Behavioral Consultation and Assessment Team
Florida Gulf Coast University

Effective Date: October 8, 2007 Revised: May 5, 2014

RATIONALE

The Behavioral Consultation and Assessment Team (BCAT) is an official University team under the auspices of the Vice President for Student Affairs, which establishes guidelines for team responsibilities and operations.

These guidelines outline procedures for team consultation with University faculty and staff that identify individuals of concern within the University community. Individuals of concern are those that are in distress or that disrupt the normal functioning of the University community.

TEAM PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of BCAT is to provide consultation, recommendations and when appropriate, resources to the University community regarding individuals of concern. BCAT will seek to respond in a manner that communicates concern for the community and care and respect for the individual.

Examples of the types of behaviors the Team may address include but are not limited to:

1. Intimidation – being the subject or recipient of intimidation
2. Threats to harm self or others
3. Disruptiveness
4. Out of ordinary behavior
5. Signs of an eating disorder
6. Homelessness or experiencing food insecurity.
7. Reaction to the death of a family member
8. Evidence of depression or suicidal thoughts/plans

Specifically, the charge for this team is to:

1. Assess situations involving individuals of concern in the University community
2. Consult with administration, faculty, staff and other students affected by the individual.
3. Assist in developing strategies, provide guidance, or make referrals.
4. Collaborate with the Threat Assessment Management Team if there is potential for danger or likelihood of threat to the individual involved or others.
TEAM COMPOSITION

The Team functions under the direction of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Core BCAT members include:

1. Dean of Students
2. Director of the Counseling Center and/or designated representative
3. Director of University Police and/or designated representative
4. Director of Housing and Residence Life and/or designated representative
5. Assistant Dean of Students for Student Conduct.
6. Academic Affairs representative, appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs
7. Student Affairs Case Manager
8. Representative of General Counsel
9. Representative of Human Resources

There are other university officials who may be asked by the Vice President for Student Affairs to serve as regular members or in specific situations as needed. Examples of staff that might be included are: Director of Student Health, Ombudsman, or key members within student activities areas (particularly those who have considerable contact with a cross section of students).

OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURE

1. At the beginning of each semester, the Dean of Students will send a notice to all campus to notify them that the team is available for consultation if the behavior of a FGCU community member is concerning. The notice will be presented as a “proactive measure” and will include the procedure for requesting a team consultation.

2. Issues or situations may be referred to BCAT by any member of the campus community. If a criminal act has occurred or has been discovered during the course of the team’s inquiry, the University Chief of Police shall be notified immediately and
advised of the incident. The University Police Department will then conduct an official investigation.

3. In time-sensitive high-risk situations, a special team meeting may be called by any member, at any time. Additionally, a member of BCAT can recommend the situation be referred to the Threat Assessment Team.

4. Regular standing meetings will be organized by the Student Affairs Case Manager. Documentation and a log of individuals discussed are recorded by the Case Manager and will be approved by the BCAT team.

5. BCAT member(s) may consult with the affected members of the campus community to learn more about the situation being reported.

OUTCOME

1. The primary purpose and function of BCAT is to provide a forum to discuss the behavior of University community members and to coordinate appropriate assistance to the individual in order to mitigate potential difficulties.

2. An outcome of a consultation meeting or discussion about the behavior the individual may result in a recommended course of action based upon University policy.

3. Any member of BCAT team may be engaged in conducting follow up with a University community member according to his/her job description.

CASE INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY PROCEDURES

BCAT will follow federal and state laws that govern the privacy and confidentiality of an individual’s employment, health and mental health information and records. Student information maintained by the BCAT will be maintained in a confidential database with access limited to members of BCAT and treated as an educational record subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).