



2009 Forum on Campus Mental Health

BAZELON CENTER MODEL POLICY ANALYSIS

University or College Name _____

Contact Person _____ Phone () _____

Instructions: Using the Bazelon's Model Policy document, fill in the chart below. Indicate whether your campus is currently, (1) implementing the policy item, (2) has not yet implemented or (3) plans to implement a similar service in the next academic year; space has been left for comments. The end result should be a preliminary plan for implementing a multi-disciplinary approach for addressing behavioral health needs of the campus community. The Western Interstate Conference on Higher Education (WICHE) will post the results from today's analysis and requests that institutions provide updates annually.

Guiding Principles

The first item will be universally accepted by all institutions in Colorado:

1. **[Name of Institution] is committed to the success of all students, including those with depression or other mental health conditions.**
2. [College/University] will: acknowledge but not stigmatize mental health problems; make suicide prevention a priority; encourage students to seek help or treatment that they may need; ensure that personal information is kept confidential; allow students to continue their education as normally as possible by making reasonable accommodations; and refrain from discrimination against students with mental illnesses, including punitive actions towards those in crisis.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

Counseling and Mental Health Services

3. Students are encouraged to seek counseling and mental health treatment through campus services or other available avenues.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

4. Counseling services and mental health treatment are available to members of the campus community affected by a student's depression or other mental health condition as well as to the student.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



5. Peer-run groups are available on campus to support students with depression or other mental health conditions.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

6. Emergency psychiatric services are available to students at all times.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

7. Counseling and mental health treatment provided by [college/university] will be based on the student's preferences, strengths and needs.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

8. All services are provided on a voluntary basis and it remains the student's decision whether or not to seek services.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

9. [College/University] will refer a student to the counseling center when it learns that: a) the student exhibits academic, behavioral or other difficulties that appear to be due to depression or another mental health condition, or b) the student has made a suicidal gesture or is known to have contemplated suicide.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

10. If a referred student does not seek services through the counseling center or another service provider, the counseling center will make individualized efforts, including direct outreach, to encourage the student to access services.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

11. In the event a student is hospitalized, the counseling center, if requested by the student, will work with the student and the hospital as part of the hospital treatment team to, among other things, ensure appropriate aftercare planning.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



Confidentiality

12. Counseling and mental health services are confidential. The counseling center will not share information about a student with faculty, staff, administrators or others unless the student consents.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

13. The student, not [college/university], is the client of the counseling center.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

14. As appropriate, the counseling center may encourage the student to consent to sharing information with the student’s family or others.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

15. As permitted by law, the counseling center may disclose information about a student to the extent needed to protect the student or others from a serious and imminent threat to safety, for example, by making disclosures to crisis intervention or emergency personnel. Disclosures are permitted only if the student will not consent to interventions that will ameliorate the risk.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

16. When a student enrolls, and when a student becomes a client of the counseling center, the student will be asked whom, if anyone, the student wants contacted in case of a psychiatric emergency (e.g., family member, friend, clergy). This information will be on file at the counseling center only. Students will be encouraged to update this information.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

Accommodations

17. [College/University] will reasonably accommodate students with depression or another mental health condition. Accommodations will be designated to enable the student to remain in school, meet academic standards and maintain normal social relationships.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



18. The following accommodations will be provided if needed to enable a student to remain in or return to school, meet academic standards or maintain normal social relationships: allowing the student to take a reduced course load or complete alternative assignments; allowing the student to postpone assignments and exams; allowing the student to work from home; allowing the student to drop courses; allowing the student to change roommates or rooms; allowing guests to stay in the student’s room; retrospective withdrawals from courses if academic difficulties were due to depression or another mental health condition.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

19. Requests for accommodation need not be made in any particular form or in writing. A student will be considered to have requested an accommodation when the student; asks for a particular accommodation or asks [college/university], the disability services center or the counseling center to help the student devise an accommodation.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

20. The counseling center will help identify and secure needed accommodations, with the student’s consent.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

21. Absences for treatment, including hospitalization, will be considered excused absences. Students will not automatically receive a failing grade or otherwise be sanctioned for missing classes due to depression or another mental health condition.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

22. When a student takes a leave, the student will be permitted, for each class in which he/she is enrolled, to withdraw from the class or postpone assignments and exams.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

23. The student need not have disclosed his/her condition prior to requesting an accommodation, including a leave of absence. [College/University] may not deny an accommodation on the ground that the student failed to previously disclose his/her condition.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



Leaves of Absence

24. Students are permitted to take voluntary leaves of absence for mental health reasons.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

25. If a student so requests, the counseling center will help the student decide whether to take a leave of absence and, as appropriate, help the student secure a leave.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

26. A student on voluntary leave may maintain contact with, and may visit, campus friends and teaching, residence, counseling and administrative staff. The student may also attend campus events.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

