

2008 SAMHSA Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting
Session: Coping with Increases in Requests for Help
Tuesday, Jan. 8. 2:30-4:30 pm

Co-Presenter: Dr. Darren A. Wozny
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Campus Setting: MSU-Meridian Campus is a regional campus of 800 students (70% nontraditional – commuter campus) without a college counseling center on campus (counseling center located on MSU main campus 100 miles north). Mental health services for MSU-Meridian students and their families are provided through an EAP contract with our local community mental health services agency (one mile from campus). The EAP model is unlimited outpatient services for a nominal fee per student paid by the MSU-Meridian Campus (\$33 per student per year).

Main Points:

1. Our EAP mental health provider is a very large public mental health services agency with offices across nine counties in eastern Mississippi therefore I do not anticipate overwhelming their ability to meet increases in demand for mental health services. However, MSU-Meridian's EAP contract cost may increase as our EAP provider reaches the point of needing to increase staffing (EAP contract cost is so low that a significant increase would still be affordable for our campus).
2. I think for our campus there should be an intermediate campus response to requests for help that may not require counseling intervention via the EAP mental health services. One of the primary methods of intermediate response that we are in the process of implementing is the identification and training of "naturally supportive students" representing each academic program on our campus (two students for each academic program). We would train them in a suicide prevention workshop annually and have each academic program indicate to their students that these peer students are available to talk if needed.

Question:

1. Although grant funds cannot be used for direct clinical services, can grant funds be used for incentives to have students participate in an "intermediate campus response to requests for help" (not conceptualized as counseling)?