

*MUS Statewide Taskforce on  
Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health*

**ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES**



**GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY



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MSU Northern  
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# Montana State University-Billings

In concert with the Board of Regents meeting report, MSUB was proactive in establishing a University Mental Health Task Force comprised of faculty and staff who examined, compiled, assessed, as well as provided associated costs, and suggested timeline for implementation(s) related to student mental health initiatives. The following initially summarizes the inclusive collaborative progress MSUB is taking:

## 1. Clinical Services

- Student Health Services (SHS) will continue to utilize the PHQ2 and the PHQ9 for medical patients.
- SHS filled the .70 FTE Lead Mental Health Counselor position, and continues to offer counseling services on both University Campus, and City College.
- SHS continues to advocate for funding to add additional 1.0 FTE counseling staff.
- SHS updated the “*Helping a Student in Distress*” online manual for faculty and staff. This is available on the VCSA website, and is linked on other MSUB webpages.

## 2. Gatekeeper Training and Prevention

- We are enhancing our team of certified QPR trainers. Last academic year we had one certified facilitator, and this year we are beginning with a team of four.
- Kognito’s *At Risk for Faculty and Staff* and *At Risk for Students* online suicide prevention training modules was launched on August 15. These modules are available through July 31, 2018.
- Key student groups, including RA Staff and participants in the *Student Employee Excellence Development (SEED) Leadership Day* will receive QPR training.
- RA staff will also complete the above Kognito *Suicide Prevention training*.
- We will continue to partner with several student groups, organizations, and campus departments to ensure a high completion rate for both Kognito and QPR.
- We are finalizing a specific *Suicide Prevention resource webpage* on the MSUB website prior to classes beginning Fall 2017.

## 3. Reducing Access to Lethal Means

- In concert with the Associated Students of MSUB (ASMSUB), a Centralized Weapon Storage Facility (aka *Armory*) located in Police & Parking Services has been established (100% funded by ASMSUB), ready for use at the start of Fall 2017; and, communication plan has been activated.
- Members of the MSU Billings *University Mental Health Task Force* conducted an environmental scan utilizing the Jed Foundation’s *Environmental Scan and Means Restriction for Suicide Prevention at Colleges and Universities* to assess access to lethal means.
- The Task Force is currently identifying potential high-risk areas to install signage directing individuals in crisis to immediate resources (considering using signage similar to MSU).
- All SHS staff completed the *Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)* training summer 2017.

## 4. Behavior Intervention Team

- Now a member of the *National Association of Behavioral Intervention Teams Association (NaBITA)*.
- With representation from various academic, athletics, and administrative services offices, Student Affairs continues to facilitate the *Student Consultation Team* which focuses on students with concerning behavior.
- Fall 2017 will allow the opportunity to form a smaller BIT team that will be activated not only with students with concerning behavior, but also other community members (on-campus, and off-campus as appropriate).

## 5. Postvention Protocol

- SHS and the *University Mental Health Task Force* updated the Mental Health Resources and Crisis Protocol, including postvention protocols. The document will be shared with Deans and Department Chairs during early Fall 2017.
- The Postvention Committee will convene early fall semester 2017, and will draw upon successful strategies and protocols from other campuses, including MSU, and will conduct a tabletop exercise simulation regarding a completed student suicide by the end of fall semester 2017.

# Great Falls College - Montana State University

Great Falls College MSU (GFC MSU) took action on a number of the recommendations presented at the September 2016 Board of Regents meeting. MSU continues to assess and enhance services for mental health and suicide prevention which is an ongoing, collaborative effort across campus. The list below is intended to summarize MSU's advancements and those that are in progress.

## 1. Clinical Services

- GFC MSU contracted the services of Great Falls Mental Health Triage Services an outpatient emergency crisis services program that provides 24/7 access to counseling beginning March 2017. The first three visits are paid for by GFC MSU so the student can receive treatment regardless of income. If additional services are needed, GF Mental Health Triage Services works with the student to find low or no cost counseling.
- Students referred are seen by a counselor within 24 hours. If a student is in a crisis, counselors are available immediately.
- College staff and students were educated regarding the new service and how to access it. The service is widely publicized on campus.
- Under the new model, six (6) students (totaling 16 visits) from March through June 2017 were recorded. A total of 11 students (totaling 51 visits) received services for the academic year. One additional student utilized the service during summer.
- In addition, Veteran Services provides on and off site counseling for veteran students.

## 2. Gatekeeper Training and Prevention

- GFC MSU hosts a Suicide Education and Prevention Day annually during fall semester. Faculty, staff and students participate in education. Students in psychology classes prepare educational materials.
- GFC MSU hosts a Mental Health Awareness Day annually in spring semester. Local agencies are present. Mental health screenings are made available to students at no cost. Faculty, staff and students are invited to participate in various educational forums.
- A professional staff member will be trained in QPR train the trainer class this fall and will provide on campus training to additional staff.

## 3. Reducing Access to Lethal Means

- GFC MSU does not have any buildings taller than three stories.
- GFC MSU will be reviewing and revising the Student Code of Conduct to address prescription drug use and misuse.
- GFC MSU does not have on-campus housing and does not house weapons.

