A Culture of C.A.R.E.

The Hudson County Community College CARE Team strives to maintain a healthy, welcoming, and safe campus environment. The HCCC CARE Team, in partnership with the college community, will engage in proactive approaches to address concerning behavior.

How the CARE Team was created

- In the Fall of 2019, Dr. Brian Van Brunt, President of the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association NaBITA, visited HCCC.
- One of his recommendations was for the College to establish a CARE Team and a process for the team to review and respond to campus concerns.
- In January of 2020, the CARE Team was formed.
- The CARE Team has been meeting since the onset of Covid-19 on a weekly basis to review cases of care and concern.

Meet the CARE Team

Dr. David Clark
Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Co-Chair

Denise Rossilli
LPC, LMHC and Assistant Professor, Human Services, Co-Chair

Joseph Caniglia
Executive Director North Hudson Campus

Jennifer Christopher
Director of Communications

Dr. Chris Conzen
Executive Director Secaucus Center

Dr. Lisa Dougherty
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment

Veronica Gerosimo
Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership

Kathy Smith - Wenning
Director of Health Programs

Anna Krupitskiy
Vice President for Human Resources

Doreen Pontius
LCSW, Associate Director Mental Health and Wellness

Yeurys Pujols
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Jack Quigley
Executive Director, Public Safety and Security

Jacqueline Safont
Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Accessibility Services

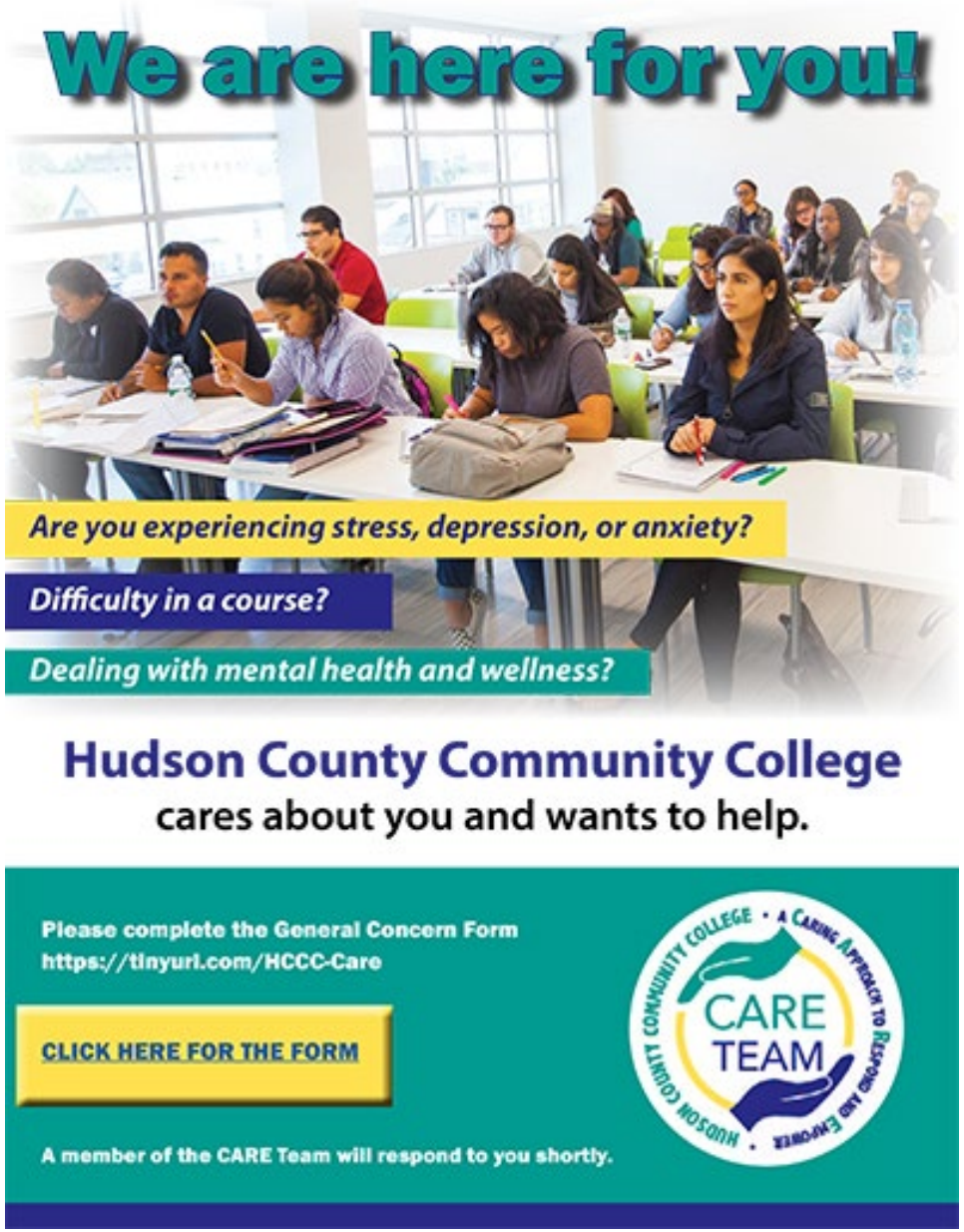
Katherine Morales
Director, Hudson Helps Resource Center

