

**EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
REGULATION NO. – AR-4.4**

**TITLE: PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH SUICIDE: PREVENTION, INTERVENTION,
AND POST-INTERVENTION**

DEFINITION: Suicide is defined as, the purposeful act of causing one's own death. Attempted suicide is considered to be a person engaging in life threatening behavior(s) intended to jeopardize his/her life through an act, threat, or gesture per West Virginia House Bill 2535 (2015).

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2015; OCTOBER 29, 2015

PROCESS:

Prevention

Students will receive information via Suicide Prevention information sharing activities and events. New students will be provided information via new student orientation. Other possible avenues to include student email listserv, website and the campus student newsletter, and the television monitors around the main campus. The goal of the educational programming offered by Learner Support Services is to promote understanding concerning the dynamics of suicide and to recognize behaviors that may signal suicidal intent. Flyers will be distributed providing information regarding depression, general principles about mental health, stress, and related topics to student's concerns. Additional help information will be printed on the back of student ID cards.

Information will also be made available to faculty and staff regarding how to recognize behavior that may signal suicidal intent. Guidelines on intervention will also be shared with staff to provide them with the necessary information in relation to intervention.

Intervention

The following are guidelines for immediate and non-immediate intervention in the case of a suicide threat or attempt. It is recognized that special circumstances may arise which require deviation from these guidelines, and that administrative discretion must be exercised in these circumstances.

1. The Dean of Access and Student Success will be notified immediately. If the Dean of Access and Student Success is not available the Student Services Specialist, or designee, should be contacted immediately.
2. The Dean of Access and Student Success or Student Services Specialist, or designee, will notify medical emergency personnel (as needed).
3. Medical emergency personnel will transport the student to the hospital for medical evaluation and mental health assessment upon arrival on campus.

4. The Dean of Access and Student Success, or Student Services Specialist, or designee, will contact the family of the student (once the situation is stable i.e. the student is no longer in danger) who threatened or attempted suicide, when appropriate, and will render support to family members and significant others as needed.

When the threat is not immediate, but suggested, the student will be referred to the Dean of Access and Student Success or, the Student Services Specialist, or designee, that same day. An attempt will be made to set an agreed upon date by which the person will seek professional help. If the student refuses then it becomes an immediate threat and should be treated as such.

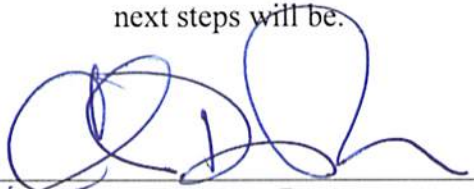
Post-Intervention/Clearance to return to school

1. The student must provide documentation supporting the need for an excused absence the day prior to or day of his/her return to campus.
2. The student may be asked to fill out a release of information to the professional who is currently treating the student if he/she desires additional counseling services.

Intervening with a Suicide Threat: General Employee Procedure Check List

If a student has threatened suicide directly or indirectly, the following procedures are to be followed. Take all suicide threats seriously! A suicide threat is to be handled as a crisis intervention and potential medical emergency.

1. Stay with the student or designate another Eastern employee to supervise the student constantly and without exception until help arrives.
2. Under no circumstances should the student be permitted to leave the school alone.
3. Do not agree to keep a student's suicidal intentions a secret.
4. If the student has the means to carry out the threatened suicide on his or her person, determine if he or she will voluntarily relinquish it. Do not force the student to do so. Do not place yourself in danger.
5. Take the suicidal student to an area away from others.
6. Notify the Dean of Access and Student Success immediately. If the Dean of Access and Student Success is not available, the Student Services Specialist, or designee, should be contacted immediately.
7. Inform the suicidal student that outside help has been called and describe what the next steps will be.



DR. CHARLES TERRELL, PRESIDENT

12-3-15

DATE