

Cerritos College CTE Program Report, Spring 2020

Program: Mental Health Worker Program

Division: Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Attached is a copy of the Annual Unit Plan for: Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies

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1. **Objectives: What are the objectives of the program?** To what extent are these objectives being achieved? How satisfied are students with their preparation for employment? How satisfied are employers with the preparation they receive in this program? Does this program contribute to programs in other fields? What plans are in place for improving the program?

The objective of the program is to train students for entry-level jobs in mental health fields such as Psychology, Social Work, and Human Services. The students report being extremely satisfied with their preparation for employment. Many of our students have gained employment in the field; thus, employers are likely satisfied with their level of preparation to have hired them to work for their agency. This program is specifically geared toward Models of Recovery and Psychosocial Rehabilitation; while the focus is on mental health, some of the skills learned in the program can also be used in other healthcare fields.

To improve the program, we have planned to integrate an alumni tracking project in which we reach out to former students and create a database of gained employment, not only to track the success of the program but also to expand our network of agencies that students can work for after the program. In addition, we would like to purchase an electronic health records software and have looked into Welligent as a possibility, which is one of the most frequently used software in the field. In addition, we are looking to possibly add additional classes to add to the curriculum. We keep in contact with local industry partners through our advisory committee meetings and hope to tailor the curriculum to our regional workforce. Also, we hope to customize the curriculum to focus on populations that are most represented in our geographic area served by our industry partners. Although the Mental Health Worker Program also has strong relationships with mental health agencies that are leaders in best practices serving the populations in the region already, we hope to continue to grow and create employment opportunities. Currently, the Mental Health Worker Program executed agreements with the following agencies where students can complete their field experience hours and possibly gain employment, Bridges, Inc., Mental Health America of Los Angeles, Telecare Corporation, View Heights (IMD) Acute Care Unit, Penny Lane, Crittenton Children and Family Services, Project Return Peer Support Network, Exodus Recovery Inc., and PATH. These

opportunities for students continue to make the Mental Health Worker Program one of the most unique in the area for on the job training programs.

2. **Market Data Need: How strong is the demand for graduates of the program?** How has demand changed in the past two years and what is the outlook for the next five years. How many jobs are available regionally in this field? Are other similar programs offered in this region and if so, what is their impact on the job market? How is the job market impacting your program?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of mental health workers is projected to grow 22 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth is expected as people continue to seek help for mental health issues. As of 2018, the state of California is the state with the highest demand for Mental Health workers. According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, there are approximately 14,840 employed as a Mental Health Worker, and the employment rate per thousand is 0.87, earning an annual mean wage of \$61,640. According to the State of California Employment Development Department, there are 29.6% or 4,260 jobs for mental health workers with only a high school diploma or equivalent; Cerritos College is one of the few local community colleges offering a Mental Health Worker Program and can fast-track students to a job in the mental health field by preparing them with entry-level skills. Due to the increased demand for mental health workers and the projected growth of employment in the field, this should increase the demand in the program.

3. **Enrollment/Retention/Placement: What are the trends in student enrollment, success and completion, and placement?** Is there an increase or decline in the last five years? What are the barriers to success and completion? What are placement rates with local employers? What do these data mean for your program?

Enrollment numbers for the *past academic year* is as follows:

- **Summer 2019**
- INST 151 21 students enrolled
- INST 272 13 students enrolled
- **Fall 2019**
- INST 151: 20 students
- INST 152: 21 students
- INST 272: 20 students
- **Spring 2020**
- Offered two INST 151 classes, a total of 37 students
- INST 152: 19 students

- INST 272: 24 students
- Based on the PSYC 273 Field Experience class, program enrollment seems to be growing; this semester, **Psych 273 was completely full with 5 students on the waitlist for Spring 2020**. In the past, we had trouble filling the class; after surveying students this semester, there is already demand for a Fall 2020 course and Spring 2021 course.

Some of the barriers to success and completion that have been identified are the costs associated with obtaining field experience for the PSYC 273 class, including transportation/gas costs, or background check fees associated with field experience. The placement rate for local employers seems to be good; in the state of California, the employment rate per thousand is .87. Some students who have completed the program from the last five years are employed at PATH, Los Angeles Homeless Security Authority (LAHSA), and Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA). With the increased need for mental health workers in the state of California, we expect the demand for the program to continue to rise.