Deliana Acosta
Social Worker North Hudson Campus

Thomas Larson
LCSW, Mental Health Counselor

Amaalah Ogburn
Associate Director North Hudson Campus

Tejal Parekh, MSW
EOF Counselor



Services Provided

Mental Health Counseling & Wellness Center

- Free short-term mental health counseling
- Referrals to community providers
- Support groups – remote, virtual
- Mental health workshops & events(Suicide Prevention, Domestic violence, Substance Abuse, and Wellness Events)
- Trainings for staff: (Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)& Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)
- TalkCampus 24/7 live peer to peer support

Hudson Helps Resource Center

- Food Pantries (JSQ and NHC)
- SingleStop Benefits Screener
- Career Closet
- Community Resources and Partnerships
- Health Screenings
- Social Work Interns

NaBITA Risk Rubric

INTERVENTION OPTIONS TO ADDRESS RISK AS CLASSIFIED

CRITICAL (4)

- Initiate wellness check/evaluation for involuntary hold or police response for arrest
- Coordinate with necessary parties (student conduct, police, etc.) to create plan for safety, suspension, or other interim measures
- Obligatory parental/guardian/emergency contact notification unless contraindicated
- Evaluate need for emergency notification to community
- Issue mandated assessment once all involved are safe
- Evaluate the need for involuntary/voluntary withdrawal
- Coordinate with university police and/or local law enforcement
- Provide guidance, support, and safety plan to referral source/stakeholders

ELEVATED (3)

- Consider a welfare/safety check
- Provide guidance, support, and safety plan to referral source/stakeholders
- Deliver follow up and ongoing case management or support services
- Required assessment such as the SIVRA-35, ERIS, HCR-20, WAVR-20 or similar; assess social media posts
- Evaluate parental/guardian/emergency contact notification
- Coordinate referrals to appropriate resources and provide follow-up
- Likely referral to student conduct or disability support services
- Coordinate with university police/campus safety, student conduct, and other departments as necessary to mitigate ongoing risk

MODERATE (2)

- Provide guidance and education to referral source
- Reach out to student to encourage a meeting
- Develop and implement case management plan or support services
- Connect with offices, support resources, faculty, etc. who interact with student to enlist as support or to gather more information
- Possible referral to student conduct or disability support services
- Offer referrals to appropriate support resources
- Assess social media and other sources to gather more information
- Consider VRAW² for cases that have written elements
- Skill building in social interactions, emotional balance, and empathy; reinforcement of protective factors (social support, opportunities for positive involvement)

MILD (0/1)

- No formal intervention; document and monitor over time
- Provide guidance and education to referral source
- Reach out to student to offer a meeting or resources, if needed
- Connect with offices, support resources, faculty, etc. who interact with student to enlist as support or to gather more information

