

## AY20 Expedited Program Review – Optional Program Response to the Dean’s Findings Form

Date: February 26, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Patricia Sandberg, Professor  
Hattie Harvey, Associate Professor  
Eric Murphy, Professor, Director, Department of Psychology

Cc: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Mary Dallas Allen, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review: Optional Program Response to Dean’s Recommendation

**Program/s in this review:** Children’s Mental Health Graduate Certificate (CMH GCRT)

### Program response to dean’s findings:

To reiterate from the EPR, the Children’s Mental Health Graduate Certificate (CMH GCRT) is a unique interdisciplinary post-graduate training designed to contribute to children’s behavioral and mental health workforce needs. It fulfill UAA’s mission to serve the higher education needs of our state. There are a number of reasons to consider continuation, which currently relies on collaboration between COH School of Social Work and CAS Psychology Department. This response to the Dean’s findings addresses key considerations including (1) identified workforce need, (2) program revisions and FY21 plans for expansion, and (3) financial considerations.

### Identified Workforce Need

- The State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority recently stated a mental health workforce shortage, "Alaska has a known workforce shortage across many health- and behavioral health-related disciplines. Without a capable and competent workforce, the continuum of services and care is at risk of not being able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Alaskans," (DHSS, 2020, p. 46). The plan identifies nine goals, which include explicit objectives related to strengthening the mental health workforce capacity including a specific focus on reducing the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).
- The *Alaska Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Workforce Subcommittee*, comprised of Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Infant Mental Health Association, Thread Alaska, State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, All Alaska Pediatrics, and UAA Psychology faculty member Dr. Harvey) is in the process of creating a workforce plan which includes identifying training opportunities and possible expansion of CMH-GCRT to help fulfill this workforce need. This has great potential for increasing enrollment of the CMH-GCRT program with estimates of 2-3 additional students per year.

### Curriculum and Program Revisions, FY21 Plans for Expansion

- The CMH GCRT curriculum underwent a curriculum revision in FY20 with planned implementation in Fall 2020. Primary curriculum changes included a new course development

(Advanced Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health) and course revision of PSY A638 (Child Clinical Psychology) to reflect the community demand for infant/early childhood mental health post-secondary training, which was a coordinated effort with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services Infant Learning Program and the Alaska Association of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. **Currently there are no other programs in the UA system offering a selective focus on infant and early childhood mental health at the graduate level.**

- The curriculum revision also includes adding an elective graduate coursework in PSY 600 in Applied Behavior Analysis to complement the interdisciplinary approach to service delivery, and to utilize existing courses (this course will be a required course for the MS in Clinical Psychology – Behavior Analysis track).
- The Dean’s response states, “the two program-specific courses (PSY A677 and A691) are not required for the masters degrees in Psychology, Special Education, or Social Work”. In the curriculum revision, PSY A677 will no longer be offered as the content is integrated into PSY A677. This leaves one required program specific course which costs are covered by the CMH funds during the summer (see financial considerations below for more information on this).
- Dr. Harvey, CMH committee member, recently coordinated with the Masters of Public Health (MPH) program in the COH to offer the CMH-GCRT as an optional focus area for the MPH students to satisfy their 9-electives and for those interested in children’s mental health. Reference to MPH students were also included in the catalog revisions for FY21. This has potential to increase enrollment, with estimates likely 1-2 students per year.
- Dr. Harvey also received an INNOVTE Grant to support application for a federal grant in FY21 entitled, *Project SAID-TIP: Serving Alaska’s Infant and Toddlers with Disabilities through Trauma-Informed Practices*, with coordination from Social Work, Special Education, and possibly Speech-language Pathology with the purpose of supporting interprofessional experiences targeting infant/early childhood mental health. The CMH-GCRT would be an integral platform for the coursework and programming, and potential scholars of this project would require enrollment in the CMH-GCRT. This has the potential to increase enrollment, with estimates of 4-6 students per year.
- The CMH committee, comprising of Dr. Sandberg (Psychology), Dr. Allen (Social Work), and Dr. Harvey (Psychology) is collectively proposing a change in coordinator to Dr. Harvey for FY21 to leave the expansion of the program, including key coordinated efforts across UAA programming and response to state/community agencies. The Dean’s recommendation to move ALL administrative and instructional costs to COH would compromise the interdisciplinary collaboration and mission of the program (see details in financial considerations below).

### Financial Considerations

**The Dean’s response fails to address some key financial considerations in the delivery of the CMH-GRCT program and his recommendation to move ALL administrative and instructional costs to COH would compromise the interdisciplinary collaboration and mission of the program.**

- The existing annually allocated funds (\$50,000) for the Children’s Mental Health minor and Graduate Certificate are already 100% housed in the COH. Per a Memorandum of Agreement (last signed August 29, 2019), COH then allocates to CAS \$33,617.00 to support departmental responsibilities and cover all associated instructional costs for **both** the minor and graduate certificate. This includes service unit credits, summer adjunct salaries, and adjunct salaries for up to 2 courses during the academic year. **Costs associated with this program are not coming from the CAS general funds.** Dean Petraitis states, “it is hard to justify spreading the key faculty member in this program as far as we do when the program attracts only 4 students per year and graduates only 2 per year.” However, for FY20 the CMH coordinator, Dr. Sandberg, received 2-

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service credits for coordination and intends to teaching two CMH courses in summer 2020 (PSY A677, PSY A638). This did not detract from her responsibility of teaching in the Psychology Department during the fall or spring semesters (she taught four courses per semester required for psychology program degrees). Thus in contradiction to the dean’s statement, the CMH program coordinator housed in CAS was still able to contribute 100% of her teaching to the Psychology Department.

- If ALL administrative and instructional costs are to be covered by COH without allocating funds to CAS for program coordination or some shared instructional costs, then the plans for transferring program coordination responsibilities to Dr. Harvey, a psychology faculty member, for FY21 would be compromised.

In summary, there are numerous coordinated efforts underway to address state/community workforce needs, increase enrollment, and collaborate among UA programs. It is recommended from the CMH committee to continue having COH be the recipient of the allocated funds and allowing for an annual MOA based on anticipated instructional and service responsibilities with can be shared between COH and CAS. Dean Petraitis recommended this program be in the **REVISION** category and that “responsibility for the instruction and administration of this program be shifted to the College of Health...if that College is not willing to accept it, I recommend that it be deleted.” The College of Health already receives all funds associated with the CMH and the program is coordinated in CAS using funds from COH. The committee members and authors of this report recommend the CMH- GCRT be in the category of **CONTINUATION**.