## 4. Campus Behavioral Assessment Team (CBAT)

- GFC MSU CBAT team is meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month to discuss strategies and monitor cases the team is following.
- The team also meets as needed to conduct evaluations of students.
- All members of the CBAT have been provided access and training to the Maxient program so monitoring and updates can be completed in a timely manner.

## 5. Postvention Protocol

- GFC MSU CBAT team is in charge of postvention protocol. Appropriate guidelines for commuter campus will be developed in the fall semester.

# Montana State University – Bozeman

MSU Bozeman took action on a number of the recommendations presented at the September 2016 Board of Regents meeting. MSU continues to assess and enhance services for mental health and suicide prevention which is an ongoing, collaborative effort across campus. The list below is intended to summarize MSU's advancements and those that are in progress.

## 1. Clinical Services

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) hired five new FTE mental health clinicians with one new staff member in a care manager role and one staff member shifting to a Suicide Prevention Coordinator role. This was a result of the increased health fee that was approved by the BOR.
- CPS and Medical Services have integrated and are now known as University Health Partners (UHP) and will utilize a new model of Integrated Clinical Teams (comprised of both medical and mental health providers) to formally consult and enhance care for shared patients.
- CPS created new "satellite" locations across campus to bring counseling directly to students (i.e. Residence Life and Veteran's Services).
- CPS partnered with the Department of Athletics to develop a *Mental Health Handbook* for student athletes which includes mandated suicide prevention training for students and staff.

## 2. Gatekeeper Training and Prevention

- The CPS Suicide Prevention Coordinator will attend Mental Health First Aid training in Fall 2017 to add to evidence based suicide prevention programming including QPR and Kognito.
- The campus Mental Health Committee institutionalized gatekeeper training for specific student populations, offered online screening options for at-risk students, and offered general suicide prevention trainings for faculty and staff.
- Medical Services implemented universal depression screening in Acute Care.

## 3. Reducing Access to Lethal Means

- All new CPS staff are trained in means reduction interventions.
- Buildings that may pose a risk have been identified and signs have been made to display on rooftops or access points (to be installed Fall 2017).
- New parking garage signs will be posted as an initial step to address potential risks associated with the lack of barrier on the garage.
- University Police Department (UPD) and other campus agencies have been working to create a centralized weapons storage facility housed at UPD to be online in Fall 2018.
- Medical Services implemented a new protocol to include limited quantity medications with risk for lethality/abuse.
- Safety and Risk Management is working towards keypad locks for laboratories with lethal chemicals, as well as ways to control access to those spaces.

## 4. Behavior Intervention Team

- The Dean of Students Office (leaders of the BIT team) created a second team (CARE) which will focus on students who are welfare concerns.
- BIT will shift to a weekly meeting schedule in Fall 2017 to monitor the increasing number of cases referred to the team.

## 5. Postvention Protocol

- CPS and the Mental Health Committee updated the Mental Health Protocol for the entire campus which includes the MSU postvention protocol.
- CPS distributed the protocol to all Deans and Department heads to share with all faculty.

# Montana State University – Northern

MSU Northern took action on a number of the recommendations presented at the September 2016 Board of Regents meeting. MSUN continues to assess and enhance services for mental health and suicide prevention which is an ongoing, collaborative effort across campus. The list below is intended to summarize Northern’s advancements and those that are in progress.

## 1. Clinical Services

- A full-time Mental Health Professional will be hired Fall 2017. Funding has been secured with a combination of an increase in the Student Health Fee and prioritization of University budget.
- Northern’s Mental Health Professional will be located in Student Health Services and will be available to all MSUN students.
- Construction of counseling office space has been completed.

## 2. Gatekeeper Training and Prevention

- Northern hosts a Suicide Education and Prevention Day annually during fall semester. Faculty, staff and students participate in education and awareness activities.
- Student Support Services counselor is trained in QPR and a faculty member on staff is trained as a Mental Health First Aid trainer.

## 3. Reducing Access to Lethal Means

- Northern has no buildings taller than four stories. All high point access at MSU-N and access doors are locked and secured. The physical plant and information technology are the only key holders.
- The current MSU-N student handbook requires all firearms to be stored with a member of the Residence Life staff in a locked gun safe.
- Northern is currently reviewing procedures to strengthen weapon check-in and check-out and to improve training for staff on assessing the mental well-being of the gun owner prior to releasing a weapon.

## 4. Behavior Intervention Team

- MSU-N has established policy, procedures, and reporting measure of the Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team. The campus community will be trained on the CARE Team at Fall 2017 Orientation.
- The CARE Team will meet twice a month or more often as needed.
- All members of the CARE Team have been provided access and training to the Maxient program so monitoring and updates can be completed in a timely manner.

## 5. Postvention Protocol

- Northern’s CARE Team is in charge of postvention protocol.
- The CARE team is reviewing “Postvention: A Guide for Response to Suicide on College Campuses” to inform next steps in offering services and training.