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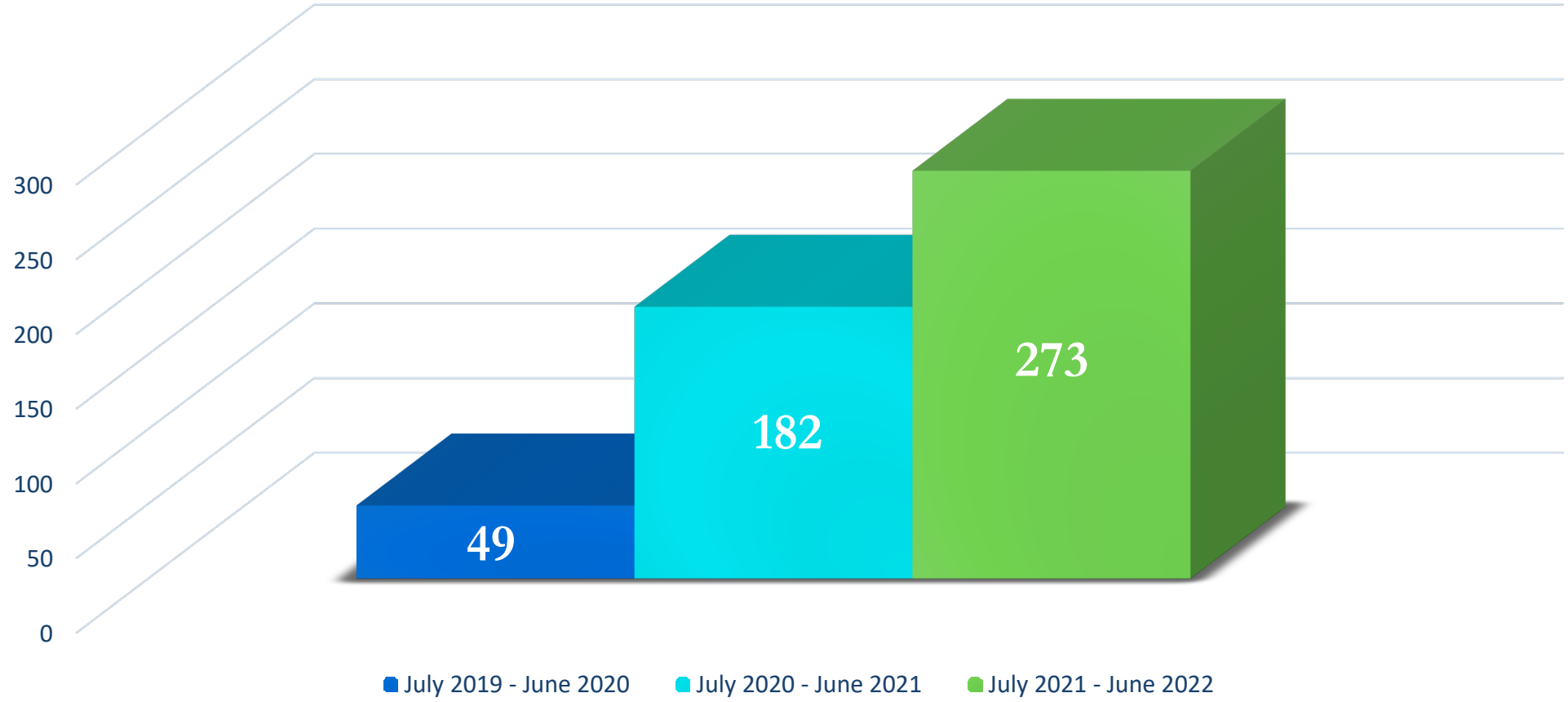
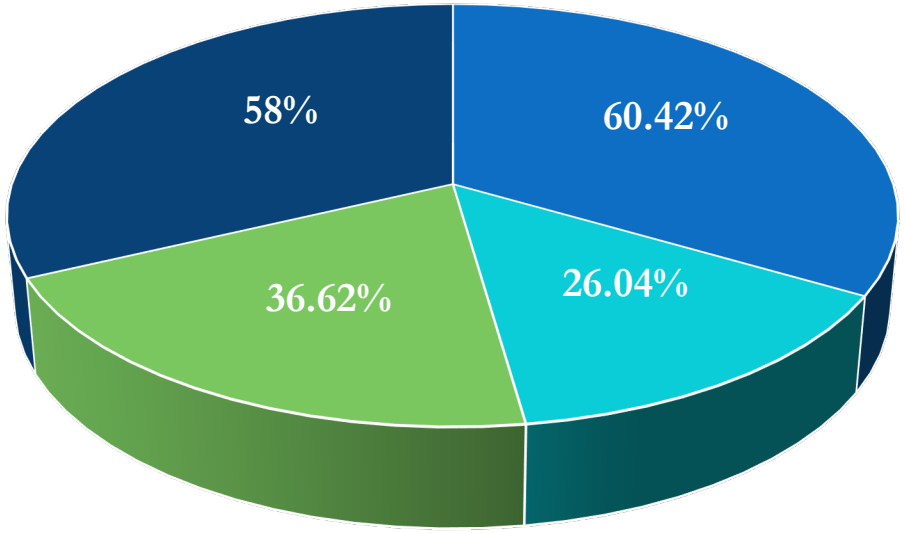
CARE Cases at a Glance

