



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

Setting
Higher Education

Type of Program
Protocols & Guidelines

NSSP Goals Addressed
8.3, 8.4

Program Description

Developed by the Jed Foundation, the *Framework for Developing Institutional Protocols for the Acutely Distressed or Suicidal College Student* provides colleges and universities, regardless of size, culture, and resources, with a list of issues to consider when drafting or revising protocols relating to the management of the student in acute distress or at risk for suicide. It is divided into the following three sections, each of which is structured as a series of questions:

1. Developing a safety protocol;
2. Developing an emergency contact notification protocol; and,
3. Developing a leave of absence and re-entry protocol.

Program Objectives

Users of the *Framework* should:

1. Develop formalized safety, emergency contact notification, and medical leave/re-entry protocols that reflect case-by-case decision-making in the best interests of students.
2. Enhance communication between those campus and community constituencies who are or could be involved in addressing student mental health issues.
3. Improve crisis management around the acutely distressed or suicidal student by implementing safety, emergency contact notification, and medical leave/re-entry protocols.
4. Increase understanding of the essential strategic areas of a comprehensive, campus-wide suicide prevention and mental health promotion action plan.

Program Development

The *Framework* is contained in a 28-page booklet. It was developed through a meeting of senior college administrators, college counselors and other mental health practitioners, and attorneys specializing in college issues from fourteen colleges or universities (a list of participants can be found on The Jed Foundation website). Development of the *Framework* was sponsored by The Jed Foundation, the American College Health Association (ACHA), the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD), and the National Association of Student Personal Administrators (NASPA).

Contact Information

Courtney Knowles
Executive Director
The Jed Foundation
Voice: 212-647-7544
Fax: 212-647-7542
Email: cknowles@jedfoundation.org
Website: www.jedfoundation.org

Costs

The *Framework* is available for free. It can be downloaded from the Jed Foundation website: www.jedfoundation.org.

*The content of programs listed in Section II (Expert and Consensus Statements) of the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry address specific goals of the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and have been reviewed by a panel of three suicide prevention experts and found to meet standards of importance, likelihood of meeting objectives, accuracy, safety, congruence with prevailing knowledge, and appropriateness of development process. Programs were not reviewed for evidence of effectiveness. Additional information about the Best Practices Registry can be found at www.sprc.org.

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