



**Faculty Council of Community Colleges  
Mental Health and Wellness  
CPD&A1. 2022-2023  
Passed by the FCCC  
October 15, 2022**

**WHEREAS** SUNY and New York State value the importance of wellness for their employees as noted by currently available resources promoted by the NYS Employee Assistance Program and NYS Family Benefits Program on their website<sup>1</sup> and NYS: <https://wellnys.oer.ny.gov/> under the heading “WellNYS Everyday”; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY has a compendium of resources under the “Health & Wellness” subsection of Benefits on their website<sup>2</sup>, where

- Wellness programs include measures and resources provided by institutions that support the well-being of individuals but are not limited to HR Benefits, resources to improve work efficiency and to eliminate redundancy/waste/inefficiency, education and training, mentorship, and resources addressing all the domains of well-being; and
- Well-being activities are specific measures individuals take to optimize their physical, mental/emotional, social, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, financial, and environmental health; and

**WHEREAS** on June 23, 2021, the SUNY Board of Trustees, upon the recommendations of Former Chancellor Malatras to approve SUNY’s Student Mental Health and Wellness Task Force recommendations, approved expanded mental health services for students across its 64 colleges and universities to build on the comprehensive program launched in 2020 described in detail<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY has committed to creating permanent mental health and wellness programs at SUNY to include the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Health and Wellness to lead system-wide expansion of mental health services and to include a SUNY mental health and

wellness services advisory committee that “will lead the enhancement and mobilization of mental health and wellness services, harmonize efforts across campuses, and provide periodic progress updates to the SUNY Board of Trustees”; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY has not created a consistent platform, structure, or guidelines for each of the SUNY institutions to adhere to, nor created the aforementioned position of the Associate Vice Chancellor of Health and Wellness; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY announced on September 21, 2022 the use of \$24 million in American Rescue Plan Funds to expand mental health and wellness services and enhance campus resources<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY is suffering from employee burnout and vacancies across all campuses and sectors despite being in a better financial position in 2022 than in previous years; and

**WHEREAS** Employee Assistance Programs available to SUNY employees are not designed for wellness and preventative care and are not standardized across SUNY campuses.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges expects that the SUNY Chancellor will work to expand the structure supporting health, wellness, and well-being consistent with the recommendations that the Board of Trustees approved on June 23, 2021, to include both students and employees; and

**RESOLVED** in anticipation that the Interim Chancellor will name a SUNY Associate Vice Chancellor for Health, Wellness, and Well-being to serve the SUNY system, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges requests that the Associate Vice Chancellor of Health, Wellness, and Well-being portfolio include the following responsibilities:

- Rename the SUNY Mental Health and Wellness committee to “SUNY Health, Wellness, and Well-being” committee, and chair this committee.
- Consult with designees of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and existing campus Wellness officers.
- Provide regular reports to the SUNY Chancellor, the SUNY Board of Trustees, and to each institution so that best practices can be implemented as appropriate and relevant across the institutions respecting individual needs, demographics, and resource availability.

**RESOLVED** that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges requests that the Governor’s Office and the Interim Chancellor work together to allocate funding and appropriate resources for

- Designating individuals who are appropriately qualified on each campus to oversee and to provide these resources
- Harnessing the resources of the SUNY CPD in coordinating professional development in health and wellness for the employees in the SUNY system.

1. <https://www.suny.edu/benefits/balance/>
2. <https://www.suny.edu/benefits/wellness/>
3. <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/6-21/6-23-21/mental-health-services.html>
4. <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/9-22/9-21-22/mental-health-expands.html>