

DATE: August 17, 2017

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Brenda Hanson
Dean of Student Affairs, FVCC

RE: Summary of Activities in Support of the Recommendations from the Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health Task Force

- FVCC continues to employ a full-time 1.0 FTE licensed clinical professional counselor who provides free counseling services to students on a walk-in basis or by appointment. (Recommendation 1)
- The College's Counselor and the Director of Residence Life are both certified QPR Gatekeeper Instructors. As of August 2017, the college's behavior intervention team (FVCC BIT), resident assistant staff (RAs), and TRIO mentors have received QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Training. The Student Support Center which includes academic advisors, disability services, adult education, career placement, and TRIO SSS program are scheduled to receive QPR training in October 2017. (Recommendation 2)
- The College's Counselor serves on the MUS Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force. Participation on the conference calls has facilitated the opportunity for the College's Counselor to reach out and collaborate with colleagues across the state. (Recommendation 3)
- Students may access FVCC's Student Health Clinic for depression screening. The clinic provider, a physician assistant, follows the recommendations as outlined in the USPSTF report on depression screening. (Recommendation 4)
- The College completed a depression screening survey in October 2016 to establish a baseline of practices and resources. A follow-up assessment will occur in Spring 2018 to measure outcomes and utilization of resources since the addition of on-campus student housing this fall. (Recommendation 5)
- The Safety Committee regularly inspects campus buildings for safety concerns including potential access to lethal means to attempt suicide. Recommendations from the Safety Committee are forwarded to the Director of Physical Facilities for review and/or implementation. On August 25, Founders Hall, FVCC's first residence hall, will open to 124 students. Throughout the design process significant thought and consideration went into the design of the building to limit means to attempt suicide. (Recommendation 7)
- The Student Engagement Office coordinates a student wellness and resource fair each semester introducing students to campus and community resources. Additionally, the Student Health Clinic hosts tables on campus throughout the year informing students of services available including depression screening. Students are also made aware of the College's counseling services and resource numbers to call through announcements in the weekly advising email to new students, the *Timber Alert* email newsletter that is delivered to students electronically every Tuesday, and through regular postings in the *Privy Press*, a newsletter located in the restroom stalls throughout campus. (Recommendation 8)

- The College's Counselor has developed and continues to maintain professional working relationships with the clinical director of Pathways Treatment Center, Western Montana Mental Health Clinic counselors, area school counselors and local practitioners. The College's Counselor continues to arrange and facilitate monthly Area Counselor meetings during the academic year inviting area school counselors and mental health providers to discuss specific topics, including but not limited to mental illness, suicide prevention, processing grief, and sharing available resources or programs for students. (Recommendation 9)