

PSYCHOLOGICAL REFERRAL OF STUDENTS

The attached statement on Psychological Referral of Mercer County Community College Students is hereby approved and adopted as College policy.

Approved: Board of Trustees
March 12, 1969

PSYCHOLOGICAL REFERRAL OF MERCER COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

I. POLICY

It is the policy of Mercer County Community College to provide limited psychological referral services for the students of the College who are deemed to be in need of such assistance.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

The Dean for Student Services shall be responsible for administering this program.

III. GUIDELINES

- A. Faculty and student personnel staff members will abide by a basic attitude in referral which, as in all counseling, is that of a fundamental respect for the individual and a fundamental belief that it is best for him to work out his own problems in his own way. Agencies, psychologists, and counselors are helpers in this process, not directors.
- B. The Mercer County Community College student personnel staff will use all of its own available resources in helping the students before seeking a psychological referral. Student personnel staff members will call to the attention of specialists within the College certain students who would appear to benefit from their assistance.
- C. It is considered unwise and improper to refer a student to community agencies without the knowledge, consent, and cooperation of the parents, guardian, or spouse. Many psychologists and/or other guidance agencies will not accept students for treatment unless parents cooperate fully and are willing to present themselves for help too. The policy of local agencies should prevail in this regard.
- D. In discussing the possibility of a psychological referral with the student and parent, both the functions and the limitations of the referral service should be borne in mind.
- E. Individual students and their parents will be expected to maintain the liaison, arrangements, and cost of psychological treatment which is required beyond the initial referral.
- F. The College reserves the right to suspend any student who refuses psychological referral.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Mercer County Community College, through the Dean for Students Services, will assume the responsibility for initiating the referral contact and for paying an initial referral fee (not to exceed \$25) for which the College is expected to receive a psychological evaluation and some insight into an analysis of the case, including the need for further treatment.
- B. The regularly assigned student personnel counselor will be the responsible individual who, in each case, will work with the parent and the student. All of those concerned will keep the counselor informed of new developments. The assigned counselor will inform the agency or psychologist that he should be the point of contact in representing the College.
- C. Prior to making a referral, the student personnel staff will attempt to learn whether a community agency is already working with the family, for it is understood that a consultation with the agency is the proper first step in considering a referral.

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