

Respiratory Care Program-- Florida SouthWestern State College  
Advisory Board Meeting  
May 16, 2025  
Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. New members of board
  - b. Nominate and vote new chair
2. Overview of 2024 Graduate Outcomes
  - a. 16 graduates
  - b. 100% employed
  - c. 100% RRT
  - d. Retention statistics
  - e. Emp/grad surveys
3. Classes of 2025 and 2026
  - a. 2025 – 18 scheduled to graduate, pinning June 19, 2025
  - b. 2026 – 22 (including 2 recycling) 29 admitted (with the 3 recycles)
  - c. 2027 – app deadline May 31st, interviews in progress
  - d. Kettering review scheduled June 23-25
  - e. Recruitment/admissions
4. Human Resources
  - a. New org chart
  - b. Dean search
  - c. CVT
5. Physical Resources
  - a. Simulation Centers/lab
  - b. Rist Family Foundation gift
6. Clinical resources
  - a. Sites
  - b. CAs
7. Program Goals/Curriculum/Program Review
  - a. curriculum
8. Graduate and Students Perspective
  - a. Graduate
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> year.
  - d. Surveys
9. CoARC Accreditation Status
  - a. Self-study
  - b. Site visit
  - c. Continuing to meet or exceed all thresholds
  - d. Report of Current Status
  - e. Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award (11 years in a row)
10. Continuing Education
  - a. Intubation Programs
  - b. Development of new programs
11. BS program
  - a. Enrollment
  - b. courses
  - c. future plan
12. Open Discussion

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Attendees:

In person:

Jean Newberry PD  
Genny Baballeku, DCE  
Heather O'Connell, Faculty  
Tamra Pacheco, Allied Health Coordinator  
Kurt Guerke, Public Member, FI Dept of Health  
Teresa Summe, COPD/Asthma Management  
Doug Vasquez, Cape Coral  
John Smith, NCH  
Anthony Sumo, FMH  
Stephen Wilczynski, MD  
Marcos Villafuertes, first year student  
Vanessa Alvarez, first year student  
Lisa Rivero, second year  
Caddie Cherubin, second year  
Madison Matthew, second year  
Nick Franco, graduate (2024)  
Vivien Cimafranca, graduate (2024)

Zoom:

Sarah Ferrero, FMH  
Eva Grayson, PRMC  
Libby Schott, Dean  
Mary Dehaven, SMH  
Joe Buhain, FGCU  
Monica Collins, Golisano

Meeting came to order at 3:05 pm.

Monica volunteered to be the new chair to replace Eva who has decided to step down. Unanimous decision in vote

**Program Performance and Graduation Updates**

- Jean Newberry, the program director, leads introductions for the meeting attendees.
- She then provides an update on recent graduates, reporting that 16 students graduated last June with a 100% pass rate on the RRT exam and 100% employment.
- Jean discusses challenges with online board testing and presents data on exam performance, noting areas where students faced difficulties. Students stated that they were bumped off and had to retake the exam. Now it is only offered in person.
- We are at greater than 80% from national average in most areas of the test.

- Areas not are airway clearance, specialty gases and high risk procedures. These are new areas that fell below the 80% standard. Will look at curriculum (mostly RET 2234C) and see if the labs/lecture need to modified or enhanced. Talk of adding more simulation for these areas.
- Family and patient education was also listed as being low at 81%. We are looking into possibly using REELDX in the future and that may help with patient and family communication.
- She also addresses retention issues, explaining that out of 26 initial students, 16 graduated.
- Jean mentions that surveys sent to graduates and employers indicate satisfaction with the program's preparation for the workforce. Students and employers who attended the meeting felt they were prepared to work after completing the program
- For the class of 2026, there were 29 students to start and 22 are now experiencing their first day of clinic.
- Jean notes that we started with 26 students and 18 are scheduled to graduate in the class of 2025. The pinning ceremony is on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- CoArc only looks at academic failures; therefore, they exclude attrition due to personal reasons or finances.

### **Respiratory Therapy Program Expansion Updates**

- The admission process for the class of 2027 is in progress with the deadline approaching with 67 applicants and the selection of 32 for interviews so far. We aim for 84 points and higher in the interview selection process.
- They are expanding outreach through open houses, presentations in anatomy classes, and participation in STEM events.
- The program is adding new clinical sites, including Venice Hospital and potentially Advent Health.
- HOSA – a group for future healthcare professionals is adding a Respiratory Care chapter
- Recruiting CNAs and others to join the program through career fairs would help to increase the applicant pool.
- Speaking with students in SLS courses would also be beneficial.
- We also reach out to Pharm techs, EMTs and Paramedics to introduce them to our program and opportunities to advance their career.
- We cannot encroach on technical schools for their students since they promote their CNAs to continue on with their Nursing program and many of their prerequisite courses do not transfer in to FSW.
- Shadow days at the hospitals allows the students to become more familiar with the profession.
- We are adding clinical sites such as Sarasota Memorial – Venice and hoping to add Advent Health.
- Overall, the program aims to provide students with diverse clinical experiences, including pulmonary rehab, sleep studies, and freestanding ERs.

