have the fingerprints done is not known at this time. The requirement for the dental professional is February 2026.

The meeting was adjourned by 7:50 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted 4/2/2025 Karen Molumby**