Cheyney University Policy SA-2010-3017

Policy on Suicide Threats and Attempts by Students

Approved by: Student Affairs Council/ President’s Council

History: Issued -- 4-22-2010

Related Policies: Student Code of Conduct

Additional References: n/a

A. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to insure the health, safety and welfare of students at Cheyney University.

B. Scope
This policy applies to all students at Cheyney University and their interactions with the University Health and Wellness Center, the Department of Public Safety and Police Services and the University Counseling Center.

C. Definition(s)

D. Policy & Procedure(s) Suicide Threats

Any student expressing thoughts of harm to self or others must be seen by the clinic staff immediately. The clinic staff will consult with the University Counseling Center during normal hours of operations. If the University Counseling Center is closed, Public Safety and Police Services will be notified to contact the “on-call” counselor immediately. Upon phone consultation with the “on-call” counselor, the clinic staff will make the appropriate follow up arrangements. If the student requires psychiatric evaluation, the “on-call” counselor will contact the local emergency room. An ambulance will transport the student as quickly as possible. At no time will the student be left unattended. The clinic supervisor must be notified of the incident as soon as possible.

Suicide Attempts
The first priority in a suicide attempt is to assess the nature and quality of the attempt i.e. has the student been harmed, is the injury life-threatening? For example, the student may have scratched his/her wrists in an attempt. Even if the wounds are only superficial, the attempt may be very real. Students with alcohol and/or prescription or non-prescription medication overdose must be sent to the ER by ambulance. If the student is transported after hours of counseling operations, the counselor “on-call” should be notified immediately. If the clinic is closed, Public Safety and Police Services will make the contact with the “on-call” counselor and arrange for ambulance transportation, as needed. The counselor will immediately call the hospital at a pre-designated number to alert them to a Cheyney student en route and will request follow-up from the hospital staff regarding the student.