



**Faculty Council of Community Colleges
Support of Mental Health Funding
CSL1. 2023-2024
Passed by the FCCC
April 13, 2024**

WHEREAS The American Council on Education has identified mental health issues as an “enormous challenge on campuses across the country¹,” and

WHEREAS According to a 2017 survey conducted by the American College Health Association (ACHA): 51.7% of students felt that things were hopeless, 39.3% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, 60.9% felt overwhelming anxiety, 12.1% seriously considered suicide, and 1.9% attempted suicide;² and

WHEREAS on February 14th, 2024, Governor Hochul announced “critical investments to ensure every New Yorker has access to high-quality mental health services³,” and

WHEREAS said investments were targeted at State Operated Campuses and included only telehealth options for community colleges; and

WHEREAS SUNY has clearly shown that there is a need to prioritize mental health services as demonstrated by the SUNY Mental Health Repository; and

¹ <https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Comments-DOL-IRS-HHS-Mental-Health-NPRM-100423.pdf>

² https://www.acha.org/documents/ncha/NCHA-II_FALL_2017_REFERENCE_GROUP_EXECUTIVE_SUMMARY.pdf

³ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-expands-access-mental-health-care-200000-suny-students>

WHEREAS Chancellor King stated in his 2023 State of the University address “There is mental health counseling, but often far too little to fill the needs of student bodies grappling with climbing rates of anxiety and depression, or the national crisis of loneliness and social isolation intensified by technology, or more severe traumas in their lives outside of school⁴,” and

WHEREAS half of SUNY community college campuses do not have an in-person counseling center; and

WHEREAS during a Listening Tour with the FCCC Campus and Student Life Committee, one Community College student stated that his college does not have any form of mental health services and that anything, even Peer Support, would be “super helpful”; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon Chancellor King to make mental health a key priority for advocacy and continued investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to allocate substantial funding towards mental health support services for SUNY Community College campuses. Each campus should receive financial resources tailored to meet the specific needs of its population.

⁴ <https://www.suny.edu/sotu/text/>