

Recommended Practices Checklist

Please consider the following questions while reflecting upon current efforts on your campus. A discussion about common practices and future directions will occur at the end of the presentation.

Does your campus:

- Have a behavioral intervention team or student at-risk response team? If so, is it multi-disciplinary in terms of membership and background of team members?
- Publish information about how to refer situations to the students at risk response team?
- Encourage communication across campus departments regarding students of concern?
- Ensure that academic affairs and student affairs staff are collaborating regarding students?
- Ensure that student affairs and campus emergency management office efforts are linked?
- Have an emergency notification protocol?
- Consider parental notification an appropriate intervention under particular circumstances.
- Consider students' social identity and developmental needs within protocols.
- Balance the needs of individuals and the safety of the community within its practices?
- Empower the response team to make decisions on a case by case basis?
- Have a leave of absence protocol?
- Avoid "zero tolerance" policies for self harm?
- Ground intervention work in theory and align with division/institutional mission/goals?
- Utilize documented best practices in creating response systems and protocols?
- Have individualized re-entry requirements and support for students who need a leave?
- Have effective outreach and education programs regarding mental health?
- Offer mental health coverage within its student health insurance?
- Consider where individual roles begin and end in critical incident management?
- Understand the intricacies of mandating assessment and treatment for students?
- Offer educational opportunities for faculty, staff and students around the established policies, protocols and resources?
- Establish defined relationships with community health providers such as local psychiatric units and emergency rooms and utilize memorandums of understanding, where appropriate?
- Involve legal counsel in the determination of response team record keeping and other policy/procedure decisions?
- Regularly review, update and distribute policies and procedures?

This document is derived from the Jed Foundation, Student Mental Health and the Law: A Resource for Institutions of Higher Education (2008) and the University of Michigan Critical Incident Model.

How many of the above practices is your campus currently utilizing?

What additional practices does your campus employ?

What next steps do you believe your campus needs to take with respect to this work?