Rehabilitation Counseling Program
Advisory Board

November 13, 2015

In Attendance:
Mark Crenshaw, Mike McCord, Tameeka Hunter, Reese Martin, Dale Arnold, Lauri Tuten, Michell Temple, Mackenzie Suttles, Spenser Norris, Regina Finan, Cynthia Woods, Franco Dispenza, Joe Hill, Debbie Berens, Cirleen DeBlaere, Dennis Gilbride

1. Welcome and Introductions
Members of the board introduced themselves. Dale Arnold provided an overview of the new transition initiative in the state and the RSA grant that GVRA received to support transition. The program is called E3 for Explore, Engage and Employ.

2. Update on Current Students (Mackenzie Suttles & Spenser Norris)
Mackenzie reported on the locations and experiences of students current doing internships with 6 being at VR supported by the RSA grants (3 students for each grant)

Spenser provided an overview of the first year students commenting on their diversity on many factors including race, country of origin, disability, and age.

Dale Arnold suggested we have a meeting between GVRA supervisors and Students interested in internships with GVRA during the next academic year beginning in August of 2016. It was decided to have the meeting in early spring, and he agreed to help facilitate that meeting.

3. Review of RSA grants (see attached abstract)
Dennis provided an overview of the new RSA grant and discussed the need for students to do their internships at VR and the payback requirements. Even though the grant wasn’t received until the end of September, 3 students in internship are being supported by the new grant, and 2 other students will be supported this academic year.

4. CORE/CACREP merger
Dennis provided an overview of the implications of the merger that will be finalized in 2017. The Counseling and Psychological Services department already has 3 CACREP accredited programs (mental health, school, and a PhD in Counselor Education and Practice) so the transition will be smooth for the rehabilitation program. Dennis indicated
that a formal letter was send to CORE asking that accreditation be extended from 2017 until 2019 to place the rehabilitation program onto the same cycle as the other CACREP programs in the department. There was a discussion about the possible implication of the merger, and the concern that program and practitioners have about losing their professional identity.

5. Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program in place

Dennis reported that the new 60 credit program is in place, and many of the current 2\textsuperscript{nd} year students opted to switch into the 60 credit program and all of the first year students are in that program.

6. Internship evaluation form and Process (Dr. Dispenza) (see attached outcomes for Spring 2015 semester)

Franco reported on the evaluation process for our interns and reported on the strong results of the evaluation that documents our students’ demonstration of key rehabilitation counseling competencies.

7. Future needs of Georgia Consumers (open Discussion)

There was a discussion on the need for further assistance to students with disabilities that attend college and the importance of having clear career pathways that are related to the labor market.