

Washington Community and Technical College Counselor Association
Fall 2007 Workshop
Community College Crisis Response, Where Do Counselors Fit In?
November 30th, 2007 @ Green River Community College
Lindbloom Center, Rainier Room
Check in/Registration: 8:30 am
Meeting: 9:00 am – 3:15 pm

Greetings Counselors!

I hope that this invitation to the WCTCCA's 2007 Fall Meeting finds you all very well! The Fall Meeting Planning Committee has been hard at work putting together this year's exciting agenda. Defining ourselves and clarifying our roles as community and technical college counselors are two themes that have interwoven themselves throughout the WCTCCA's more recent meetings. Indeed, several of you have devoted significant amounts of time toward this purpose. Dr. Earl Martin of Everett Community College completed a dissertation exploring counseling and advising staffing, and Stephen Coates-White of South Seattle Community College is hard at work on revising the Student Services manual as it relates to counseling services at community and technical colleges in Washington (which we will receive an update on the progress of the revisions), to name a couple. We can be assured that defining ourselves and our roles will be a continuing, dynamic process.

At the same time that we're doing the important work of defining ourselves, we are also called on to respond to current events that impact our campuses, as well as the campuses of four-year institutions and K-12 schools. At one time or another over the past few years, we have all felt our heart skip a beat when a friend or colleague said to us, "Did you hear about the shooting at such-and-such a school?" or told us about some other equally tragic event at an academic institution. There is no denying that many of the students we serve are suffering from increasingly severe mental health issues. As such, we are increasingly called upon to revisit and revise our practices when working with troubled students. One of the criticisms levied against Virginia Tech in its handling of the shootings on April 16, 2007, was that school officials (judicial affairs, counseling center, campus police, dean of students, and others) failed to adequately communicate with each other or with the shooter's parents due to their belief that communication was prohibited by federal laws governing the privacy of health and education records. The review panel that explored the school's handling of the tragedy found that there was widespread confusion about what federal and state privacy laws allow. I would suggest to you that what happened at Virginia Tech could have happened anywhere, including at a community or technical college in Washington.

Please join us on November 30th for the 2007 WCTCCA Fall Meeting where we will begin dialoguing about **how community and technical college counselors fit into a campus wide approach to crisis response, and how we overcome some of the barriers that impede effective crisis response.** Our agenda includes speakers familiar with campus safety/security issues, as well as opportunities to discuss and formulate best practices regarding crisis response. We will also be discussing recent legislative activity around counselor registration, and whether or not the WCTCCA should combine memberships with the Washington Counseling Association.

The more counselors who participate, the richer will be the discussion and the insights gained. I hope each of you will be able to attend!

Liz McKinney, President
On behalf of the WCTCCA Fall Meeting Planning Committee

Workshop Highlights, Details, and Information...

Workshop Schedule

(Subject to change)

- 8:30** Check in and light refreshments
- 9:00** Welcome by Dr. Deb Casey,
Assistant Dean of Student Services
- Introductions
- 9:20** Guest speakers:
- Fred Creek, Director of Campus
Safety at GRCC
&
Dr. Maurice Warner, L.M.H.C.,
Associate Director of the
Counseling Center at UW Seattle
- Q & A and Small Group Discussion
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:30** Updates regarding Student
Services Manual and Registered
Counselor legislation
- 1:30** Business Meeting:
- WCTCCA Officer Reports
- Discussion about possible merger
of WCTCCA with WCA
- 2:45** Wrap up
- 3:15** Adjourn

Workshop Fees

- WCTCCA Dues \$10
2006-07
- Workshop Fee \$10
(Required at Green River site only)

