

ROBERT LUNDBLAD PRESENTATION

The following contribute to student stress: weak family structure, downturn in economy, increased violence in society, changing composition of student body

Mental health needs are increasing because more people with mental health issues are able to stay in school than in the past due to the support systems that are in place that help students remain functional in the education system. Sometimes those support systems can be lost when a student enters college.

Types of disorders: Mood disorders (ex. manic depression), anxiety/panic disorders, emotional trauma (ex. from sexual or physical abuse), subclinical learning disabilities, substance abuse. Students often find ways to compensate for subclinical learning disabilities while in high school, but those methods often no longer work in college. Substance abuse disorders (self-medicating, for ex.) are often a companion to other.

Other groups who may experience an inordinate amount of stress: Non-traditional students (older than average, minority, etc.) and graduate students (due to increased academic expectations, for ex.)

Keep in mind that all symptoms of dysfunction are, for the person, a functional way of dealing with a disorder, so he or she needs help finding another functional way of dealing with the disorder.

If a student needs to find an off-campus psychiatrist soon or needs to see a psychiatrist after Student Health Center hours, the best way to do that is to go to the hospital emergency room. The waiting list in the community is up to 1.5 years long.

PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION

Disruption in the classroom: When words stop working, contact Public Safety.

Some choices for contacting public safety if there is disruption or threatening behavior in the classroom:

1. have another student leave the classroom and call Public Safety
2. immediately cancel class and then call Public Safety
3. ask the student if he or she is willing to talk to you in your office after class, then ask a state trooper to join you in meeting with the student

When a state trooper is called to the classroom, usually the trooper's presence will solve the problem. If a trooper must remove a student, the student will be charged with a crime.

Regarding students with exhibiting symptoms of psychological disorders: a state trooper will only take a student to the hospital if the student may harm her or himself.

If a student has exhibited threatening or dysfunctional behavior, it is important to make your colleagues aware of it. When someone dies or kills, they often find that the person had been acting out or talking about things in various places, but those involved in each incident didn't know about the other incidents, so no one helped the person seek help.

Another important thing to do is to set agreements with your class concerning behavior and not keeping secrets. Live by the "No Surprise Rule."

Concerning FERPA and the inability to inform parents when students are acting dysfunctionally: There are exceptions to FERPA. Call the Conduct and Mediation Program and the Dean of Students so that they can determine whether an exception can be made.

When a parent calls and asks questions: Speak in hypothetical terms: "If I were to encounter a student with that problem, here is what I might do . . . "