

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

April 20, 2006 @ 3:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Velecia Snyder –Chairperson, David Tedrick, Christy Townsend.

**EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT:** Sheree Talkington, Jennie Sparks, Bill Crawford, Dr. Paul Matney.

1. Welcome – Snyder, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Introductions – Introductions were made around the table.
3. Minutes – The minutes of the January 21, 2005, meeting were approved as written.
4. Continuing Health Care Education – Absent
5. Allied Health & Nursing Counselor – Absent
6. Student Representative Report – The students like the idea of not having to come back in the summer to do clinic rotations. They appreciate Talkington and Sparks very much! The students would like to see some sort of computer course added to the curriculum. Talkington removed the Computer Concepts course from the curriculum this year because she felt it was too in-depth, but will think about recommending students take a CE computer course that are not proficient in computers. The students participated in the Walk-A-Thon this year. Tedrick said that VA Hospital is 100% computerized and it really doesn't take long to train students how to use the automated system.
7. Director's Report - Jennie Sparks has been hired full-time and she is a great educator! Talkington discussed the ACOTE non-compliance issues and hiring Sparks met one standard out of the five of not compliant standards. There are 129 standards that the program must meet. Four of those standards are being worked on right now. Talkington completed two educational courses that helped her a lot with her teaching methods. The curriculum has changed, and Talkington gave everyone a copy of the new one. Talkington attended a WECM Review Workshop where she learned a lot. She also attended a co-board site review in Houston and a Grant Writing Workshop in Lubbock. The program has increased its clinical sites to add: Rehab Works, Rehab Care and Health South. Last summer there were 15 applications, 11 were accepted, and 10 entered the program. There are many, many OTA jobs out there! Currently, there are 40-50 declared OTA majors at AC.
8. Faculty Report - Sparks is enjoying her new position at AC and loves to come to work each day! She and many other new instructors took an Androgogy class at AC last fall. This class is designed to teach instructors to teach adults. Sparks passed her test and is now a licensed COTA in Texas. Sparks will be attending the AOTA Conference in Charlotte, NC. There are currently 8 students in the freshman class and they are all doing very well. There will be some good guest speakers coming in to talk to the students about Pet Therapy, Ethics, etc.
9. Other Business – Talkington would like to increase the size of the advisory committee and will soon be asking other members for recommendations. The committee needs a good balance of OTA's and OT's.
10. Adjournment – Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes were written and submitted by Kim Lacey, Administrative Assistant.

---

