

*This document was developed and prepared by Dr. Joseph Hames, BETHEL UNIVERSITY's Vice President of the College of Health Sciences, and Rachael Brooks, BETHEL UNIVERSITY's Title IX and Prevention Services Coordinator, with the assistance of Tosha Gurley, former Northwest TN Director of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN). The template of this document was provided to Bethel University by the Coalition for Healthy and Safe Campus Communities (CHASCo) with permission from the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR).*

**The following is a list of positions and contact information for people within BETHEL UNIVERSITY who are responsible for enacting this plan:**

- **Bethel University's Safety & Security Office**  
(731) 352-4222 (office); (731) 415-7599 (24/7 cell); [busecurity@bethelu.edu](mailto:busecurity@bethelu.edu)
- **Vice President of the College of Health Sciences - Joe Hames**  
(731) 352-6381 (office); (731) 415-7212 (cell); [hamesj@bethelu.edu](mailto:hamesj@bethelu.edu)
- **University Chaplain - Anne Hames**  
(731) 352-4066 (office); (731) 415-6781 (cell); [hamesa@bethelu.edu](mailto:hamesa@bethelu.edu)
- **Associate Chaplain - Garrett Burns**  
(731) 352-6449 (office); (731) 535-3126 (cell); [burnsg@bethelu.edu](mailto:burnsg@bethelu.edu)
- **Dean of Student Development - Sandy Louden**  
(731) 352-4095 (office); 731-336-8943 (cell); [loudens@bethelu.edu](mailto:loudens@bethelu.edu)
- **Director of Human Resources - Vicky Williams**  
(731) 352-6405 (office); [williamsv@bethelu.edu](mailto:williamsv@bethelu.edu)
- **President - Walter Butler**  
(731) 352-4202 (office); [butlerw@bethelu.edu](mailto:butlerw@bethelu.edu)
- **Title IX and Prevention Services Coordinator - Rachael Brooks**  
(731) 352-4246 (office); [brooksra@bethelu.edu](mailto:brooksra@bethelu.edu)
- **Jackson Satellite Location Campus Manager, Dean of the College of Professional Studies, and Associate Director of Human Resources - Pam Hornbuckle**  
(901) 355-9806; [hornbucklep@bethelu.edu](mailto:hornbucklep@bethelu.edu)
- **Paris Satellite Location Campus Manager - Laura Hall**  
(731) 352-7662; [halll@bethelu.edu](mailto:halll@bethelu.edu)

BETHEL UNIVERSITY is committed to the mental health and wellness of our students, faculty, and staff. As such, and in adherence with the requirements of T.C.A. § 49-7-172, BETHEL UNIVERSITY has developed a suicide prevention plan that engages in a variety of initiatives to improve and provide crisis services.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY's Suicide Prevention Plan will be disseminated to faculty, staff, and students each academic year by email.

## PREVENTION

---

BETHEL UNIVERSITY has developed a comprehensive approach to increase mental health awareness through efforts of prevention.

### **Contact:**

BETHEL UNIVERSITY's contacts for suicide prevention work are:

- Joe Hames, VP of the College of Health Sciences  
731-352-6381 (office); 731-415-7212 (cell); [hamesj@bethelu.edu](mailto:hamesj@bethelu.edu)
- Rachael Brooks, Title IX and Prevention Services Coordinator  
731-352-4246 or [brooksra@bethelu.edu](mailto:brooksra@bethelu.edu)  
[bethelu.edu/about/title-ix-and-prevention-services](http://bethelu.edu/about/title-ix-and-prevention-services)

### **Prevention Components & Resources:**

Key components of BETHEL UNIVERSITY's suicide prevention work include:

