



Student Mental Health Task Force: Creating a Holistic, Integrated Service

Background:

Each year institutions of higher education across the country report increased prevalence of mental-health concerns among students, along with an associated rise in the utilization of campus-based mental-health services. At the University of Washington we have seen rapid growth in the need for student mental-health support, while staffing levels and clinical-service capacity have not kept pace. The two primary mental-health service units on campus, the UW Counseling Center and the Mental Health Clinic at Hall Health Center, are not equipped to meet the current or ongoing growth in demand.

UW students themselves have identified several barriers to obtaining mental-health services on campus, including initial confusion about where to seek help, given a fragmented service model, difficulty getting a timely appointment at either service, and problems accessing the appropriate level of care within an under-resourced system that is attempting to accommodate as many students as possible with a one-size-fits-all approach.

The current configuration of campus mental-health services represents an outdated approach to student mental health. Students and providers alike recognize that it is insufficient to address current needs, let alone the growing needs to come. Although there is a strong desire and need for the two mental-health services on campus to work more closely together, they are hampered by:

- Different physical locations
- Different reporting lines
- Different funding models
- Different electronic health records
- Different historical approaches to service
- Difficulty in referring students to community resources

All parties acknowledge there is an opportunity for restructuring the mental health operations on the UW Seattle campus, with the goal of building an integrated, seamless and efficient system that serves the needs of a diverse student body.

Goals:

- Design an integrated, seamless and efficient system that serves the needs of a diverse student body.
- Improve timeliness and student access to a broader range of integrated mental health services either internally or externally to the UW

Charge:

This task force will delineate the components, desired outcomes, and timeline for the creation of a unified student mental-health service on campus, formed by combining the current UW Counseling Center and the Mental Health Clinic at Hall Health Center.

Scope:

The task force will consider the following parameters for the combined service:

1. Collocated and accessible physical space on campus
2. Equitable student access
3. Reporting line
4. Organizational structure and service lines
5. Funding: short-term (bridging) and long term (sustainable).
6. Electronic health records system
7. Diversification of services and service delivery
8. Advisory connection with students
9. Collaborative relationships among UW campus health/wellbeing partners during implementation
10. Developing metrics providing clarity on impact and success

Initial Membership:

Glenna Chang (SL), Natacha Foo Kune (SL), Meghann Gerber (HH), DC Dugdale (HH), Jeremy Moon (SAF), Farah Nadeem (PACS)

Timeline:

The task force will meet from Fall 2019 through January 2020. Deliverables are due the end of January 2020. The Vice President for Student Life and the Health Sciences Executive Director will designate a chair and agree on a meeting schedule.

Executive Sponsors on behalf of the President and Provost:

David Anderson, Health Sciences Executive Director
Denzil Suite, Vice President, Student Life

Deliverables:

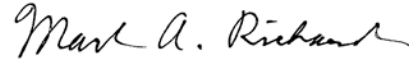
By the end of January 2020 the task force shall produce a report to the President and Provost consistent with the charge and scope listed above. The report should include recommendations for ensuing implementation of the combined service by identifying an approximate timeline and recommended next steps. If there are any objectives that need

additional evaluation and work, the task force will identify these and make recommendations for the process needed for completion.

This task force shall also shall coordinate with the broader Hall Health Task Force chartered by the Executive Office in October 2020. Recommendations this task force should be, to the greatest extent possible, mindful and consistent of conversations and recommendation emerging from broader conversations concerning the future of Hall Health.



Ana Mari Cauce
President
Professor of Psychology



Mark A. Richards
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Professor of Earth and Space Sciences