Mental Health Services Advisory Committee

Mission
- Enhance campus community awareness of mental health student needs, destigmatize help-seeking, and provide support and consultation for faculty and staff in support of access, retention, and success for all West Valley College students.

Goals
- Enhance awareness of, de-stigmatize, and respond to the mental needs of the campus community.
- Collaborate with Health Services' MFT/MSW Graduate Internship program to support greater student access to mental health services.
- Create a streamlined, practical, and easily understood referral process to link distressed students to both campus and community mental health resources.

Objectives
- Provide leadership and oversight to the reinstatement of Mental Health Services as part of Health Services and to formalize mental health services as an integral part of WVC student services.
- Provide training & consultation to WVC faculty, staff, and students focusing on the early identification of, and preventive response to, emotionally distressed students.
- Provide leadership within the campus community to destigmatize mental illness.
- Identify, develop, and maintain collaborative relationships with easily accessible mental health resources to address the needs of emotionally distressed students (e.g., names of agencies and individual providers, contact information, websites, eligibility requirements, etc.).
- Promote awareness of and educate the campus community as to the prevalence of emotional distress and mental illness (including, but not limited to depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation & intent, self-harm behavior, anger management/issue/resolutions, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, dual diagnosis) (the co-occurrence of mental illness and chemical dependency), eating disorders, and struggles with identity and transitions).
- Provide a recognized forum to "staff" students of concern, conduct case reviews, develop interventions plans, and monitor progress and collaborative efforts.
- Collaborate with Health Services' graduate internship program for MSW Interns and MFT Trainees, which provides the core of expanded mental health services on campus.
- Provide collaboration and input to the campus Student Intervention Committee, advisory to the VP of Student Services, and to the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), including current MH information and trends, as well as post-disaster counseling services for the entire campus community.