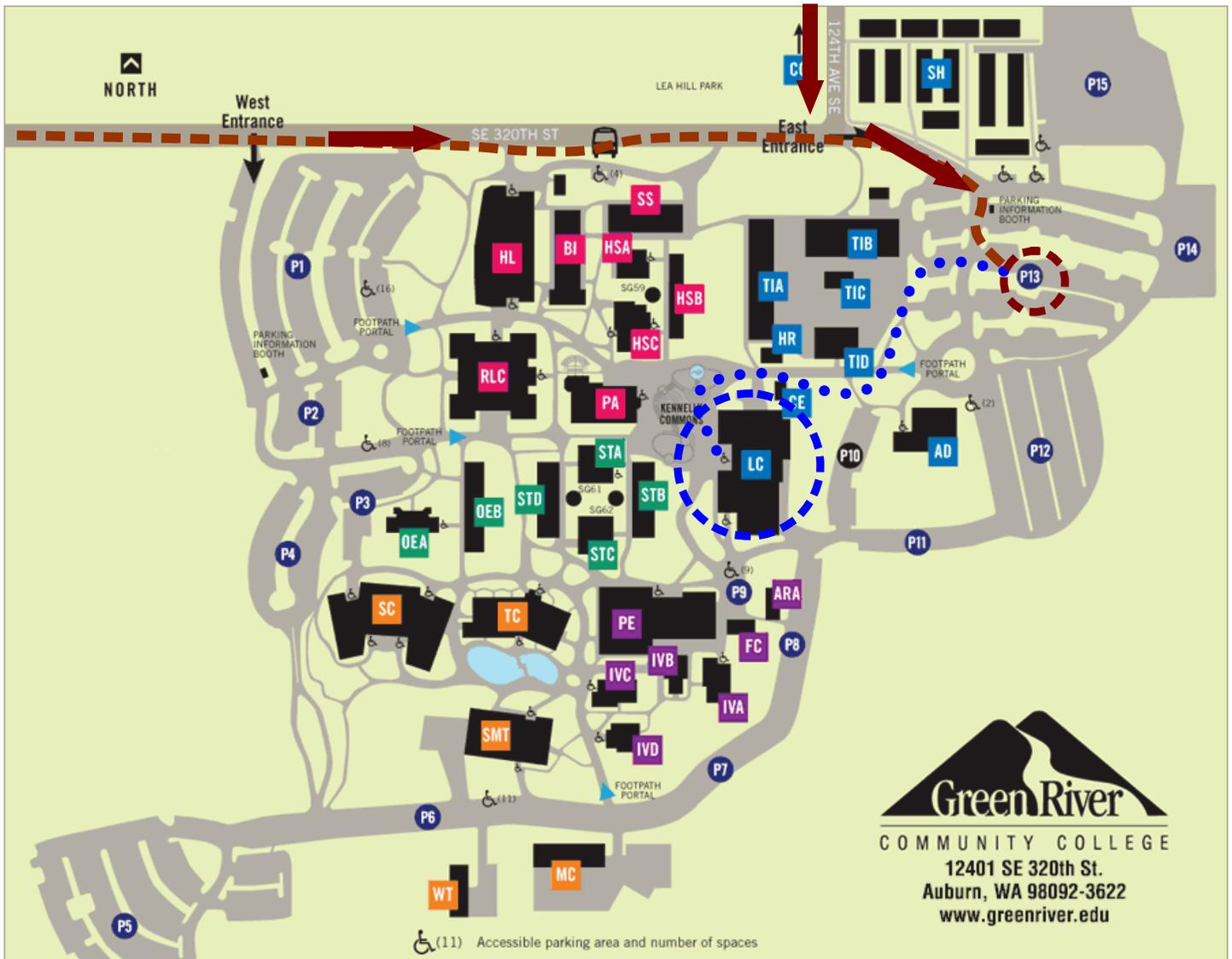
Fees include lunch at Green River site
only.

How to Register for Workshop:

- Send an email by **NOVEMBER 16, 2007** to Brian Shook at bshook@ghc.edu as to your attendance location (**On-site:** Green River Community College **or** **Off-site:** Spokane Falls Community College **or** Everett Community College **or** Clark College)
- If attending at Green River Community College, please select your lunch option and include your preference in your email to Brian Shook. Please see attached lunch selections and don't forget to pick your favorite bread and side dish, **and**
- Come to workshop prepared with:
 - Registration Form, **and**
 - Workshop fee (workshop fee only applies at Green River Community College location), **and**
 - WCTCCA annual dues
 - Come prepared to discuss attached talking points

For general **workshop information**, contact **Elizabeth McKinney** @ 253 833 9111, Ext 4491 or emckinney@greenriver.edu.

Registration and Lunch choice due Nov. 16th
For **registration information**, contact **Brian Shook**
@ (360) 538-4015 or bshook@ghc.edu.



Lunch at GRCC - Choices, Choices, Choices:

- **Classic Italian:** salami, pepperoni, and provolone cheese
 - Bread options: ciabatta, foccacia, wheat sub roll or a tortilla wrap
 - Side options: pasta salad or potato salad
- **All American hero:** turkey, ham, and roast beef with cheese and a mayo/mustard dressing
 - Bread options: ciabatta, foccacia, wheat sub roll or a tortilla wrap
 - Side options: pasta salad or potato salad
- **Vegetarian:** lettuce, tomato, mushrooms, black olives, cucumber and cream cheese
 - Bread options: ciabatta, foccacia, wheat sub roll or a tortilla wrap
 - Side options: pasta salad or potato salad
- **Asian chicken wrap:** grilled chicken, Napa cabbage, Asian dressing, mandarin oranges, and toasted almonds
 - Side options: pasta salad or potato salad
- **Santa Fe:** grilled chicken wrap with cilantro rice & black bean with creamy chipotle dressing
 - Side options: pasta salad or potato salad



