Executive Summary
Final Report
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Campus Mental Health Task Force
April 2010

There has been a dramatic growth over the last several decades in the number of college students seeking mental health services and in the severity of the mental health problems of these students. UWM recognized these changes and in Fall, 2008 Chancellor Carlos Santiago appointed the Campus Mental Health Task Force and charged it with reviewing and analyzing local and national reports related to mental health and creating a complete picture of the current status of the mental health delivery services and mental health needs of UWM’s diverse student population.

The 16 members of the Task Force met regularly over the course of the 2008-2009 academic year, interviewed a variety of consultants and stakeholders, and produced three ambitious subcommittee reports around the topic areas of:

- Prevention, Promotion, Wellness, and Intervention
- Campus Partnerships
- Community Partnerships

The subcommittees collected a massive amount of information, showing where UWM needs to devote its efforts to meet the mental health needs of the campus community. This information is summarized in the subcommittee reports appended to this document. The subcommittee reports were framed around the suggestions of the JED Foundation/Suicide Prevention Center and their work led the Task Force to propose six recommendations:

- Promote Social Networks to Create a Sense of Belonging among all Members of the Campus Community and a Caring Community
- Identify Students at Risk through Early Detection and Supportive Intervention by all Members of the Campus Community
- Develop and Provide Resources to Increase Help-Seeking Behavior and Train the Campus Community in Their Use
- Provide Mental Health Services through an Increase in Staffing and Space at Norris Health Center and Innovative Use of Other Campus and community Resources
- Develop and Follow Crisis-Management Procedures and Train the Campus Community in Their Use
- Provide Training in How to Deal with Suicidal or Violent Behavior and Restrict Access to Potentially Lethal Means

In addition, the Task Force believes that a new Task Force should be appointed to assist in the implementation of these recommendations and that an annual review of progress in implementing these recommendations should be conducted by a group of high-level campus administrators.