



In efforts to ensure the students attending Helena College are supported academically, socially and personally, the College has dedicated resources throughout the students' enrollment span to meet these needs. Given the Montana suicide rate, Helena College has expanded its support and efforts to prevent its students from taking such an action.

Helena College Veteran Resources has taken an active and leading role in Helena College's suicide prevention effort. Thus far, broad based actions include:

- Wellness Support business cards were created with numbers to call for setting up counseling appointments;
- Access to wellness information will be added to the new Helena College website including available help numbers, mental health tips, stress management information, mental health resources, and Ted Talks on wellness;
- Mid-term contacts were made Spring 2017 semester to veteran students for an informal wellness check. This process will continue each semester.

In addition to the energies dedicated by Veteran Resources, Disability Resources has established an Advisory Board and together reinvigorating partnerships with community agencies to assist our students in need whether it be simple, or when in crisis. The Office of Student Affairs continues to support a licensed professional counselor on an on-call basis providing one-on-one emergency intervention and continued care. Fiscal support for the counselor comes, in part, from the general fund and the student Wellness Fee.

Recognizing faculty have the most contact with our students, Helena College has in place a Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) with both members from Student and Academic Affairs as members. Students are referred to the BAT team via Starfish, Helena College's communication portal, via a raised flag. Flags are tiered indicated the level of intervention requested: yellow for personal care and support; and red, for emergency care. All members of the college community have the ability to raise either of these two flags.

Helena College is part of the larger Helena community. We are proud of this connection and offer continued suicide prevention efforts free of charge. This month, September 2017, the college will be hosting two QPR trainings open to the public free of charge. The trainings are being offered by Breath – let's start a conversation, a non-profit suicide prevention service which the CSAO is a board member. These trainings are part of a larger Student Affairs programming effort to reduce Montana's suicide rate.