- A suicide or mental health wellness syllabus statement included on Faculty Syllabi for all courses:  
*"BETHEL UNIVERSITY is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at BETHEL UNIVERSITY who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the **National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988)** or **Text 741741**. Students and employees on the McKenzie or Paris campuses can also contact **Bethel's Safety and Security Office (731-415-7599)** or the **Mobile Crisis Number (1-800-353-9918)**. **Emergency Services (911)** should be contacted in the event of an emergency."*
- Promotion of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Text Line, and campus/community resources are made available through:
  - BETHEL UNIVERSITY's website [bethelu.edu/current-students/counseling-services](http://bethelu.edu/current-students/counseling-services) and through additional methods, such as utilizing flyers/posters around campus and providing suicide prevention training to incoming freshmen, Residence Life Staff, employees, coaches, and other groups on campus.
- Utilizing community resources and agencies to provide prevention services for BETHEL UNIVERSITY community members. BETHEL UNIVERSITY has established relationships with the following local Mental Health facilities for the purpose of providing counseling, prevention education, training and/or crisis services.
  - Carey Counseling Center, Inc. provides counseling, mobile crisis services, training, and trauma debriefings. Carey Counseling Center Mobile Crisis may be contacted at 1-800-353-9918.
  - Hometown Health Clinic (Student Health Center) provides counseling and may be contacted at (731) 352-4027.

- The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) provides training and resources. TSPN's Rural Northwest Regional Director may be contacted at [eoswald@tspn.org](mailto:eoswald@tspn.org).

## INTERVENTION

---

There is no typical suicidal person. No age group, ethnicity, or background is immune. Fortunately, many troubled individuals display behaviors that deliberately or inadvertently signal their suicidal intent. Recognizing the warning signs and learning what to do next may help save a life (<https://tspn.org/warning-signs>).

### The Warning Signs:

The following behavioral patterns may indicate possible risk for suicide and should be watched closely. If they appear numerous or severe, seek help at once. The **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988** and the **Crisis Text Line**, which can be used by **texting "TN" to 741741**, provide access to trained telephone counselors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Talking about suicide, death, and/or no reason to live
- Preoccupation with death and dying
- Withdrawal from friends and/or social activities
- Experience of a recent severe loss (especially a relationship) or the threat of a significant loss
- Experience or fear of a situation of humiliation or failure
- Drastic changes in behavior
- Loss of interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Preparation for death by making out a will (unexpectedly) and final arrangements
- Giving away prized possessions
- Previous history of suicide attempts, as well as violence and/or hostility
- Unnecessary risks; reckless and/or impulsive behavior
- Loss of interest in personal appearance
- Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs
- General hopelessness
- Recent experience of humiliation or failure
- Unwillingness to connect with potential helpers

## CONTACT

---

### College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) or College of Health Sciences (CHS)

The following process should be followed if a College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) or a College of Health Sciences (CHS) student, faculty, or staff member encounters a student, faculty, or staff member considering suicide on their respective campuses.

1. Do NOT leave the student/employee alone.
2. **Alert BU Security Officers-Call the 24/7 Cell Phone (731-415-7599).**
  - a. If the person considering suicide has plans and access to lethal means, is planning to make an attempt very soon, or is currently in the process of making an attempt, contact 911 and then contact Security.
3. If working with a student, Security will either attempt to contact Mobile Crisis (1-800-353-9918) directly or, alternatively, VP Joe Hames (731-415-7212), Chaplain Anne Hames (731-415-6781), or Associate Chaplain Garrett Burns (731-535-3126) with the Chaplain's Office.
4. VP Joe Hames, Chaplain Anne Hames, or Associate Chaplain Garrett Burns will assess suicidal ideation, risk factors, and lethality.
  - a. They may counsel the student, contact Mobile Crisis, and/or work with Security to secure transportation of the student to the ER.
  - b. In some situations, they may be able to accompany the student to the ER.
  - c. They will also complete a "No Harm Contract" with the student.
  - d. BETHEL UNIVERSITY and the Dean of Student Development, Sandy Loudon, will contact other involved parties, including parents/guardians of the student.
5. If working with an employee or, in situations when the VP of CHS or the Chaplain's Office cannot be reached to counsel a student, Security will contact Mobile Crisis or secure transportation of the student/employee to the ER in Paris or Huntingdon.
  - a. During working hours, Coaches, Directors, etc. may be needed to transport their students to the ER.
  - b. Security/the Chaplain's Office/the VP of CHS will determine which ER to transport the student/employee to based on various factors, including the severity of the suicide attempt.
6. If working with a student, Security will document the incident and provide documentation to the Dean of Student Development. Students who are identified at risk for suicide, have voiced serious suicidal ideation, or have attempted suicide should be reported to Security (731-415-7599) and the Dean of Student Development (731-415-0565) as soon as possible. Students in the CHS program should also be reported to the Paris Satellite Location Campus Manager, Laura Hall (731-352-7662; [hall@bethelu.edu](mailto:hall@bethelu.edu)).
7. If working with an employee, Security will document the incident and provide documentation to the Human Resources Department. Employees who are identified at risk for suicide, have voiced serious suicidal ideation, or have attempted suicide should be reported to Security (731-415-7599), and the Director of Human Resources (731-352-6405) as soon as possible.

