

*Mental Health-Related Leaves and Return:  
A Roundtable of Perspectives on  
Protocols, Practices and Predicaments*

*NECHA-NYSCHA Combined Annual Meeting  
November 6, 2013  
Burlington, Vermont*

**Our Roles**

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**Goals**

- Identify our collaborative roles and various “stakeholders” in both the exit and re-entrance of students who take MH-related leaves of absence/withdrawals.
- Compare protocols and processes developed for the re-entry of students from a MH-related leave of absence/withdrawal.
- Discuss legal/compliance considerations as they apply to leave of absence and return.

**An Introduction: Stories from Harvard**

“Constituencies” and “Stakeholders”:

- Student/Family
- Peers/College and/or House Community
- SMHS/HUHS and Bureau of Study Counsel
- Administrative Board of Harvard College
- Resident Dean
- “Outside” Treaters while at or away from Harvard
- Accessible Education Office
- University Police

#### An Introduction: Stories from Harvard

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- "UHS Rider", "ordinary expectations," and petition process – applies both to MH and medical
- Six months of productivity, usually work, volunteer or paid, approximately full time schedule working with people other than family members, with documentation. Board recognizes legitimate circumstances that might constitute barriers.
- Six months of treatment/therapeutic relationship appropriate to the student's condition, with letters re dx/tx from all treaters
- Personal statement
- Releases of information to/from HUHS, Ad Board, Treaters

#### An Introduction: Stories from Harvard

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- Evaluation of documentation
- The Interview – in-person, phone
- Communication with treaters (inside/outside)
- SMHS Eval Letter, vetted by Chief (parallel process in Internal Medicine)
- Consultation at Ad Board meetings: Chief and Clinical Coordinator are non-voting
- Decision may involve contract

#### An Introduction: Stories from Harvard

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- Volume
- Consistency, coordination, communication
- 2005, 2008-2010, 2011: changes in procedures and funneling of evals to Clinical Coordinator (and Chief) of SMHS
- Timing/meeting the needs of both the College and its students: 3 "seasons"
- Continuation of care and Treatment Contracts
- Right now! Introduction of Maxient case mgmt