### **Human Resources**

- Jean mentions upcoming leadership changes, including a search for a new Dean and Associate Dean.
- A second advisor is being hired to assist with student outreach for our programs.
- The CVT program has lost its director and coordinator, resulting in no fall cohort this year.
- Jean is looking to add echocardiography to the program offerings and is seeking clinical associates to help with labs.
- We interviewed a candidate for the CVT Director and reviewing references now.
- We hope to start a noninvasive cardiovascular program in 2026 with additional staffing.
- We have difficulty recruiting CVT CAs with the course hours being the same as their work schedule.
- The simulation lab is now under Nursing and there is a Director vacancy in that department as well.
- We are looking or 1 or 2 more CAs from Lee Health for Respiratory Care.

### **Respiratory Program Curriculum Updates**

- Jean discusses the curriculum changes in the respiratory program, which is now separate from the cardiovascular program.

- We have better retention without having 50 students in one course and a greater focus on respiratory care.
- The revised intro courses are well-established, while the critical care course is still being improved.
- Students report feeling well-prepared for the real world, with hands-on experience and critical thinking skills being emphasized.
- They appreciate the program's focus on respiratory-specific issues and the improved student-to-ventilator ratio in lab sessions.
- Some suggestions for improvement include adding more pediatric experience and potentially moving the pharmacology class to the first semester to balance the workload.
- We are redesigning the clinical courses to pull students into those specialties such as pediatrics, asthma treatment, and pulmonary rehab for a week at a time.

### **Student Feedback About Program**

- Students appreciate the variety of locations that include the hospital and outpatient centers at the same time.
- Genny is open to other suggestions and companies that will take our students.
- Graduates stated that the program prepared them for work, but would have appreciated more time in the specialty areas such as pediatrics and rehab.
- Students appreciate how professor prepare them with textbook knowledge as well as real-world experiences and the continued support and follow up they provided throughout the program.
- Second year students appreciate the experience they gained with patient care and completing a checklist to determine the issue. They were able to check off everything on the list except AVAPS in their final self-evaluation in preparation for employment.
  - We have reduced the number of students down to 10 in ventilator lab and now have 2 sections. The goal is to have instructor and others to have 1:6 ratio for instructors:students
- CAs help the students in their approach with real world situations in the hospital.
- Critical thinking helps with growth as a student.
- Love clinic and working with other students.
- Happy with the split of the programs.
- Keep caring for the way you care for students.
- They like the way the program is laid out and presentations are helpful
- Suggest that we move the Pharmacology course to the first semester and only have 2 courses each semester.
- Critical care was great but the workload is very rigorous.
- Students want the pharmacology course to be offered live rather than online.
- Students appreciate that the professors are available at any time and the availability of the lab to practice.
- Like the hands-on experience and the support

### **Medical Director Feedback**

- The Medical Director stated that it has been cool to see graduates teaching others in the hospital. He offered to assist with any changes needed in the critical care course.

### **Other Feedback**

- Kurt stated that FSW always has a committed staff and told the current students that they made a great decision to choose this program.
- Anthony Sumo stated that they only hire students that have clinical experience. Graduates from other programs are nowhere near the level as FSW grads.
- He also stated that if a hospital does not work for you, then find a hospital that is a better fit and has good personnel. Don't limit yourself to specific areas of the hospital and get more experience in different specialties.
-

## **Respiratory Therapy Program Accreditation Update**

- Jean provides an update on the program's accreditation process, which occurs every 10 years. She mentions that a self-study will be submitted next week, followed by a site visit from COARC in about 6 months.
- The program continues to receive recognition for its high credentialing success rates, for 11 years in a row.
- We are hoping to get the President's Award again next year.
- If there is any training we can offer to the hospital staff such as intubation or preceptor training, please let us know.