#### FOLLOWING AN EMERGENCY CRISIS OR MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL

After a student has received emergency help from outside resources for suicidal or self-harm ideation/behaviors, or completed a medical withdrawal, and returned to campus, the student must meet with the Dean of Student Development to determine how the student can best be supported in making a transition back to classes and campus. The Dean of Student Development may determine, in some cases, that the student cannot be adequately supported while living on campus. In such

cases, the student may continue to be enrolled at the University but may not reside in campus housing. Any such decision will not be made as a punishment to the student.

For situations in which a student continues to reside on campus, BETHEL UNIVERSITY may require the student to agree to follow specific guidelines as a condition of remaining in school. Any such requirement is not a punishment to the student, but rather, a means to ensure student wellbeing, as well as maintaining a safe environment within the University community.

At any time, a student may be required to participate in an assessment with a mental health counselor, based on serious, legitimate concerns of harm to self or harm to others, and enforced under the University's Student Code of Responsibility.

If the student is non-compliant with the guidelines or requirements, Bethel may ask the student to voluntarily withdraw.

Students who are self-harming or suicidal and disrupt the University community in the course of their actions (e.g. posing a substantial threat to the safety of others or the University's property) may still be held accountable for their disruptive behavior under the Student Code of Responsibility. Further behaviors that disrupt the institution or interfere with the mission of the institution may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. Procedures for involuntary or emergency suspension can still be applied when a student is a direct threat to themselves and/or others--but with caution when related to a disability.

### **College of Professional Studies (CPS)**

The following process should be followed if a student, faculty, or staff member encounters a CPS suicidal student, faculty, or staff member.

#### **At a BETHEL UNIVERSITY satellite campus location:**

1. *Do NOT leave the student/employee alone.*
2. Alert the Campus Manager (see contact info listed below).
  - a. If the person considering suicide has plans and access to a lethal means, is planning to make an attempt very soon, or is currently in the process of making an attempt, contact 911 and then contact the Campus Manager.
  - b. Contact Information for Campus Managers:
    - Jackson: Pam Hornbuckle (901) 355-9806; [hornbucklep@bethelu.edu](mailto:hornbucklep@bethelu.edu)
3. The Campus Manager will contact the TN Statewide Crisis Phone Line (1-855-CRISIS-1 or 1-855-274-7471) or the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988).
4. Whomever can be reached will assess suicidal ideation, risk factors, and lethality.
  - a. They may counsel the person and/or work with the Campus Manager to secure transportation of the student/employee to the closest stabilization unit.
5. The Campus Manager will document the incident and provide documentation to the Office of Safety and Security at the main campus. If working with an employee, the Campus Manager will document the incident and provide documentation to the Human Resources Department and the Office of Safety and Security at the main campus.

#### **On the Phone or Online:**

The following process should be followed if a student, faculty, or staff member encounters a suicidal

student, faculty, or staff member over the phone or in an online format.

1. Keep the person considering suicide talking on the phone until someone who can help is able to be with them in person.
  - A. Gather as much information as possible, including the person's name, location, and phone number. If needed and available, check the campus directory to identify this information.
2. If the person considering suicide has plans and access to a lethal means, is planning to make an attempt very soon, or is currently in the process of making an attempt, contact 911 or the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988).
  - A. If possible, enlist another person with you to call 911 or the Lifeline and provide the information of the person considering suicide to the dispatcher.
    - This additional person should also contact the parents/guardians or emergency contact of the person considering suicide.
  - B. If you are alone, ask the person considering suicide, "*Can we call 911 or the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) together?*"
    - If the person agrees, then add the call to your phone conversation.
    - If the person refuses, then continue to talk with the person and ask again later in the conversation.

