California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program

PROGRAM REPORT
2012 - 2015

Program Description: The California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program (CCC SMHP) is a partnership between the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) and the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC). The goals of the CCC SMHP are the development and implementation of prevention and early intervention (PEI) strategies which address the mental health needs of students, and advance the collaboration between educational settings, county services, and the community at large.

There are four main components of the CCC SMHP:
- Campus Based Grants (CBGs)
- Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)
  - Project Partner: Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS)
- Suicide Prevention Training (SPT)
  - Project Partner: Kognito Interactive
- Program Evaluation
  - Project Partner: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)

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Program Report: The purpose of this report is to present the accomplishments of the CCC SMHP over the course of the grant (July 2012—June 2015). This report includes examples of our most notable achievements to date.

Phase II Plan for Sustaining CalMHSA Statewide PEI Projects:

CCC SMHP’s Each Mind Matters: Each Student Succeeds (EMM: ESS) is a statewide student mental health program being implemented within the California community colleges. EMM: ESS expands on and enhances the efforts of CCC SMHP, one of several PEI initiatives funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) and implemented by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).

The EMM: ESS is based on the three strategic directions targeting faculty, staff, and students in all California community colleges. These strategies are: 1) broadly market and disseminate EMM resources and tools; 2) provide training and technical assistance to increase local adoption and promotion of existing and customized EMM tools and resources; and 3) leverage existing regional networks to increase college and partner engagement in EMM: ESS. In addition, the EMM: ESS includes an evaluation component designed to assess service effectiveness and identify unmet mental health service needs of California community college students.

Campus Based Grant Accomplishments:
This brief summary of CBG activities is reflective of the innovative activities taking place throughout the state.

- The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is working to establish Behavior Intervention Teams (BIT) within each of the 9 District colleges. In January 2014, nearly 50 campus representatives attended the BIT training to develop formalized policies and procedures to address wellness-oriented behavior intervention on all 9 campuses within the District.
- Orange Coast College is addressing the needs of student veterans through their Veteran’s Drop Zone initiative which includes: opening of the Veteran’s Drop Zone Center, securing an MOU with Orange County Mental Health to provide on-campus counseling to veterans, and providing a safe space for veterans to gain support for school, home, and work through confidential one-on-one meetings.
- Riverside City College has developed a successful mental health peer ambassador program. Students inform other students about campus mental health resources and awareness through events, individual conversations, trainings, and presentations. Peer Ambassadors have completed 20 campus events and engaged in 3,000 hours of peer-to-peer conversations. Counseling appointments have increased by 200% since the launch of the peer program. View Riverside City College’s mental health video at https://vimeo.com/129301896.
- The CCC system has been consistently in the top 3 Kognito clients nationwide for trained participants in the online suicide prevention gatekeeper training. Top campuses include: Sierra College (3,441 trained), Santa Monica College (3,231 trained), Golden West College (2,683 trained), and Saddleback College (2,321 trained).

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Prevention and Early Intervention programs implemented by CalMHSA are funded through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63). Prop 63 provides the funding and framework needed to expand mental health services to previously underserved populations and all of California’s diverse communities.

www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org
California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program Highlights

**167,963** students, faculty, staff, and community members have been reached through prevention and early intervention (PEI) trainings, presentations, events, and workshops.

**Campus Based Grants:** A total of 23 campuses were awarded Campus Based Grants (CBGs), representing 30 campuses including 3 consortia. CBGs implemented PEI faculty, staff, and student trainings, implemented peer-to-peer programs, and initiated suicide prevention trainings and awareness on campus.

**Regional Strategizing Forums:** The goals of the Regional Strategizing Forums (RSFs) were to create and strengthen campus-community linkages in students mental health and to enhance regional connection and collaboration with county mental health, community mental health agencies, and the CSU and UC campuses. As a requirement of the CBGs, a total of 55 RSFs have been completed, reaching 2,472 participants.

**Training Topics:** Threat Assessment, Question Persuade Refer (QPR), Welcome Home: Veterans on Campus, Behavioral Intervention Team, Peer-to-Peer, Gay Alliance Safe Zone, Trauma Informed Care, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

**38,384** students, faculty, and staff have completed the Kognito Interactive online gatekeeper training for suicide prevention. A total of 100 community colleges are actively accessing the training statewide. Kognito training modules will be available to colleges through June 2017.

**Webinars:** 32 webinars have been completed reaching 1,096 participants. Topics included: Active Minds, Strategies to Evaluate Student Mental Health Needs, ReachOut, Jed Foundation, A Guide to Behavioral Intervention Teams, Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Trevor Project Ally Workshop, Affordable Care Act—Young Invincibles, and How to Support LGBTQ Youth.

**Technical Assistance:** A total of 1,657 technical assistance days have been completed providing support to 112 campuses and reaching 39 counties across the state. This includes 56 trainings by request and 67 customized on-site trainings. Technical assistance support included: establishing county mental health partnerships, developing referral processes, supporting behavioral intervention teams, coordinating professional development trainings, as well as providing one-on-one tailored support.

**Transitional Age Foster Youth:** Healthy Transitions curriculum was developed for young adults transitioning out of foster care with the purpose of increasing awareness of mental and physical wellness. The curriculum was distributed statewide to all 54 CalMHSA member counties, and is currently being implemented with 22 campuses across the state. The curriculum is available for download at www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org.

**Advisory Group:** The Chancellor’s Office Advisory Group on Student Mental Health (COAGSMH) functioned to assist in providing support for the SMHP initiative and served as a forum to guide the delivery of the CCC SMHP TTA activities. The advisory group met quarterly and developed a collaboration toolkit for campuses on how to establish partnerships with county mental health, packaged the American College Health Association survey data, and developed a plan to systematically address and promote student mental health in CCCs.

**Product Development:** To date, a total of 23 products have been completed including fact sheets, policy briefs, training videos, tools, and an online searchable database. Completed products include:

**Policy Briefs**—Student Mental Health and Student Success, Considerations for Naming your Behavioral Intervention Team, Suicide Prevention on College Campuses, and Sample Policy Working with Distressed Students.

**Fact Sheets and Publications**—Supporting LGBTQ Students, Student Veterans, Transitional Aged Foster Youth, Students from Diverse Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds, Reaching Underserved Student Populations, Suicide Prevention, and Culturally Responsive Services for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Student Success.


**Online Searchable Database**—This online tool facilitates the sharing of best practices in successfully promoting student mental health on college campuses. This searchable database provides information on the many programs, services, practices, events, tools, and documents that colleges are implementing to address mental health intervention and prevention services for students.

**Mobile Phone Apps**—Fresno City Community College, Rio Hondo Community College, and Riverside College.

**CCC SMHP Project Website:** The CCC SMHP project website is a widely utilized bank of student mental health information which includes: fact sheets, webinars, evaluation materials, and access for TTA services. The informational website aims to assist CBGs, California community colleges, and higher education partners to access information and resources for student mental health prevention and early intervention efforts. Through September 2015, the website has been visited by 95,964 unique visitors, for a total of 534,925 page views, and an average of 152 average visits per day.

**http://www.cccstudentmentalhealth.org**

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