

**Advisory Committee Interview Notes**  
**DENTAL ASSISTANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**March 16, 2011**

The CTECC interviewed Division Dean, Sheryl Berman; Lane Advisory Committee Coordinators and Faculty, Sharon Hagan and Leslie Greer; Community Advisory Committee Chairs, Marquita Corliss RDH LAP with Community Health Centers of Lane County and Dr. Terri Baarstad with Private Dental Practice.

**1) Committee Accomplishments: Meets Expectations**

The members consist of two Dentists, two Dental Assistants, two students, one administrative assistant, and one receptionist. The committee had to catch up and regroup after the tragic death of Chris Tupper. They are in the process of restoring and meeting the needs of community. Members meet once each term. The Committee focuses on what they had been working on, and discusses scholarships. They help students obtain funding, and are instrumental in providing feedback with what skills are most needed most in the industry, including ethics and non-tangibles. Student members are valuable in recommendations, insight, and balance from the student perspective. They select student members by academics and leadership abilities. It's a stable Committee.

The strengths of committee are diversity, perspective, age, manageable group size, focused members, and continuity. The members have been flexible with regrouping after Chris's death. They have strong leadership from their Chair. Meetings revolve around what is working and what may need improvement, and any new issues, such as employment trends.

**2) Committee Involvement in Planning and Design: Excellent**

The committee checks in with what's going right and what needs improvement, and they promote scholarships.

**3) Gender, Disability Adaptation, and Diversity: Meets Expectations**

More men are getting into assisting and 1-3 have recently enrolled. The wage level doesn't attract most men. The close proximity to patiences and dentists may be an intimacy issue for some men.

**4) Program Demand / Enrollment: Excellent**

It is a nine month program, and that's a quick turnaround for a certificate. They see more assistants come back to enroll in Hygiene, and the reverse, as well, with both wanting to increase skills. Professionalism has attracted students to the program. Some students even progress from assisting to hygiene to dentistry.

**5) Placement / Employment: Meets Expectations**

Newly employed students provide practical feedback with what they might need more of. Students come out really well prepared. Employment trends have affected the industry. Dental Assistants have versatile skills to apply in other areas, and 90% of graduates are finding employment. They are anticipating an increase in employment in the near future.

**6) Secondary / Postsecondary Connections: Excellent**

They participate in community events and Lane Preview Night, such as Homeless Connect

**7) Questions for the CTECC Interview Committee:**

**CTECC Comments:**

The CTECC appreciated that they include students on their committee and they have such active members.