## **Bachelors in Cardiopulmonary Science Program**

- Jean also discusses plans for the bachelor's program, including updating courses and shifting to an RT focus when the Bachelors degree for all of allied health is approved and offered to the CVT graduates.
- She emphasizes the program's success in preparing students for employment and the importance of respiratory therapy in healthcare.
- Enrollment is up due to the promotion of our program to our graduates.
- It is a truly online program for working people

## **Open Discussion**

- Jean stated that we always appreciate expired equipment/supplies from the hospitals.
- Once there is a general consensus on the equipment of choice at the hospitals, we will purchase that model for our lab.
- Multiple students are moving to different areas and states to work such as Orlando, Alabama and Wisconsin.

## **Next steps**

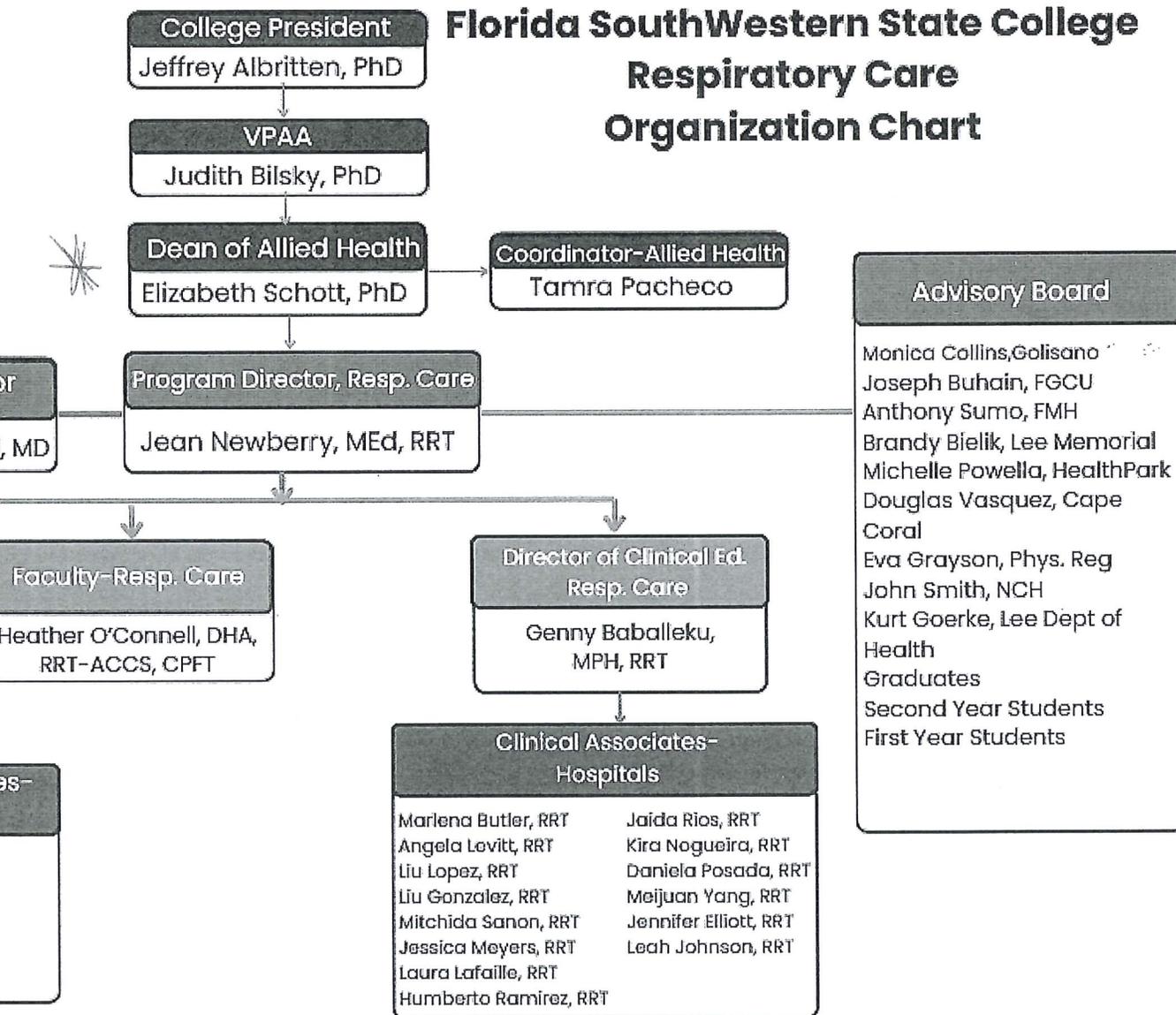
- Jean and Genny to submit the self-study for COARC accreditation next week.
- Jean and Genny to prepare for the COARC site visit, expected in January.
- Jean to submit the yearly Report of Current Status to COARC.
- Genny to revise a preceptor course for clinical associates for hospital staff on how to be a good preceptor for students and new employees.
- Jean to update and revise the bachelor's program courses.
- Jean to work on developing an accredited bachelor's program for respiratory therapy.
- Heather to redesign the critical care course for the next cohort.
- Program to explore adding pharmacology class to the first semester of the program.
- Jean to look into acquiring new equipment such as Hamilton ventilators for the lab.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16

