# Counseling Center Websites: Does your net work?

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## Why focus on counseling center websites?

Websites as a primary means of "outreach"

- Education
- Prevention
- Marketing

Goals of presentation...

- •Ours
- •Yours

#### Sketch of three schools

#### Hobart & William Smith Colleges

- •Private; 1,800 undergraduate students; 95% residential
- Counseling Center has 3 professional staff

#### SUNY Oneonta

- •Public; 5,600 undergraduate students; 60% residential
- Counseling Center has 4 professional staff plus an intern

#### University at Buffalo

- •Public; 17,800 undergraduate students; 38% residential
- •Counseling Center has 9 full-time plus 2 part-time professional staff and ~12 interns/practicum students

#### Walk-through of websites

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

http://www.hws.edu/studentlife/resources/counseling/index.asp

SUNY Oneonta

http://www.oneonta.edu/development/counseling/

University at Buffalo

http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu

## Strategies for developing your center website

- •Who is your intended audience?
  - Students
  - Faculty & Staff
  - Parents
  - Community
- •Will your site be *insular* or *interconnected?*
- •Basic layout issues
  - Hypertext
  - •Graphics & video
  - Navigation
  - Accessibility

- •What will the contents of your site be?
  - •Information about your Center.
  - Staff listings
  - •Calendar of events (e.g., workshops, groups).
  - •Self-help brochures, handouts, and other materials.
  - •Referral information.
  - •Information about training opportunities.
  - •On-line advice(??)
  - •Links to other internet resources.

#### Strategies for developing your center website

- Your authoring strategy
  - •Do it Yourself?
  - •Hire someone?
  - •Learn from other sites: Borrow/Steal

- •Do you have tech support?
- Testing your site
  - •Microsoft vs Apple vs?
  - •Broadband vs dialup
  - Different software versions
- •Who will Maintain your site?

More information can be found at the *Counseling Center Village*<a href="http://ccvillage.buffalo.edu/ta.html">http://ccvillage.buffalo.edu/ta.html</a>

## Strategies for promoting your center website

- Mention website in all presentations to students, parents,
  faculty, staff
- •Mention website during telephone consultations
- •Link posted at school's home-page
- •Press release to campus news office, advertise in campus newspaper
- •Make sure you are in your school's search engine.
- Occasional mass e-mails

# Sample mass website promotion e-mail

Dear Students,

For the past few years, the HWS Counseling Center, College Store, and Warren Hunting Smith Library have collaborated to make available a selection of self-help books for the campus community. These books address a wide range of concerns, including depression, anxiety, stress, shyness, assertiveness, relationships, abuse, personal growth, and more. We invite you to see an annotated listing of the books on the Counseling Center's website

(http://www.hws.edu/studentlife/resources/counseling/books.asp), and to visit the College Store and library to explore these books further.

Special thanks go to Brian Cockett of the College Store and Sara Greenleaf of the library for their help in making these books available.

--Steve Sprinkle (add signature block)

# Sample mass website promotion e-mail

Dear Students,

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs (AOD) and the Counseling Center are sponsoring a new service for HWS students. Students who visit either the AOD or Counseling Center websites and view the new "Mental Health Screening" section can complete brief, anonymous, internet-based questionnaires that screen for mood, alcohol, eating, and anxiety related concerns. While these screenings are no substitute for a face-to-face consultation with a mental health professional, the screenings do provide valuable feedback, encouraging those whose responses are consistent with the significant psychological problems to seek treatment.

HWS students who are interested in counseling or mental health treatment are encouraged to contact AOD (x3478) or the Counseling Center (x3600) for free, confidential services. Students can learn much more about these services by visiting each department's website.--Steve Sprinkle (add signature block)

## Strategies for tracking your center website

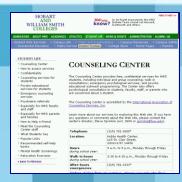
Tracking software probably available from your IT department

Query clients re use of website in satisfaction surveys or other forms

Include tracking data in yearly reports

Use tracking data to develop your website

## Popular web pages on our center websites







#### Hobart and William Smith Colleges

- 1. Relaxation exercises
- 2. Tips for managing classroom discussions
- 3. Main page
- 4. Self-help books

#### SUNY Oneonta

- 1. Main page
- 2. Meet the staff
- 3. Community Resources
- 4. Depression awareness

#### University at Buffalo

- 1. Main page
- 2. Relationship self-help
- 3. Stress/Anxiety self-help
- 4. Depression/Suicide self-help

# Questions and discussion