

**Framework for Developing Institutional
Protocols for the Acutely Distressed or
Suicidal College Student**

Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting
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The Jed Foundation

- Founded in 2000 by members of the Satow family after the loss of their son/brother Jed, a college sophomore
- Mission: To reduce the suicide rate among college students by focusing on the underlying causes of suicide and producing effective prevention, awareness, and intervention programs

Background

- Suicide is both a clinical and public health issue
- Three parts to addressing suicide on campus:
 - Prevention
 - **Intervention**
 - Postvention

Background

- Lack of consensus
- Crucial to develop protocols prior to a crisis
- Colleges differ in size, culture, and resources
- How do we develop a tool that will be useful to all colleges and universities?

Goals

- To encourage collaborative decision-making
- To promote cultural change
- To motivate every college to use comprehensive protocols
- To promote the creation of exemplary protocols
- To encourage discussion between schools

Process

- Collected and read policies, protocols, and procedures
- Interviewed mental health professionals, student affairs personnel, & legal experts
- Organized a one-day roundtable

Process

- Chose a collaborative process:
 - American College Health Association (ACHA)
 - American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
 - Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD)
 - National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
- Framework = detailed inventory of issues to consider when creating or revising protocols

Content

- Developing a safety protocol
- Developing an emergency contact notification protocol
- Developing a leave of absence and re-entry protocol

Content

- Developing a safety protocol:
 - Responding to the student
 - Psychiatric hospitalization
 - Follow-up planning
 - Documentation

Implementation

- Allocate sufficient funds/resources
- Consider the ethnic, racial, cultural, and spiritual diversity of your student body
- Refer to the mission/vision statement of your institution

Implementation

- Select the process by which protocol development will take place at your college
- Define relevant stakeholders
- Establish an ongoing dialogue with community entities

Implementation

- Select and define terminology
- Develop a plan for reviewing protocols
- Define the circumstances under which protocols could be set in motion
- Be transparent with students and parents

Implementation

- Identify a “point person” for individuals both inside and outside of the college community
- Consider using your protocols to create (or augment) a procedural “Crisis Checklist”
- Engage in regular table-top exercises to “practice” crisis protocols

Campus Context

- Ensure that protocol development takes place as part of a strategic planning process
- Create an environment that encourages help-seeking
- Assess the process used to address disruptive student behaviors
- Ensure that all protocols are consistent

Campus Context

- Consider establishing a case management committee
- Establish a comprehensive postvention protocol
- Advocate for student health insurance that provides adequate mental health coverage

Contact Information

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