Student Mental Health and Wellness

Sean Ryan and Grace Kelley
Co-Chairs, Student Affairs Committee

February 3rd, 2017
Our University has seen 6 student deaths this academic year.

Columbia University has seen at least 24 suicides since 2000 across 9 schools.

Undergraduate students account for 79.2% of student suicides since 2000.

Students of color account for 62.5% of suicides since 2000.

2 of the past 7 students who committed suicide identified as LGBTQ.

50% of General Studies students who committed suicide since 2000 were military veterans.
Question
Student Mental Health and Wellness

Prevention

◆ Build a community that knows how to have fun

◆ Create space to foster interconnectedness

◆ Provide space and support for at risk groups including veterans, students with disabilities, students of color, international students, and LGBTQIA students

◆ Make gatekeeper training a community standard
Student Mental Health and Wellness

Intervention

- Centralized student wellness hotline
- Improve access to Counseling & Psychological Services
Implementation

◆ SAC-proposed Coordinating Group

◆ Objective: Consolidate efforts and share best practices to effectively promote student wellness across the University, with a primary focus on Columbia College.
Coordinating Group Membership

Chairs

Melanie Bernitz, MD, MPH, Associate Vice President and Medical Director, Columbia Health
Cristen Kromm, Dean of Undergraduate Student Life

Central Administration

Susan Glancy, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Suzanne Goldberg, Executive Vice President for University Life
Ixchel Rosal, Associate Vice President for Student Life, Office of University Life

Students

Ramond Curtis, University Senator, School of General Studies
Grace Kelley, BSN, RN, Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate
Sean Ryan, Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate
Joshua Schenk, University Senator, Columbia College
Daniella Urbina, Vice Chair, Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate

Subject-matter Experts and Columbia Health Personnel

Richard Eichler, Ph.D., Executive Director, Counseling and Psychological Services
Madelyn Gould, Ph.D., MPH, Professor of Epidemiology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University Medical Center
J. John Mann, MD, Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center
Laurel Mayer, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center
Michael McNeil, Ed.D., Chief of Administration, Columbia Health
Barbara Stanley, Ph.D., Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University Medical Center
Questions?