Grand Totals

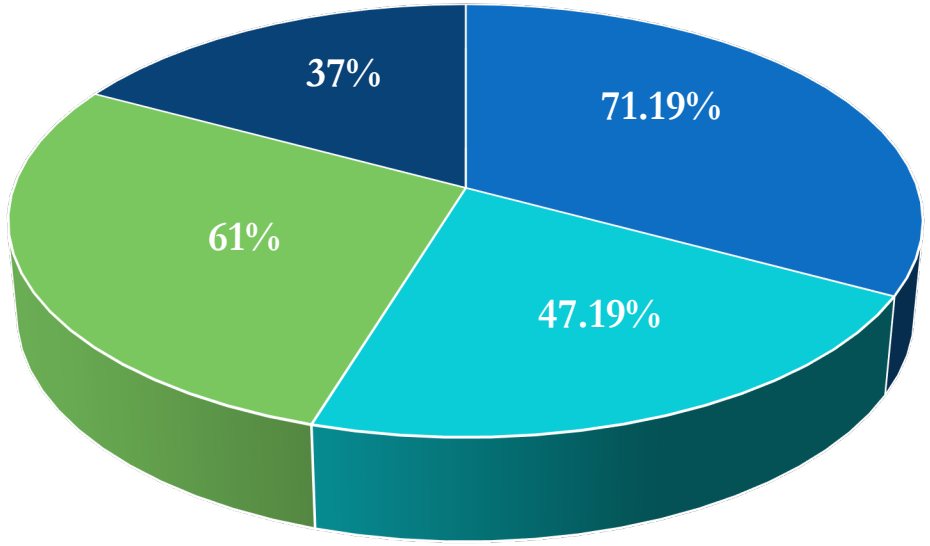


Mental Health Case Types

July 1, 2020 - July 2021



August 2021 - Present



HCCC Mental Health & Social Work Internship Program

Lisa Farkas
From Rutgers
1st Year Intern

Karl Smith
From Rutgers
2nd Year Intern

Vanessa Reina
From NYU
2nd Year Intern

Alexa Yacker
From NYU
1st Year Intern

William Garner
From Rutgers
1st Year Intern

Delia Drake
From NYU
Advance Standing Intern

Ariana Calle
From Fordham University
Career Closet Coordinator

Coming Soon:

Montclair State University & New Jersey City University

Additional Services & Resources

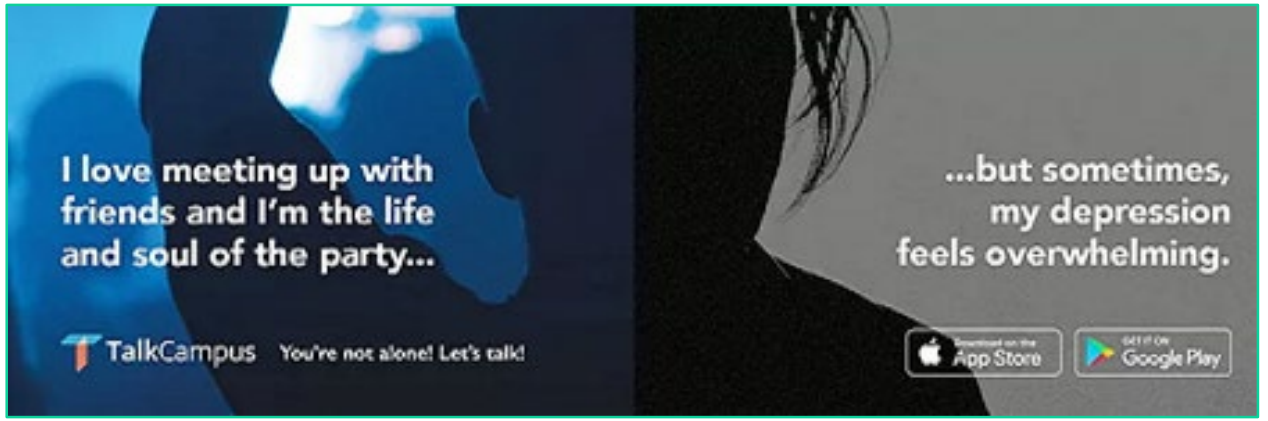
Mental Health Counseling & Wellness

Accessibility Services

Hudson Helps Resource Center

Safety & Security

TalkCampus



Any Questions?