

October 9, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs

From: Molly Corbett Broad

Subject: **Establishment of the Center for Health and Human Services at Appalachian State University**

**Request to Establish**

In July 2003, Appalachian State University received authorization to plan the Center for Health and Human Services (CH&HS). The planning is now complete, and Appalachian State University has submitted a request to establish this unit as an institutional research center. The following sections briefly summarize the information provided by Appalachian State University to satisfy Chapter 1200.6[R] in the *University of North Carolina Policy Manual*.

**Goals and Objectives**

Through previously established community partnerships, CH&HS will greatly expand the opportunities for students and faculty at ASU to engage in health and human services research, training, and clinical opportunities. The Center will provide a mechanism and structure through which community partners can access the university's extensive expertise and resources in order to address health care issues within their communities.

Specifically the Center will provide:

- Heightened visibility of and increased coordination among ASU's programmatic offerings in professional fields related to health and human services.
- Enhanced undergraduate and graduate research, educational, and internship opportunities related to provision and management of health and human services.
- Advancement of knowledge through research and thereby improved clinical practices throughout the region.
- Increased research, training, and service collaboration with other institutions and community partners.
- Improved access to specialized services for clients and providers through creation of multi-specialty technical assistance and training networks utilizing extensive faculty expertise.

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**Relevance to Institutional Mission; Relationship with Existing Academic Units**

The Center complements the more than 20 programs in all five colleges that hold health and human services as part of their missions. CH&HS will serve as a prototype for collaboration on planning and service activities by university and community partners with common and complementary interests. Through partnership with community colleges, providers, and practitioners at the service level, the CH&HS is positioned to identify changing patterns in health care preferences and then to reflect these changes through modification of current programs and services or through development of new ones in collaboration with community partners. The center will provide opportunities for increased multidisciplinary education and research collaboration in health areas, with enhanced prospects for generating resources through grants and services.

**Anticipated Effects on Instructional Programs**

CH&HS will offer no degree programs or faculty appointments. The Center will highlight the opportunities that ASU provides for students to prepare for professional positions in these health fields which are in high demand. In addition, CH&HS will enhance research, instructional, and service opportunities in all colleges at ASU.

**Administrative Structure**

The Center will be led by Co-directors, Dr. John Turner and Dr. Arthur Robarge. Dr. Turner is director of ASU's Social Work program and is intimately familiar with the institution's programs pertinent to health and human services. Dr. Robarge is an adjunct faculty member in the College of Education, director of the Consortium for Development of Community Supports for Persons with Disabilities (a joint venture of ASU and WCU) and director of the Western Carolina Center in Morgantown, N.C. He brings to the position an ability to assist the CH&HS in establishing an extensive network of community contacts.

The Center will be staffed by one faculty member serving a .5 FTE as a student advising/internship coordinator and three faculty members serving terms of .25 FTE reassigned time as unit coordinators of training/certificate programs, contract/grants, and clinical services. These Provost-appointed terms will be three years long and renewable.

The directors will have primary administrative responsibility and report directly to the Provost. The Center's operations and policies will be guided by three advisory committees. The Policy Advisory Council, consisting of the five deans from the academic colleges/schools and the Graduate School, will be chaired by the Provost.

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This committee has no direct authority, but provides counsel on policies and activities related to collaborative efforts and communications. The Program Advisory Committee will consist of three CH&HS area coordinators and representatives of participating ASU programs and will be chaired by the co-directors. In addition, an External Advisory Committee will be chaired by the Center's directors and include CH&HS area coordinators and community partner representatives.

**Budget and Anticipated Sources of Funding**

It is anticipated that the Center will be largely self-sufficient, with revenue generated from grants, service and training fees, and collaborative activities. The total budget for the Center will gradually increase over the first four years from \$135,000 to \$157,000, including support for personnel, direct support to faculty, and operating expenses. Initial funding has been secured through internal reallocation by the Office of Academic Affairs, and ongoing funding has been set as a priority by this Office if necessary.

**Space and Capital Needs**

No capital needs are projected and the CH&HS will operate from existing space in the department of the directors.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that Appalachian State University be authorized to establish the Center for Health and Human Services.