DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Department of Counseling and Special Populations prepares students to become highly skilled, culturally competent, ethical professionals who enhance human development in a dynamic, global community. The Department provides specific educational preparation for careers in counseling, special education, and English as a second language.

PROFILE

The clinical mental health counseling master’s degree program is offered via online or on campus delivery. For 2014, the department faculty in CMHC grew significantly. We added a new faculty line for Distance Clinical Professors. Drs. Brande Flamez and Melissa Wheeler joined the team in late 2014 and work from their home locations. Our full time faculty team for 2014 included: Deidra Byas, Randy Davis, Brande Flamez, Pam Monk (VME), Wendy Greenidge, Mohammad Hamza (appointment in Special Education and Counseling), Dilani Perera, Donna Sheperis, Carl Sheperis, Joy Snook, and Melissa Wheeler.

Our staff consisted of a coordinator of assessment and a senior administrative associate. In 2014, the department employed 15 field supervisors (Betsy Tucker, Deb Tidwell, Sandy Rucker, Robika Mylroie, Kim Arrington, Patrick Milmore, Louis Lacourt, Rachael Owens, Peter Formica, and Annelise Vela) and 25 adjunct faculty members (Candice Ashley, Dean Aslinia, Surinder Bal, Mary Bartlett, Christine Bellaire, Sacky Holdiness, Capri Brooks, Brian Canfield, Wendy Killam, Jonathan Proctor, Sue Sadik, Dawn Hudak, Rick Balkin, Cindy Fussell, Sarah Becerra, Yulia Pronchenko, Shin-Hwa Lee, Robika Mylroie, Bipin Sharma, Stacey Calloway, Lisa Toole, and Cindy Fussell).

The CMHC degree programs showed positive growth in 2014. Table 1 demonstrates the number of majors by their degree plan for both online and on campus programs.

Table 1 Enrollment 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CY2014 Enrolled by Program</th>
<th>Prog #</th>
<th>Prog %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Headcount</td>
<td>% Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus CMHC</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus all MEd, Pre and Post MDGC, PMDC</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online MEd Comm Mntl Health (AMHC, PAMH)</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>11.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online MEd School Counselor (AMSC, PASC)</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>82.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Cert Sch Coun (AMCE)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Counseling</strong></td>
<td><strong>2204</strong></td>
<td><strong>90.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT**

This report is organized in the following manner: Productivity and Progress of the CMHC program, Areas of Concern, Goal Accomplishments, and Goals for 2015

**PRODUCTIVITY AND PROGRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**Accreditations:**

The COSP Department led the process to report learning outcomes for both SACS and NCATE. Our model for collecting outcome data has now been adopted by other units in the college. This is the third year that an annual report is required for this department. A review of the previous two reports indicates that we are continually improving on the outcomes we generate. In addition to our annual report, we also completed the self-study for CACREP accreditation for the CMHC program. This process involved an in-depth program evaluation at every level.

**Student Measures of Success:**

I. According to institutional data, the CMHC program had 3 **graduate students** who received a degree during 2014 (0 in 2013). Table 5 contains the degrees awarded by discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Table 5 Number of Graduates by Program</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMHC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Faculty Success:**

During 2014, the CMHC faculty was actively involved in scholarship and research activities. Faculty members published 24 manuscripts. The faculty members collaborated on 118 presentations with 17 of those being international. Six faculty members had grant proposals that were funded for a total of $584,950.

1. **Grants**
Unzer-Smith, S., Davis, R. J., & Sheperis, C. J. (2014). Faculty eCommons Research Grant Program, Academic Partnerships ($4,950). "SMART Feedback application: The much needed tool for revolutionizing the assessment of students' online discussion participation."

Smith, S., Davis, R. J. & Sheperis, C. J. (2014). Received Faculty eCommons Research Grant Program, Academic Partnerships ($5,000), 2014 For the project titled, "SMART Feedback application: The much needed tool for revolutionizing the assessment of students' online discussion participation."


Total Grant Dollars (2014) $ 584,950

2. Publications


**Total Publications 7**

### 3. Presentations


Hamza, M. H. (2014) Southeast Texas Psychological Association: Media Bias and Its Impact on Arab And Muslim Children’s Psyches Based on a Decade of Research and Explorations.


Hamza, M. H. (2014) Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Amman, Jordan. Lectures were awarded a plaque by the university.

1. Autism: Diagnosis & Treatment 2. ADHD: Diagnosis & Treatment


**Total Professional Presentations 32**

**4. Awards**

Total International Awards 0

**Facilities:**

In 2014, we renovated our department office in room 101A. We also added renovations to room 115 COEHHD to further develop the department operated clinic. Our faculty members primarily schedule classes in the College of Education and Human Development but do teach in other
building when space issues are present. Our graduate classes are held after 5pm M-TH. During 2014, we utilized 17 faculty offices.

Curriculum:

Dr. RJ Davis coordinated clinical mental health counseling in 2014. He lead the CMHC team in promoting curriculum discussion and resolving issues. He was also responsible for advising within their curriculum.