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# Florida SouthWestern State College Respiratory Care Organization Chart



## National Board for Respiratory Care CSE content and section type subscores

	Total	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1TOT	2A	2B	2TOT	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F	3G	3H	3I	T	IG	DM
Mean	73	76	82	76	69	80	80	72	84	75	77	55	70	52	56	56	52	64	78	64	80	65
Mean	72	81	80	73	79	75	79	78	65	75	69	63	56	66	57	47	66	29	74	61	80	62
Mean	101	94	103	104	87	107	101	92	129	100	112	87	125	79	98	119	79	221	105	105	100	105
Mean	73	74	83	77	68	78	80	79	85	81	80	50	69	46	50	54	52	63	77	62	80	64
Mean	73	82	81	74	79	76	78	79	65	74	70	64	58	67	58	49	67	32	76	59	80	64
Mean	100	90	102	104	86	103	103	100	131	109	114	78	119	69	86	110	78	197	101	105	100	100

*Airway clearance*  
*Specialty*  
*goss*  
*High risk*

*Initiated/modify*

### TMC Scores by Content Area

	Total Raw Score	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1TOT	2A	2B	2C	2TOT	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F	3G	3H	3I	3TOT	
Mean	92	140	10	10	12	10	8	50	15	2	3	20	10	5	15	4	18	6	5	4	3	70
Mean	102.3	7.8	7.2	8.8	7.5	5.6	36.9	10.2	1.3	2.0	13.5	7.4	3.7	11.3	2.9	13.3	4.9	4.0	2.8	1.7	52.0	
Mean	92.2	6.4	6.7	7.8	6.5	5.4	32.8	9.8	1.4	2.0	13.2	6.9	2.9	9.8	2.7	12.1	4.0	3.4	2.6	2.0	46.4	
Mean	111%	122%	107%	113%	115%	104%	113%	104%	93%	100%	102%	107%	128%	115%	107%	110%	123%	118%	108%	85%	112%	
Mean	105.6	8.2	7.4	8.8	7.9	5.4	37.7	10.6	1.3	2.2	14.1	7.5	4.0	11.8	3.0	13.8	4.9	4.2	2.9	1.7	53.8	
Mean	98.7	7.0	7.2	8.3	7.0	5.8	35.3	10.4	1.4	2.1	13.9	7.2	3.2	10.5	2.9	12.9	4.3	3.6	2.8	2.1	49.5	
Mean	107%	117%	103%	106%	113%	93%	107%	102%	93%	105%	101%	104%	125%	112%	103%	107%	114%	117%	104%	81%	109%	

*Family/pt education*

## RRT Pass Rates by graduation year

	2024	2023	2022
Graduates	16	13	20
Passed RRT	16	12	20
% Passed RRT	100%	92%	100%
Threshold	0 %	0 %	0 %

2022 - 2024 Avg: 98 %

## Retention Rates by admission cohorts

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Students Enrolled	22	25	25	20
Dropped Out	0	2	4	4
% Retention	100%	92%	84%	80%
Threshold	70 %	70 %	70 %	70 %

2022 - 2024 Avg: 92 %

# Employer Survey Results

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Graduates	16	13	20	15
Employed	16	12	20	14
Surveys Returned	10	11	9	7
Positive Survey Items	10	11	8	7
% Positive Items	100%	100%	89%	100%
Threshold	80%	80%	80%	80%

*all surveys positive*

2022 - 2024 Avg: 97 %

*63% return rate*

# Graduate Survey Results

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Graduates	16	13	20	15
Employed	16	12	20	14
Surveys Returned	9	9	14	10
Positive Survey Items	9	9	14	10
% Positive Items	100%	100%	100%	100%

*all surveys positive*

**FLORIDA**  
**SOUTHWESTERN**  
STATE COLLEGE

*The Graduating Class of 2025  
Cordially invites you to attend the*

*Annual Awards and Pinning Ceremony  
For the  
Associate in Science Degree  
Respiratory Care*

*Thursday, June 19, 2025  
5:30 PM*

*Florida SouthWestern State College  
U-102  
8099 College Parkway  
Fort Myers, Florida*