

Westmoreland County Community College

Biennial Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program

Introduction

Purpose

Westmoreland County Community College (Westmoreland) conducted a biennial review of its alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention program, in compliance with the 1989 Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act per Part 86 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) - the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years.

The objectives of this report are to determine Westmoreland's AOD program effectiveness, the consistency of sanction enforcement, and to determine opportunities for improvement.

Biennial Review Committee Members

The following Westmoreland County Community College employees serve on the Biennial Review Committee:

- Sydney Beeler, Vice President of Enrollment Management
- Julie Greathouse, Director of Student Success
- Richard Holler, Director of Athletics
- Lauren Farrell, Director of Human Resources
- Lynna Thomas, Counselor
- Lauren Eicher, Counselor
- Katherine Hanold, Coordinator of Student Life

Background and Program Goals

Westmoreland County Community College is located in the southwest region of Pennsylvania, and in an area that is currently experiencing a crisis involving heroin and other prescription and illegal drugs

(Westmoreland County Drug Overdose Task Force, 2017). With 126 and 174 accidental overdose deaths in 2015 and 2016, respectively, the college's AOD program is given great attention. The goals of the program include:

1. To educate our campus community about alcohol and other drugs through the development and dissemination of information and resources, including our Drug and Alcohol Policy.
2. To create and support a culture that promotes a healthy community.
3. To be a part of a community-wide response to drug and alcohol misuse, abuse, and addiction through referrals to in-patient and out-patient services, intervention programs, and other resources in the community that can provide on-going support for students.

Items Reviewed

The following items were examined for the biennial review:

- Westmoreland County Community College's Student Handbook
- Westmoreland County Community College's Annual Safety and Security Report
- Westmoreland County Community College's Employee Substance Abuse Policy
- Westmoreland County Community College's Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Westmoreland County Community College's Code of Student Conduct
- Westmoreland County Community College's Smoking Policy
- Westmoreland County Community College's website
- Westmoreland County Community College Counseling Services
- Westmoreland County Community College Student Life
- Westmoreland County Community College Prevention Committee
- Park Police of Westmoreland County
- Complying with The Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (EDGAR Part 86), A Guide for University and Campus Regulations prepared by the Higher Education Center

- The Higher Education Amendments of 1998, (P.L. 105-244) and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, (P.L. 101-226)

Alcohol and Other Drug Program

AOD Program Events

The AOD program has changed in the past two years to take a more proactive and preventative approach in the college community. As previously mentioned, Westmoreland County and the surrounding areas, are combatting a drug, specifically opioid, epidemic. As such, an increase in preventative programming and outreach can be observed between the two years in this review.

