

## **Biennial Review of Borough of Manhattan Community College's Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 2016-2018**

Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) has adopted and implemented programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use of or distribution of illicit drugs both by BMCC students and employees both on its premises and as part of any of its activities as part of the The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34 CFR Part 86) of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA). This report highlights those efforts.

### Communication

Through the Dean for Student Affairs, the college distributes the Drugs and Alcohol, Drug-Alcohol Use Amnesty, and possible sanctions policies to all students in an email each semester. The Drugs and Alcohol policy is also distributed to all new employees as part of the orientation process. Information includes:

- notification of The City University of New York Policy on Drug and Alcohol policies that include: City University of New York's Policy on Drugs and Alcohol
- a description of possible criminal sanctions for illegally possessing drugs or alcohol; the health risks associated with drug and alcohol use; and drug or alcohol counseling
- The City University of New York Drug/Alcohol Use Amnesty Policy
- information about the services and resources in the Counseling Center and its staff and faculty who are trained on these issues and ready to confidentially assist any student seeking information or experiencing a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs.

Additional information sent out to students includes:

- information about the New York State Enough is Enough law that requires all colleges and universities to implement sexual harassment and assault prevention programs and the campus resources for these matters
- general information about needing assistance on campus through our Public Safety including information about the emergency blue boxes located throughout the campus
- awareness about building fire and emergency evacuation procedures.

Through the Office of Human Resources, communication is sent annually to all staff about drug or alcohol counseling through Corporate Counseling Associates (CCA) at no cost as well as having drug and alcohol counseling services available through a union employee assistance program and individual health plans. The Office of Human Resources is available to assist staff in arranging for access to drug or alcohol counseling services, whether via Corporate Counseling Associates, union employee assistance program (where available) or individual health plans.

Resources are posted in the student handbook, faculty guide, New Employee handbook, the College's Annual Security Report, and available on the web site for students and staff.

## Programming

BMCC offers the following programs to support students and employees in the awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse:

- New student Getting Prepared to Start (GPS) for all incoming new students prior to the start of the semester
- Family GPS for family members of new incoming students
- First Year Experience (FYE) workshops for all new students, as well as Success Seminars in our ASAP, BLA and College Discovery programs
- New Employee Orientation
- CUNY Work/Life program supporting employees

Various college departments collaborate to offer the following events annually:

- Health fairs including Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) specific information
- Counseling Center to sponsors “How to P.A.R.T.Y. and Be Safe” workshop each semester and partners with Health Services for “Shatter the Myths” tabling every April, as part of Alcohol Awareness Month
- Benefit Fairs for employees including information about CUNY Work/Life.
- Counseling Center Stress Management workshops addressing drug and alcohol use
- De-stressfest each semester
- Partnerships with Corporate Counseling Associates for employees
- No student approved activities, on or off campus, are permitted to have alcohol

## Support Services and Sanctions

Our philosophy is to create a teachable moment for students that violate policies. As we are an educational institution of higher education, it is our responsibility to educate our students both inside and outside the classroom. This will help the student in becoming a whole member of society and become a better citizen as they will interact with a great many people in their lives. Students who meet with the Student Life Manager and admit to a violation of the Henderson Rules or College Policy are given an offer of a Mediation Agreement in lieu of further disciplinary hearings. The sanctions offered in a mediation agreement are somewhat more flexible than what the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee can assign. It is because of this that we are able to focus on a more educational initiative. The sanctions that are the subject to the mediation agreements issued by the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Officer correlate to the nature of the incident.

For example, students who accept responsibility for violation of the substance free school policy, are offered a mediation agreement that entails completing a bulletin board, community restitution, and/or a presentation regarding substance abuse/use on a college campus. This gives the student the opportunity to do research on alcohol/drug use and how it can effect a student in the overall community. Additionally, community restitution provides an experiential learning opportunity where the student can process their outcomes post completion. The aim is that the student learns the expectations of being a member of the community and the responsibility associated with those expectations, but also gives them something that they can be proud of and can be presented to the community anonymously. However, in the cases where a student does not choose a mediation agreement, students are referred to the Faculty Student Disciplinary

Committee for a hearing. The FSDC sanctions may include suspension from the institution or long-standing probation or in extreme cases, students may be expelled from the institution.

The mediation approach has the goal of lowering the level of recidivism and educating our students on how to become better citizens. This has been successful as 100% of the students who agreed to sanctions, via the mediation agreement, completed them. No students who were engaged in this kind of sanctioning program repeated their offense.

When students have a real issue with substance abuse and repeat as a result of it, the college recommends and guides the student to take advantage of the on campus resources provided in the Counseling Center.

#### Drug and Alcohol Related Violation and Fatalities

BMCC had no fatalities and has had the following reported violations during this period.

Below is a two-year statistical comparison of the number of Drug and Alcohol violations and recidivism on campus:

	2017	2018
Drug Violation	21	9
Alcohol Violation	7	4
Total	28	13
Recidivism	1	1

#### Recommendations

BMCC will continue to strive to create a safe environment and educate the community related to the consequences of drug and alcohol use. To accomplish this, the following recommendations will be included in the drug and alcohol education efforts of the college:

- A Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program Committee composed of a cross-section of faculty, staff, and students to be established. The committee will meet semi-annually to continue the review of policies and procedures and awareness activities.
- Continue to review of the College's website to ensure that contents are updated to provide students and employees with additional information on available resources for drug and alcohol treatment, and the health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse.
- Continue to provide, identify, and coordinate a variety of educational activities for the community.
- Review each notification to students and employees during the fall and spring semesters and in all new employee orientations.
- Explore online training programs for students and staff.
- Identify academic courses that focus on alcohol and drug information.
- Implement, where appropriate, alcohol and drug information training into leadership programs.
- Continue to utilize outside resources to assist BMCC in the development of effective programs and messaging of drug and alcohol abuse and prevention.
- Include tobacco free policy communication to students, staff, and faculty.