

Dawson Community College Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health Implementation Report

Dawson Community College has developed and maintained a working relationship with the Glendive Counseling Center. The Glendive Counseling Center is a resource that has served, and continues to serve, as a referral point for us and our students. Throughout the academic year students have been referred to and have sought services for various mental health issues including but not limited to anxiety, depression, coping with past experiences, etc. Other referral contacts offered to students experiencing mental health issues include Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center, Glendive Medical Center Behavioral Health, Dawson County Domestic Violence, and area licensed counselors.

This past April, the DCC Student Life Coordinator partnered with Dawson County Domestic Violence and showed "Audrey & Daisy" A Netflix Documentary on campus, open to all DCC students and employees, and community members. The documentary shows the ripple effects that the sexual assaults of two teenage girls had on their family, friends, peers, and community members.

In May the Student Life Coordinator participated in the MUS Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health Task Force *Common Training Workgroup Draft Recommendations to OCHE* conference call. The recommendation for the funding of gatekeeper training programs on college campus, as a component of a larger comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health, were discussed.

Looking ahead suicide prevention is one of the four key concepts that the Student Life department will focus on. While programming is still developing it will include opportunities for student engagement, providing resources for students, and other active and passive programming. One example is the purchase of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "It's Real: College Students and Mental Health" program, including a 17-min documentary film and facilitator's guide, we will use to improve our campus's suicide prevention programming. The film features the individual stories of six college-aged students from across the US. Their stories tell about the depression and other mental health conditions that they and many other young college-aged adults experience. The documentary includes ways that students can seek help and successfully manage their mental health conditions.