You can also text "TN" to 741741 (the Crisis Text Line) to ask for help while talking on the phone with the person considering suicide.

    - You should also ask the person if there is someone else that you both could contact together that could be a support for the person considering suicide, such as a family member, friend, or neighbor.
  - C. DO NOT end the phone conversation with the person considering suicide.
3. If the risk of death is not imminent, but there is cause for concern, contact your campus manager (CPS) or the Dean of Student Development at 731-336-8943 (CAS and CHS).
  - If you cannot reach either of the above, contact the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988).
4. If the encounter happens in an online format, such as an email or class discussion board, attempt to contact the person considering suicide by phone and follow steps #1-3.
  - If the person considering suicide cannot be reached by phone, call 911 and provide the dispatcher with the person's contact information listed in the campus directory.
5. Once the person considering suicide is safe, you should contact your supervisor, Bethel's Security Department, and the Human Resources Department, when applicable, and report your encounter to them.

### **Intervention Resources**

BETHEL UNIVERSITY has established relationships with the following local mental health facilities for the purpose of crisis referral services.

- Carey Counseling Center, Inc. provides adult mobile crisis services (1-800-353-9918).

The safety and wellbeing of our students, faculty, and staff is of the utmost importance. In situations that require immediate action because of safety or other concerns, BETHEL UNIVERSITY will take any reasonable administrative action or accommodation protocols that are appropriate. Such interim actions may include, but are not limited to adjustments to schedules, ADA accommodations, extensions on assignments/exams, medical withdrawals, incompletes, etc.

## **POSTVENTION**

---

Campus leadership will respond to a student/faculty/staff suicide using best practices to decrease the trauma experienced by the students and other campus community members left behind and to help prevent further suicides through contagion.

### **Contact**

If a student, staff, or faculty member death occurs by suicide, the following people, or their designee(s), should be notified immediately:

- Dr. Walter Butler, President of BETHEL UNIVERSITY (731-352-6405 or [butlerw@bethelu.edu](mailto:butlerw@bethelu.edu)), and
- Bethel's Safety & Security Department (731-415-7599).

### **Postvention Components & Resources**

BETHEL UNIVERSITY has established relationships with the following Mental Health facilities for the purpose of working to decrease community trauma in McKenzie and Paris.

- Carey Counseling Center, Inc. provides trauma debriefing and counseling services.
- TSPN provides trauma debriefing and guidance on communication procedures.

TSPN and the local area mental health providers will serve as resources to assist Bethel's satellite campus communities and their members in working to decrease community trauma.

### **Campus & Community Resources**

\*Please note: email and office phone numbers may not be an appropriate method of contact in moments of immediate crisis.

### On Campus Resources

Department or Title	Name	Phone	Website/Email
Chaplain	Anne Hames	(o) 731-352-4066 (c) 731-415-6781	<a href="http://bethelu.edu/student-life/christian-life/chaplains">bethelu.edu/student-life/christian-life/chaplains</a> <a href="mailto:hamesa@bethelu.edu">hamesa@bethelu.edu</a>
Associate Chaplain	Garrett Burns	(o) 731-352-6449 (c) 731-535-3126	<a href="mailto:burnsg@bethelu.edu">burnsg@bethelu.edu</a>
Title IX and Prevention Services	Rachael Brooks	731-352-4246	<a href="mailto:brooksra@bethelu.edu">brooksra@bethelu.edu</a> ; <a href="http://bethelu.edu/about/title-ix-and-prevention-services">bethelu.edu/about/title-ix-and-prevention-services</a>
BU Student Health Center	Debbie Hubble Chris Esch Joe Hames	731-352-4027	<a href="http://dhubblemckenziemedicalcenter.com">dhubblemckenziemedicalcenter.com</a> <a href="mailto:eschc@bethelu.edu">eschc@bethelu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:hamesj@bethelu.edu">hamesj@bethelu.edu</a> <a href="http://bethelu.edu/current-students/health-clinic">bethelu.edu/current-students/health-clinic</a>
Dean of Student Development	Sandy Louden	(o) 731-352-4095 (c) 731-336-8943	<a href="mailto:loudens@bethelu.edu">loudens@bethelu.edu</a>
Safety & Security	Chief Daniel Thomas	(o) 731-352-4222 (c) 731-415-7599 (cell is 24/7)	<a href="mailto:busecurity@bethelu.edu">busecurity@bethelu.edu</a> <a href="https://www.bethelu.edu/current-students/safety-and-security">https://www.bethelu.edu/current-students/safety-and-security</a>
Life Skills Coach/ Student Services Liaison	LuJodia Bell	(o) 731-352-6786 (c) 731-415-1058	<a href="mailto:belll@bethelu.edu">belll@bethelu.edu</a>
Human Resources	Vicky Williams	731-352-6405	<a href="mailto:williamsv@bethelu.edu">williamsv@bethelu.edu</a> <a href="http://bethelu.edu/employees">bethelu.edu/employees</a>

