**Executive Summary of Program Assessment**

*The summary should be no more than three pages.*

**Campus:** St. Louis

**College or School:** Arts and Sciences

***(If applicable)***

**Academic Unit:** Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (CASGSL)

**Date Submitted:** 6/25/2012

**Person(s) Responsible for Success of Program:** Jerry Dunn, Ph.D., Academic Director

**Submitted by:** Pat Dolan, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Degree Programs Reviewed:** n/a

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree (e.g., BS, MA, PhD)** | **Program** | **Enrollment** | **Number of Degrees Awarded** |
| **Most Recent Fall Semester****(*provide year*)** | **5-Year Fall Semester Average** | **Most Recent Academic Year****(*provide year*)** | **5-Year Average** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Changes Since Last Review**

Describe any significant changes that have occurred in the program since last review (or in past five years).

Since the 2007 Academic Program Review, Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (CASGSL) has made the following significant changes:

1. **Developed initial coursework for Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) certificate.**  CASGSL faculty developed and offered three new courses in the CAST curriculum: a) Traumatic Stress in Childhood and Adolescence b) Child Maltreatment: A Multidisciplinary Approach and c) Forensic Investigations in Child Abuse and Neglect. In the brief two and a half year period since CASGSL began offering courses, a total of 229 students have enrolled in CAST courses.
2. **Increased local civic engagement and interdisciplinary clinical training opportunities through capacity building efforts.** In the past five years CASGSL has more than tripled its clinical and forensic capacity by conducting over 600 forensic interviews and over 6000 counseling sessions annually for underserved child trauma victims. This capacity has significantly increased the number of training opportunities available for undergraduate and graduate students in multiple disciplines.
3. **Increased regional civic engagement through training efforts.**  CASGSL’s training division, Missouri Academy for Child Trauma Studies (MoACTS) leveraged its training expertise in child trauma evidence based treatments to secure training contracts. These contracts enabled the team to bring training in Trauma Focused CBT to over 300 clinicians throughout the state.
4. **Secured two additional non-tenure track faculty appointments** including a Clinical Assistant Professor and a Research Assistant Professor. These non-tenure track lines were funded through CASGSL grants and contracts.
5. **Diversified revenue streams available to fund Center activities** through increased contracts, grants and donations. CASGSL reconfigured its Development Advisory Board into a Leadership Council. Active recruiting is helping increase the number of members committed to making a leadership gift and commitment each year.
6. **Increased research opportunities for staff and students**.CASGSL staff completed an implementation demonstration project begun in 2007. The Center is now in the third year of a five year violence prevention grant sponsored by CDC in collaboration with the George Warren Brown (GWB) School of Social Work at Washington University.
7. **Focused on outreach efforts on implementing school and community based trauma informed curricula.** CASGSL developed school based programming and conducts groups and individual treatment at several schools in the St. Louis metropolitan area
8. **Created and filled additional administrative positions to maintain the Center’s sustainability**. Specifically, CASGSL hired a Clinical Manager, a Forensic Operations Manager and a Business/Fiscal Coordinator to assist the Executive Director with implementing the Center’s service and instruction mission.

**Strategies or Plans for Improving Program**

Describe steps, taken and planned, for ways to improve program or to adopt novel approaches. If reallocating resources or program emphasis, describe what steps are being taken to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised.

1. **Prioritize the approval process for the CAST certification and minor** CASGSL staff will be attending the inaugural Credentialing Summit for Child Advocacy Studies programs sponsored by the National Child Protection Training Center in July, 2012. Based on the information gleaned at that meeting, CASGSL will focus efforts on completing the CAST curriculum in accordance with the new credentialing guidelines. CASGSL will consider developing at least one course designed to meet General Education requirements and seek approval for the undergraduate certificate program and the minor.
2. **Build interdisciplinary training opportunities by strengthening relationships and collaborations among departments**

CASGSL will focus collaboration efforts on departments who educate students who will later work in child serving sectors (e.g. Social Work, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Counseling). CASGSL engage these partners by sponsoring cross discipline curriculum building activities, cross listing courses, coordinating guest lectures on appropriate topics and communicating about field placement opportunities.

1. **Integrate clinical and forensic services and training opportunities available at the Kirkwood properties**

Expanding to the two properties in Kirkwood will yield several strategic advantages for CASGSL. By expanding forensic and clinical capacity, the University’s civic engagement “footprint” will increase in previously underserved areas of the metropolitan region. This additional service capacity will generate a greater number of pre-service training opportunities and field placements for UM-St. Louis students. Finally, the residential architecture of the small Kirkwood property lends itself to creating a “mock house” which will simulate for students the experience of entering a house and engaging with a family who is the focus of a child abuse investigation. This will allow a truly unique setting for field work.

1. **Develop research opportunities**

CASGSL will continue to aggressively seek research collaborations within and outside of campus. The department has requested a tenure track faculty line for a child trauma researcher who will be housed at CASGSL to promote its research potential. Likewise, CASGSL will explore possibilities about how to package its pre-existing data for other researchers

1. **Define Center’s position within the UM-St. Louis Campus and the UM System**

CASGSL will initiate discussions within and outside of the Department of Psychology to discern how to best position the Center so it can leverage its unique strengths in order to align most effectively with the University’s mission. CASGSL’s strategic plan will reflect these discussions.

1. **Create and implement Strategic Communication plan for Center’s work**

CASGSL will highlight the Center’s work and communicate it within and beyond the campus community through updating its website, print materials and social media platforms.

1. **Design strategies to increase staff satisfaction and retention.**

CASGSL will redesign its staff and faculty development and evaluation processes being mindful of the necessity to address the secondary traumatic stress and compassion fatigue risks associated with working with child trauma victims on a daily basis.