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 **Clinical Psychology Center**

**Senate Recommendation, 2019**

Summary of Five Year Center Review Report

The Clinical Psychology Center (CPC) at the University of Montana serves as an important clinical training site for school psychology graduate students training in the UM Clinical Psychology program. As a clinical training site, the CPC provides essential community mental health services (e.g., psychotherapy, evaluations, and consultations) to underserved individuals and organizations in the Missoula community. In addition, the CPC is active in interprofessional education and research. The Center has established relationships and program across campus and the state of Montana.

The CPC is poised for growth but is limited by the amount of space available. The CPC could train more psychologists and counselors as well as support more Montanans if funding could be found for a second floor in the CPC building.

Summary of External Review

Dr. Karen Saules, of Eastern Michigan University, served as an external reviewer of the CPC. She conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis in areas such as Center activities, University alignment, academic unit relationship, collaborations, and needs. Dr. Saules noted overall strengths of the program that included a commitment to student training and community mental health support through evidence-based services. She noted that the Center’s important rural outreach efforts are closely aligned with the University outreach and UM Health Medicine missions. Dr. Saules indicated that the program is well aligned to meet the “foundational training that contributes to the success of grant-funded initiatives including the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) and Indians into Psychology programs.” Additionally, she noted the need to support the Center in the planned and philanthropic space and needed technology expansions outlined in the CPC’s report.

Purpose

The purpose of the CPC is to serve as the primary training site for clinical and school psychology graduate students, provide high quality, affordable mental health services, and conduct clinical psychological research.

Objectives

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The objectives of the CPC are to:

(a) Provide a state-of-the-art training location to facilitate the development of (a) strong clinical skills in clinical interviewing, diagnostic assessment, test administration and interpretation, and psychotherapy, and (b) strong professional skills (e.g., documentation, risk-management, ethical practice) for clinical and school psychology graduate students enrolled in clinical and assessment practica. This professional development is fostered in the context of strong supervisory relationships with members of the clinical and school faculty;

(b) Provide high quality, affordable psychological services to individuals, couples, children/families, and groups in Missoula and the surrounding areas, including University of Montana students and staff;

(c) Advance the science of psychology through empirical research;

(d) Disseminate evidence-based, “best practices” information through continuing education programming offered to clinicians and other professionals state-wide; and

(e) Develop consultative relationships with non-profit and governmental agencies within the local community to demonstrate the utility and application of clinical psychology concepts and expertise.

Comments:

In the Five Year Report, CPC identifies how their work aligns with the University of Montana’s Strategic Plan, and particularly in the areas of 1) Partnering for Student Success; (2) Education for the Global Century; (3) Discovery and Creativity to Serve Montana and the World; (4) Dynamic Learning Environment; and (5) Planning-Assessment Continuum.

* Does ECOS/Faculty Senate consider this center controversial?
No.
* Is the relationship with academic units beneficial?
Yes.
* Is the program revenue neutral or does it consume more resources than it generates? If so, is the use of University resources justified?
The program appears to be revenue neutral and is working to secure a Mental Health Center (MHC) designation that will allow the Center to bill insurance, such as Medicaid, for direct mental health services as a way to generate increased income. Moreover, the Center appears to be essential for psychological clinical training and as such the is justified for training and recruitment purposes. Additionally, the research associated with the Center appears to have high potential for external funding that may again help to justify costs. Finally, current philanthropic efforts for space expansion appear to be very successful, which again, increase University prominence, recruitment, and clinical outreach, and research opportunities.
* Is the entity making progress toward objectives?
Yes. The Center is providing high quality evidence-based training, committed to community outreach for underserved populations, and successfully collaborating across university and state entities.

Recommendation:
Continue

Justification: The CPS is providing particularly essential clinical application opportunities to training future psychology health professional while simultaneously providing needed community services to underserved Montana populations. Additionally, the CPC is developing and maintaining successful collaborations that benefit the university and the state including collaborations with the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) and Indians into Psychology programs. Finally, the CPC provides ideal interprofessional opportunities and consequently benefits faculty and students at the University of Montana, supports state health professions, and directly helps those in need of essential community mental health services.