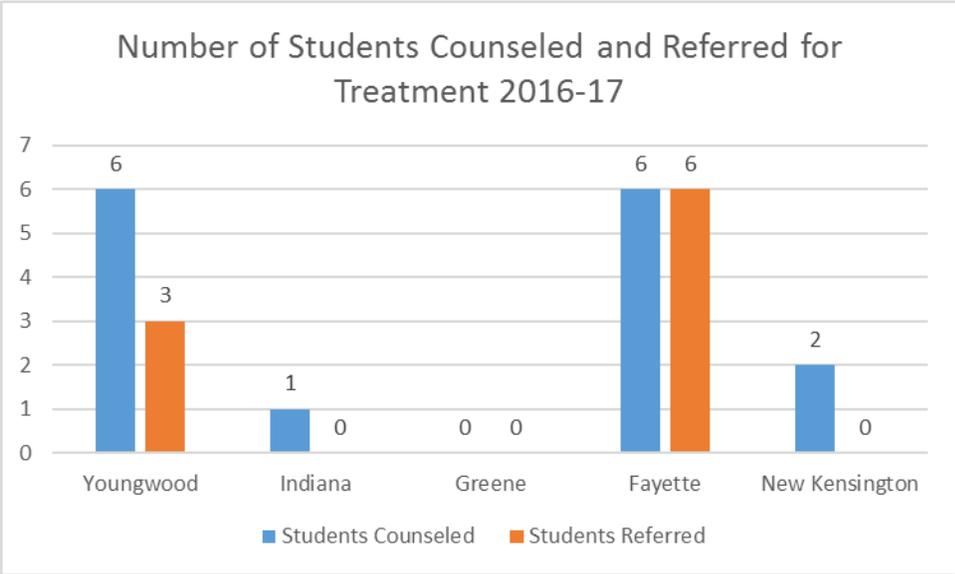
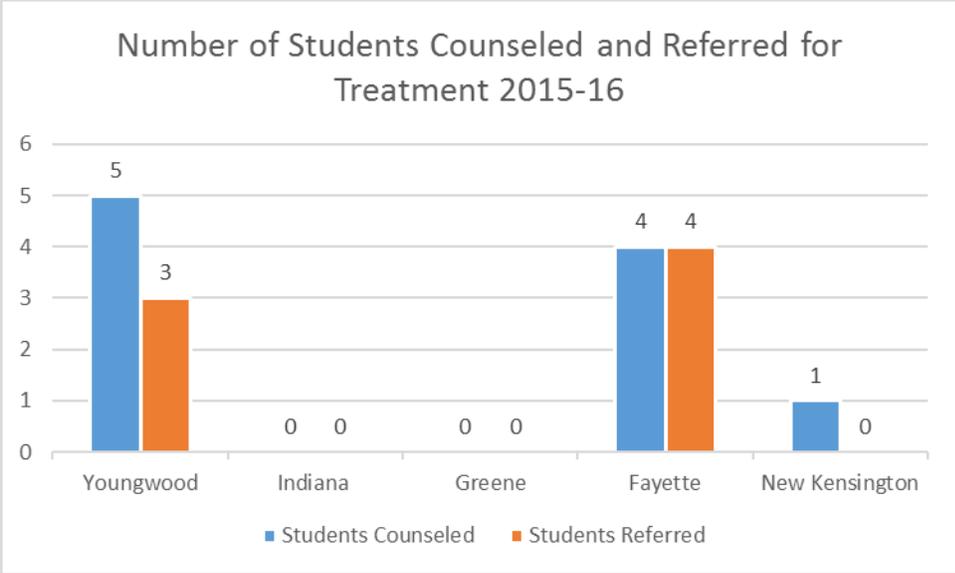
Counseling Services

Westmoreland County Community College counselors provide educational counseling to all current students. The college employs 5 full-time and 10 part-time counselors, who are available to students across various college locations. All are Master's level counselors with background experience, training, and education in substance abuse counseling.

In the 2015-16 school year, counselors reported that they counseled a total of 10 students on substance abuse issues. Additionally, they reported they referred a total of 7 students to substance abuse treatment. No data was available from the Murrysville Education Center or the Latrobe Education Center.

In the 2016-17 school year, counselors reported that they counseled a total of 15 students on substance abuse issues. Additionally, they reported they referred a total of 9 students to substance abuse treatment.

Counselors reported that many students counseled were already participating in treatment and/or were connected with supportive community resources, therefore not requiring a referral. This accounts for the difference in the numbers.



Employee Assistance Program

An Employee Assistance Program is a benefit to employees at Westmoreland County Community College. The EAP offers services that relate to the AOD program. These services include short and long term counseling, substance abuse professional services, rehabilitation services, and wellness. Further, in the 2016-2017 academic year, Human Resources held two training sessions for supervisors facilitated by the EAP to help supervisors identify signs and symptoms of possible use and misuse and make appropriate referrals.

Campus Programming

During the 2015-16 school year, the college sponsored 4 programs for students, which provided information on substance abuse and resources. In total, 813 students participated in these programs. Employees also were invited to participate.

During the 2016-17 school year, the college sponsored 8 programs for students and employees, which provided information on substance abuse and resources. In total, 1044 students participated in these programs. Additionally, the college sponsored 2 trainings for employees specific to opioid use, with 80 employees participating.