In your **RSVP** please include your choice of bread and/or side. For example: **Classic Italian, foccacia, potato salad.**

* All include seasonal whole fruit, dessert bar & can of pop or bottled water

Directions:

Green River Community College
12401 SE 320th Street,
Auburn Washington 98092
(253) 833-9111

Southbound

1. Take Hwy 167 South toward Kent / Auburn
2. Take the 15th Street NW exit. Turn left onto 15th Street NW. (15th Street NW becomes Harvey Road.)
3. Turn left onto 8th Street NE. (8th Street NE becomes SE 320th Street; SE 320th Street becomes Lea Hill Road SE.)
4. Turn right onto 105th Place SE.
5. Turn left onto 107th Place SE.
6. 107th Place SE becomes SE 320th Street.
7. Proceed to the East Entrance (2nd entrance)

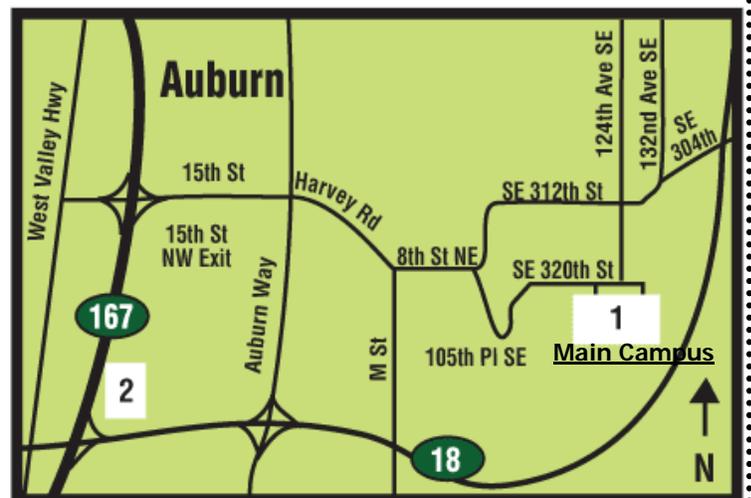
Northbound

1. Take Highway 18 East toward Auburn / North Bend.
2. Take the SE 304th Street exit toward SE 312th Street.
3. Turn right onto SE 304th Street. (SE 304th Street becomes 132nd Avenue SE.)
4. Stay Straight to go onto 132nd Way SE. (132nd Way SE becomes SE 312th Street.)
5. Turn left onto 124th Avenue SE.
6. Turn left onto SE 320th Street.
7. This will bring you to the East Entrance

Parking

After entering the East Entrance, you can proceed to **P-13**, where the GRCC Safety Department will have spaces coned off for our group. Feel free to ask the attendant in the Parking Information Booth where to park. No Permit will be necessary to park in these designated spaces.

The event will take place in the Rainier room of the Lindbloom Center (designated as "LC" on the campus map - previous page)



WCTCCA FALL 2007 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Please Print Form, Fill Out, and Bring to Workshop with Payment

Name _____

College _____

Department _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Fees

Conference Fee - \$10.00
(Green River Community College site participants only)

WCTCCA Annual Dues 2007-08 - \$10.00

Payment Information

- Only participants attending workshop at Green River Community College need to pay Conference Fee.
- We encourage ALL participants to pay WCTCCA Annual Dues 2007-08.
- Payment is due upon arrival by cash, personal check, or College check.
- If you decide to send your payment in advance, you can mail it to: Dale Zeretzke, Counseling, 1701 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122
- Please make checks payable to: **WCTCCA**
- Receipts for all payments will be mailed within two weeks after November 30, 2007.

Guest Speakers:

Responding to “Students of Concern” in a College Environment Dr. Maurice Warner

Is there a college or university in the nation that is not re-examining its policies and procedures for responding to acutely distressed students in light of the tragic events at Virginia Tech? How can we provide protection from the few students who pose a genuine risk to themselves or others without demonizing the many whose behavior is simply upsetting to others, or indicative of personal distress rather than violence?

This presentation will highlight some of the innovative ideas in use or being considered by various colleges. To stimulate discussion of the roles counselors might play, these ideas will be organized into a hypothetical model of a comprehensive program to both gather information and respond on a case by case basis.

Maurice Warner, L.M.H.C., is Associate Director of the Counseling Center at the University of Washington in Seattle. His duties there include responding to the needs of campus units coping with a sudden death within their community, consulting with faculty and staff regarding students in distress, and participating in the development of new campus-wide programs for responding to acutely distressed students. In addition to his 17 years at the UW, Dr. Warner has served as a counselor and/or adjunct faculty member at several other universities, colleges, and community colleges in Washington. He is also the author of an award winning brochure for college students on “Healthy Grieving.”

