

MEDICAL DATA SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

May 4, 2007 @ 11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Misty Harvey – Chairperson, Katie Goines, Janet Lewis, Richard Fowler, Lonetta Ingram, Lynda McCarty, Toni Emmons

EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT: Judy Massie - Program Director, Pilar Suarez, Kim Crowley

1. Welcome – Ms. Harvey, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and the sites they represent.
3. Minutes – The minutes of the April 21, 2006, meeting were approved as written.
4. Continuing Healthcare Education – Ms. Suarez stated that her department is very interested in setting up workshops to certify coders and CEU workshops for coders/transcriptionists. Ms. Emmons and Ms. Massie will get with Ms. Suarez to talk about this further.
5. Student Representative - Ms. Goines stated that she started the LVN program at South Plains College and decided to change her major. She enjoys the MDS program and how all the classes interconnect. Ms. Goines said that it would be helpful if there were an entry level coding course offered – it is almost impossible to learn the entire coding book in one semester. The transcription courses are difficult but she is glad to be learning transcription. She is excited about going to practicum and feels that she will gain a lot of experience to help her get a job. She plans on applying for a job at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Amarillo.
6. Massie reported that there will be 7 graduates this year. This is the smallest graduating class since Ms. Massie took over the program in 1991. She is not sure but seems to think that the caliber of students changed – they do not want to come to class. Attendance has been a problem. Current students will be finishing up the third week in July. The fall classes seem to be filling up rapidly. Ms. Massie is going to change the attendance policy for the fall. She will enforce a more strict attendance policy starting this fall semester.
7. Other Business – Spellman and Associates have started a 6-month coding class and Ms. Harvey, Mr. Fowler, and Ms. Emmons have talked with graduates and/or proctored their tests and have found that the caliber of graduates from this program are not up to par and are in no way comparable to the graduates of the MDS program.

Coders are not required to be certified, however, most employers will hire them over one that is not certified and pay them a higher salary.

8. Adjournment – Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.