

FACULTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION

Name of Person Submitting Request:		Elaine Akers
Program or Service Area:		Student Health Services
Division:		Library and Learning Support Services
Date of Last Program Efficacy:		Spring 2011
What rating was given?		Continuation
# of FT faculty 2	# of Adjuncts0	Faculty Load:
Position Requested:		Full Time Mental Health psychotherapy specialist/counselor
Strategic Initiatives Addressed:		Student Success, Access, Campus Culture

1. Provide a rationale for your request.

Student Health Services has seen an increasing demand for mental health services. Utilization of individual counseling services (see attached bar chart) 5 times greater than in the 2006-2007 academic year. With the current economic situation, the decrease in options available to students, and influx of additional new students expected this academic year we anticipate an even greater demand for these services. Current staffing for mental health services is patched together with independent contractors and professional expert counseling interns. As these services have grown we have seen a need for a consistent counseling clinician to provide stability, direction, and advocacy for student mental health needs. This would be provided by a FT Mental Health Psychotherapy Specialist/ Counselor.

2. Indicate how the content of the latest Program Efficacy Report and/or most current EIS data support this request. How is the request tied to program planning? (*Reference the page number(s) where the information can be found on Program Efficacy.*)

Page 11 of our program efficacy report addresses the increased need for mental health services and with that increase it is important to have a consistent and full time faculty member with the expertise to plan and oversee mental health services. Program goals on educational master plan page 82 include targeting services to the most prevalent mental health needs of SBVC students. Part of our three year plan is to have a full time mental health professional. Internal tallies of counseling visits show that demand continues to increase: mental health counseling visits per fiscal year (08-09=287; 09-10=460; 10-11=564; 11-12=655). These visits have more than doubled over the past 4 years and are 5 times greater than in 06-07.

3. Provide updated or additional information you wish the committee to consider (*for example: regulatory information, compliance, alternative or ongoing funding sources, updated efficiency and/or student success data or planning etc.*)

The chancellor's office at the state level has made mental health services to students a priority. This has been prompted by some unfortunate mental health crisis on several campuses around the country that have caused great injury to many people. We have received a grant for mental health needs focused on decreasing suicide risk and reducing stigma surrounding mental health issues. Planning to sustain this grant activity would best be made by a mental health professional consistently involved and invested in the needs of our campus community. In the 2009 National College Health Assessment survey of our campus of the top 10 factors negatively effecting

academic performance and success all were mental health related except Work/finances and colds/flu/sore throat. The number one factor was stress.

4. What are the consequences of not filling this position?

We will continue to offer services that are somewhat fragmented with leadership that must focus on multiple other health priorities and program management responsibilities in addition to mental health needs. Currently there is no one full time person who is committed to this important priority of overseeing the psychotherapy and mental health promotion needs of this campus. The coordinator currently overseeing it is not a mental health professional by training.