Working Collaboratively to improve Community College Campus Safety Fred Creek

Mr. Creek’s discussion points will highlight the history and goals of campus safety at Green River Community College, as well as the changing dynamics of campus life. He will also discuss how campus safety programs can work collaboratively with other campus departments and the community to increase and improve college campus safety.

Fred Creek has been the Director of Campus Safety at Green River Community College since 1997. Mr. Creek brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. He served in the U.S. Army, active duty, for 13 years, and recently retired from the Army Reserves. Mr. Creek’s work experience includes being a patrol officer, correctional officer, correctional counselor, and drill sergeant. He also served on the Fort Lewis Emergency Operations Center responsible for post deployments and emergencies.

Summary of Recommendations Relevant to Counseling from the Report of the Virginia Tech Review Panel
&
Possible Discussion Points for the WCTCCA Fall Conference

“Notwithstanding the system failures and errors in judgment that contributed to Cho’s worsening depression, Cho himself was the biggest impediment to stabilizing his mental health. He denied having previously received mental health services when he was evaluated in the fall of 2005, so medical personnel believed that their interaction with him on that occasion was the first time he had showed signs of mental illness. While Cho’s emotional and psychological disabilities undoubtedly clouded his ability to evaluate his own situation, he, ultimately, is the primary person responsible for April 16, 2007, to imply otherwise would be wrong.” pg 53 of the Report of the Review Panel

Universities should recognize their responsibility to a young, vulnerable population and promote the sharing of information internally, and with parents, when significant circumstances pertaining to health and safety arise.

Institutions of higher learning should review and revise their current policies related to a) recognizing and assisting students in distress, b) the student code of conduct, including enforcement, c) judiciary proceedings for students, including enforcement, d) university authority to appropriately intervene when it is believed a distressed student poses a danger to himself or others. ***Discussion point: what system is in place at your school for reviewing and revising policies in the above four areas? Does your school have explicit policies and procedures outlined in each of the areas?**

Universities must have a system that links troubled students to appropriate medical and counseling services either on or off campus, and to balance the individual’s rights with the rights of all others for safety.

Incidents of aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior must be documented and reported immediately to a college’s threat assessment group, and must be acted upon in a prompt and effective manner to protect the safety of the campus community. ***Discussion point: Does your school have the equivalent of a threat assessment group/team? Who comprises the team and how does it function?**

Culturally competent mental health services were provided to Cho at his school and in his community. Adequate resources must be allocated for systems of care in schools and communities that provide culturally competent services for children and adolescents to reduce mental-illness-related risk as occurred within this community.

Policies and procedures should be implemented to require professors encountering aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior from a student to report them to the dean. Guidelines should be established to address when such reports should be communicated by the dean to a threat assessment group, and to the school’s counseling center.

Reporting requirements for aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior and incidents for resident hall staff must be clearly established and reviewed during annual training.

Repeated incidents of aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior must be reported by Judicial Affairs to the threat assessment group. The group must formulate a plan to address the behavior that will both protect other students and provide the needed support for the troubled student.

Repeated incidents of aberrant, dangerous, or threatening behavior should be reported to the counseling center and reported to parents. The troubled student should be required to participate in counseling as a condition of

continued residence in campus housing and enrollment in classes. ***Discussion point: At your school, how do students come to be mandated to go to counseling?**

The law enforcement agency at colleges should report all incidents of an issuance of temporary detention orders for students (and staff) to Judicial Affairs, the threat assessment team, the counseling center, and parents. All parties should be educated about the public safety exceptions to the privacy laws which permit such reporting.

The college counseling center should report all students who are in treatment pursuant to a court order to the threat assessment group. A policy should be implemented to address what information can be shared with family and roommates pursuant to the public safety exceptions to the privacy laws.

Accurate guidance should be developed by the attorney general of Virginia regarding the application of information privacy laws to the behavior of troubled students. ***Discussion point: Do you have a clear understanding of information privacy laws as they pertain to students in college?**

Privacy laws should be revised to include “safe harbor” provisions.

Amendments to FERPA should be considered: FERPA should explicitly explain how it applies to medical records held for treatment purposes. FERPA should make explicit an exception regarding treatment records.

Summary of Recommendations Relevant to Campus Safety

The existing attorney general’s opinion regarding the authority of universities and colleges to ban guns on campus should be clarified immediately.

The Virginia General Assembly should adopt legislation in the 2008 session clearly establishing the right of every institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to regulate the possession of firearms on campus if it so desires. The panel recommends that guns be banned on campus grounds and in buildings unless mandated by law.

Universities and colleges should make clear in their literature what their policy is regarding weapons on campus.