27. In the uncommon circumstance that a student cannot safely remain at [college/university] or meet academic standards even with a accommodations and other supports, [college/university] may require the student to take a leave of absence.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

28. Decisions whether to impose an involuntary leave will be made by a committee that includes the director of the counseling center.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

29. The committee may impose an involuntary leave for safety reasons if it finds, after an individualized assessment, that there is a significant risk that the student will harm him/herself or another, and that the risk cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through accommodations.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



30. In making its decision, the committee will; consider whether there are accommodations that would allow the student to meet academic standards and remain safely in school and, if safety is an issue, consider the nature and severity of the risk, the probability that injury will actually occur, and whether accommodations can sufficiently mitigate the risk.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

31. Before making its decision, the committee must: notify the student that the committee is considering imposing an involuntary leave and the basis for the committee’s belief that the student may need to be placed on involuntary leave, and provide the student and his/her representative the opportunity to appear personally before the committee and provide relevant information.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

32. The committee may inquire into a student’s current condition, including requesting recent mental health information and records, but must confine its inquiry to information and records necessary to make a determination. The committee may not insist on unlimited access to confidential information or records.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

33. If the committee imposes an involuntary leave because there is a significant risk that the student will harm another if he/she remains on campus, the committee may restrict the student’s interactions with the campus community during the period of the leave as needed to ensure safety. Such restrictions may include limits on the student’s communications with faculty, staff, or other students and on the student’s access to the campus, for example to visit friends or attend campus events.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

34. The same arrangements for refunds of tuition or other costs will be available to a student who takes a leave of absence for mental health reasons, whether voluntary or involuntary, as are available for a student who takes a leave of absence for physical health reasons.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

35. A student on leave, whether voluntary or involuntary, may request at any time to return to [college/university] as a student.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



36. If [college/university] requires students on leave for medical reasons to demonstrate that they are fit to return, the college may require such a demonstration from a returning student on leave for mental health reasons. An opinion from the student’s treating mental health professional that the student is fit to return should, in most cases, be sufficient to allow the student to return. In exceptional cases, [college/university] may seek a second opinion.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

37. In evaluating a student’s request to return, [college/university] will follow the process described in paragraphs 30-32. A student’s request to return may be denied only if the committee finds that the student will not be able, upon return, to meet academic standards or be safely at the school even with accommodations.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

38. A student who desires to return to school after taking a leave of absence for mental health reasons will not be subject to more rigorous standards or procedures than a student to desires to return to school after taking a leave for physical health reasons.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

Alternative Housing While Enrolled

39. In the uncommon circumstance that a student does not meet the standard for imposition of involuntary leave but cannot safely remain in [college/university] housing even with accommodations; [college/university] may require the student to live in housing other than [college/university] housing while enrolled.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

40. Decisions whether to require a student to leave [college/university] housing will be made by the committee identified in paragraph 28 according to the process described in paragraphs 30-32.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

41. The committee may, in addition, restrict the student’s entering [college/university] housing- for example, to visit friends- as needed to prevent a significant risk that the student will harm himself or others.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



42. The student may continue to attend classes, extracurricular activities and campus events; maintain normal contact with teaching, administrative and other staff; and otherwise visit friends on campus.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

Disciplinary Action

43. Disciplinary action will not be used as a pretext for discrimination.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

44. Self-injurious behavior will not be addressed through the disciplinary system. [College/University] will not bring disciplinary action against a student for suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts, or self-injury, including self-cutting.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

45. Students charged with offenses will be afforded the following accommodations: if the student takes a voluntary leave for mental health reasons, disciplinary proceedings will be stayed until the student returns; if [college/university] is considering whether to require the student to take an involuntary leave or to leave [college/university] housing, disciplinary proceedings will be stayed while the decision is being made; if a student is placed on involuntary leave, the stay will continue until the student returns; if the student is required to leave [college/university] housing, the stay will continue until that restriction is lifted.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

46. Disciplinary action should be avoided, and disciplinary sentences mitigated, when the offense was the product of depression or other mental health condition. This is especially true when, as a result of treatment or other interventions, the student is likely to comply with the code of conduct in the future.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By



Education and Training

47. [College/University] provides education and training so that students, resident advisors, campus police, and teaching, administrative and other staff: are familiar with signs of mental illness, depression, self harm and suicide risk; understand and know how to access the range of supports available to students, including peer-run groups, counseling services and accommodations; know what emergency procedures to follow in a crisis.

Already Implemented	Not Yet Implemented	Implement By

Additional Implementation Items

Please use this section to list any suggestions or action items your institution may implement based on speaker presentations or panel discussions.

Items from Mental Health Sessions

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Items from Service Member Sessions

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____