### Community Resources

Local Emergency Resources		
Emergency Services	911	
Mobile Crisis Services	1-800-353-9918	<a href="https://www.careycounselingcenter.org">https://www.careycounselingcenter.org</a>
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	731-986-8947	<a href="http://carrollcosheriff.com/">http://carrollcosheriff.com/</a>
McKenzie Police Department	731-352-2265	<a href="https://mckenzieln.org/government/departments/police-department/">https://mckenzieln.org/government/departments/police-department/</a>



<b>Local Hospitals</b>		
Baptist Memorial Hospital	731-986-4461	<a href="https://www.baptistonline.org/locations/carrroll-county">https://www.baptistonline.org/locations/carrroll-county</a>
Henry County Medical Center	731-642-1220	<a href="https://www.hcmc-tn.org/">https://www.hcmc-tn.org/</a>

<b>Local Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Treatment Resources</b>		
Carey Counseling Center	1-800-611-7757	<a href="https://www.careycounselingcenter.org/">https://www.careycounselingcenter.org/</a>
Pathways Behavioral Health Services	1-800-587-3854	<a href="https://www.wth.org/services/pathways-behavioral-health-services/">https://www.wth.org/services/pathways-behavioral-health-services/</a>
Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (JACOA)	731-423-3653	<a href="https://www.jacoa.org/">https://www.jacoa.org/</a>
Wo/Men's Resource and Rape Assistance Program (WRAP)	1-800-273-8712	<a href="https://www.wraptn.org/">https://www.wraptn.org/</a>

<b>Off Campus Crisis Support</b>		
Hopeline Network	1-800-784-2433	<a href="https://www.thehopeline.com/">https://www.thehopeline.com/</a>
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	988	<a href="https://www.988lifeline.org/">Lifeline (988lifeline.org)</a>
Crisis Text Line	Text "TN" to 741-741	<a href="https://www.crisistextline.org/">https://www.crisistextline.org/</a>
TN Statewide Crisis Phone Line	1-855-CRISIS-1 or 1-855-274-7471	<a href="https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/need-help/crisis-services/mental-health-crisis-services/tn-statewide-crisis-phone-line.html">https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/need-help/crisis-services/mental-health-crisis-services/tn-statewide-crisis-phone-line.html</a>

For a region-specific resource guide, please visit <https://tspn.org/northwest-region>.

Bethel University does not endorse nor guarantee the accuracy or usefulness of the resources referred to in this document.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Information regarding such relationships at BETHEL UNIVERSITY is available from the VP of CHS (731-352-6381), the Department of Student Development (731-352-4225), and the Title IX and Prevention Services Department (731-352-4246). Those Departments can provide referrals to members of the BETHEL UNIVERSITY community which may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, training programs, etc. Any campus member interested in accessing the services/agencies and training noted above or in need of more information about BETHEL UNIVERSITY's comprehensive Suicide Prevention and Response Protocols should contact the:

- VP of CHS, Joe Hames ([hamesj@bethelu.edu](mailto:hamesj@bethelu.edu)) or
- The Title IX and Prevention Services Coordinator, Rachael Brooks ([brooksra@bethelu.edu](mailto:brooksra@bethelu.edu)).