In 2014 we developed 12 online courses that met Quality Matters standards and revised 12 online courses that met QM standards.

COSP launched the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (60 Credit) program in June, 2013. The student enrollment grew to over 200 students in 2014.

Development and Outreach:

• The CMHC program participated in the spring 2014 Open House and the Fall 2014 Open House.
• CMHC advertised in various outlets including the University newspaper and in conference proceedings.
• We established a range of internship sites in our counseling programs.
• Established Memorandums of Understanding with clinical sites throughout Texas and across the United States.
• Continued to increase our working relationship with Pearson Education to offer students a digital library for all courses.

Administrative Support Personnel:

We have two staff positions. Rhonda Marcontell was hired in August 2011 for the senior administrative associate position. She has been with Lamar since 2001. Rhonda was promoted to Coordinator of Assessment and Field Experience for COSP in the fall of 2013. She has proven to be very efficient, effective, and customer friendly and has the full support of our faculty. She has easily learned new software and the way Lamar functions. She has already made a positive contribution to our department.

Marian Rodriguez was hired in Fall of 2013 as the Administrative Associate Sr. Marian has done an effective job of learning the university system and has made a positive impact on the faculty, students, and overall department operations.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

We implemented the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in June, 2013 and other programs started in January, 2014. As the current programs grow and we add other programs,
there will be a clear need to also add to the number of faculty lines and support staff. Because we have developed a formula for adding faculty, we hope to be able to do so effectively with the incoming Provost. In order to meet national accreditation standards, we will need to continue to add faculty lines per number of student enrollments. The recommended FTE for CACREP is 10:1. As initial enrollments grow, we will need to add faculty lines in each program area. We will also need to add a number of adjunct positions to manage the growing number of students.

The most pressing area of concern is the operating budget for the department. We have added grown considerably with regard to faculty members and students since 2012. However, we have not increased our operating budget. In order for the department to operate effectively, As a Carnegie institution, professional presentations are an integral aspect of professional development. We ask that the efforts be supported with increased budgetary allocations. We have begun the process of engaging in external partnerships to arrive at a sustainability plan. We anticipate launching external partnership operations in Spring 2015.

In addition to faculty and administrative lines, we believe that more comprehensive curriculum development support should also be available. At present, faculty members develop courses with little to no oversight/editorial support. In order to follow best practices in curriculum development, additional support personnel are necessary. We believe that additional course development personnel are needed to adequately support the program development process.

In reviewing operation for other departments in the college, it appears that a number of student workers and graduate assistants are allocated to those areas. It would be useful to have a formula for how those resources are allocated. At present we have two graduate assistant lines and no undergraduate student workers although we have nearly 1800 students in the department. It is important to note that we have projected large growth in enrollment for 2015/2016. Once we launch the doctoral program in 2016, we will require additional graduate assistantships.

In addition to budget for faculty travel, we believe that marketing is an essential element in our success as a department. We are concerned about the marketing practices with Academic Partnerships and would like additional resources dedicated to marketing through the University. We hope that the University will investigate the marketing strategy for graduate programs and add additional marketing to the current effort.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 2014 GOALS:

2014 GOALS:

CMHC met or exceeded all goals for 2014.

- To submit accreditation self-study for the 60 hour clinical mental health counseling program
  - Submitted in November, 2014
• Develop a series of video advertisements through campus video
  o In Progress. We recorded several faculty videos for marketing purposes and will begin to develop advertising videos for the website with the Lamar public relations staff.

• To grow the scope of the Cardinal Community Clinic
  This center is pivotal in our efforts to be more productive in research and allows for collaboration both within our department and across campus. We are working to develop partnerships to further develop the physical presence of this Center.
  o Clinic is seeing over 100 sessions per month. We are working to develop a plan for a larger behavioral healthcare center in 2015. We submitted a funding request (pending) to the Meadows Foundation

• To increase publications across faculty members within the department and to increase publications in higher tier journals.
  o We have seen an overall increase in faculty publications. We are continuing to produce a large number of high quality scholarly works.

• To have greater student involvement on faculty research projects and to get more students to attend (perhaps present) at state, regional, and national conferences.
  o 6 students presented with faculty members in 2014.

• To develop a comprehensive student portfolio that can be used for assessment through TK20
  o We have developed the portfolio and have data collected in TK20. We were able to provide data from the portfolios as exemplars for NCATE and for the CACREP self study.
2015 GOALS

1. To obtain CACREP accreditation for the 60 hour clinical mental health counseling program
2. To Advance Marketing of the CMHC programs
3. To grow the scope of the Cardinal Community Clinic
4. To increase publications across faculty members within the department and to increase publications in higher tier journals.
5. To increase grants awarded to CMHC Faculty Members
6. To have greater student involvement on faculty research projects and to get more students to attend (perhaps present) at state, regional, and national conferences.
7. To improve the assessment system through TK20
8. To develop partnerships with outside entities
9. To generate projects toward sustainability for CMHC
10. To maintain or increase student success rates
11. To increase student retention