Please see below for a complete list of campus programming.

2015-2016 AOD Programming				
Programming/Event Name	Date(s) of Program	Employee	Students	# of Participants
<i>AOD Informational Brochures</i> Distributed to all new students and their family members in attendance at New Student Orientation.	August 17, 2015		X	668
<i>Annual Health Fair - Indiana Education Center</i> Brochures from the Armstrong, Indiana, and Clarion Drug & Alcohol Commission were handed out to students, in addition to community resources for individual assistance for those with alcohol and other drug concerns.	November 4, 2015		X	45

<i>Spring Fling</i> Student Organizations competed in a non-alcoholic mix off. Attendees were able to sample and vote on their favorite mix. Resource tables were available along with different games utilizing alcohol impairment simulation goggles.	March 16, 2016		X	100
<i>Substance Abuse Helpline Flyers</i> Flyers distributed throughout the college with information about the newly available Westmoreland Community Action Substance Abuse Hotline.	April 20, 2016	X	X	Available to all on campus
2016-2017 AOD Programming				
Programming/Event Name	Date(s) of Program	Employee	Students	# of Participants
<i>Heroin/Opioid Epidemic in Westmoreland County</i> Community Prevention Services of Westmoreland, along with a Westmoreland County Detective, discussed the heroin/opioid epidemic and overdose concerns, along with how to recognize and respond to students.	July 19, 2016	X		50
<i>Red Ribbon Week - Latrobe Education Center</i> Community Partners set up tables and distributed drug and alcohol resources to students throughout the week.	October 24-27, 2016		X	200
<i>Ghostbusters Halloween</i> This event partnered with the campus Halloween party and involved the St. Vincent Prevention Project. It included educational resources and counseling on the effects of drugs and alcohol.	October 31, 2016		X	196

<p><i>Annual Health Fair - Indiana Education Center</i></p> <p>Brochures from the Armstrong, Indiana, and Clarion Drug & Alcohol Commission were handed out to students, in addition to community resources for individual assistance for those with alcohol and other drug concerns.</p>	November 2, 2016		X	35
<p><i>K-9 Week</i></p> <p>Provided demonstrations by community police officers and their dogs as well as engaged in discussion about substance abuse within the community.</p>	November 7-11, 2016	X	X	Approx. 120
<p><i>NARCAN Training</i></p> <p>Employees were trained on the use of NARCAN in the case of an incidental overdose.</p>	December 13, 2016	X		30
<p><i>“Prescription for Change” Film Screening</i></p> <p>Four screenings of the documentary “Prescription for Change” took place on campus, including a question and answer session about the opioid epidemic after each screening. Information tables for community resources were set up throughout the event.</p>	February 8, 2017 February 9, 2017	X	X	55
<p><i>Mardi Gras Mocktail Mix-Off</i></p> <p>Student organizations competed in a non-alcoholic drink competition. Attendees were able to sample the mocktails and vote on their favorite. Also included was an alcohol trivia game that students had to complete in order to earn tickets to ride a mechanical bull. (“Take a ride on the sober side”)</p>	February 28, 2017		X	198

<i>Alcohol Awareness Month Resource Table - Latrobe Education Center</i> Vendors disseminated flyers and giveaway items with contact information for community resources.	April, 2017		X	200
<i>Substance Abuse in Your Community: Drug Forum</i> Panel of speakers discussing various aspects of the drug epidemic within our community. Also included resource tables sponsored by community partners.	April 19, 2017	X	X	40

Drug-Free Campus/Workplace Policy

Westmoreland County Community College complies with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, to maintain a drug-free campus. Further, we have urged our community to take an active role in the protection of themselves and others. As such, the college community reviewed, and revised, the Substance Abuse Policy and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention for college employees in August 2015. The following year, the student Drug and Alcohol Policy was reviewed and revised as well as the Code of Student Conduct. The aforementioned policies contain the following provisions, in compliance with EDGAR 86 Subpart B:

- Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by student and employees on its property or as part of any activity (See the Code of Student Conduct, Drug and Alcohol Policy, or Substance Abuse Policy)
- A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, State, and/or Federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol (See the Drug and Alcohol Policy)
- A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol (See the Drug and Alcohol Policy)

- A description of any drug or alcohol counseling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programs that are available to employees or students (See Substance Abuse Policy and/or the Drug and Alcohol Policy)
- Disciplinary sanctions for violation of drug and alcohol related offenses (See Code of Student Conduct, Drug and Alcohol Policy, and Substance Abuse Policy)

Policy Distribution

Once each semester, an e-mail regarding our Drug and Alcohol Policy is e-mailed to employees and students. Further, annually the College's communication department prints informative brochures about Drug and Alcohol Prevention. These brochures contain the college's Drug and Alcohol Policy, violations, disciplinary actions related to drug and alcohol offenses, legal penalties for drug related offenses, health risks, and resources for treatment. These brochures are distributed in every Westmoreland location and are included in our New Student Orientation Program. Further, the same information is also included in our Student Handbook which is made available to all students through our webpage and student portal.

Westmoreland County Community College Employees are provided information about the Drug and Alcohol Prevention program at their New-Hire Orientation Session. During a one-on-one session with a representative from Human Resources, new employees review the Substance Abuse Policy and information regarding the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). All employees certify through signature that they have read and understand the Substance Abuse Policy and have received information about the EAP.

Policy Violations

In the 2015-2016 academic year, there was one arrest for a drug abuse violation at the Youngwood Campus of Westmoreland County Community College. The arrest was a non-student thus no violation of the Code of Student Conduct or Drug and Alcohol Policy. At the Greene County Center

location of Westmoreland County Community College, there was one drug abuse violation and one liquor law violation arrest. Again, as they were non-students, no Code of Student Conduct nor violation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy was violated.

In the same academic year, at the Youngwood Campus, two separate incidents occurred. The first in violation of our Smoking Policy, and the second, a violation of our Drug and Alcohol Policy. The first incident resulted in a conduct meeting with the Dean of Students. The second incident resulted in medical transport and referral to external community resources.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, there were three incidents at the Youngwood campus involving alcohol and/or other drugs. In two of the three incidents, the Code of Student Conduct nor the Drug and Alcohol Policy were violated as they were non students. In the third incident involved a student and the authorities verbally notified the administration, but did not provide a report until the end of the year. At that point in time, the student involved no longer had student status thus could not be adjudicated. In the 2016-2017 academic year, there were no drug and alcohol related incidents concerning students at any of the Center locations.

Recommendations

The review of Westmoreland County Community College's AOD program was comprehensive for the academic years of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Westmoreland County Community College is in compliance with the 1989 Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act per Part 86 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) - the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations. Westmoreland has demonstrated that it has an effective Drug and Alcohol Prevention Policy of which students and employees are notified of, and educated on, consistently. Further, Westmoreland makes appropriate referrals to community organizations and enforces the Code of Student Conduct consistently. Nevertheless, there are areas that Westmoreland could improve

upon. Moving forward, the following additions and/or revisions to the AOD prevention program will be implemented:

- Increase the use of assessment to better identify strategies through which to engage students and employees in alcohol and substance abuse prevention.
- Increase the ease of reporting and tracking referrals and/or violations for alcohol or other drug related issues.
 - o While college personnel keep track of referrals and violations, easing the method by which this is done through the use of technology will make it easier for the staff.
- Improved communication
 - o While Westmoreland notifies students and employees of the Drug and Alcohol Policy as required through email, the e-mail open rates is not as high as Westmoreland would expect. Utilizing other technologies to ensure that students and employees are opening and reading the email notification will help assure the college that this policy is widely known and understood.

Westmoreland County Community College will continue to develop, implement, and assess best practices as they relate to creating a healthy, safe, and positive working and learning environment for our employees and students, respectively.

