UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Community Safety: Campus Progress Report

For activities between January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

As of June 30, 2023

CAMPUS NAME: UC MERCED

PROGRESS AND UPDATES

Provide updates on progress and continuous improvement efforts.

Guideline 1 — Community and Service-Driven Safety

All members of the UC community should feel valued, welcomed and free from any threat of physical, psychological or emotional harm. Our campus safety system must reflect the needs and values of a diverse campus community including those vulnerable to harm. Specific strategies and tactics in the campus plans will be shaped by a process that includes broad representation of the campus population and is sensitive to the needs of historically marginalized communities.

The campus safety system will provide high-quality service in a courteous and accessible manner that allows our community to feel safe and respected in every interaction. Interactions will be held to a high standard of respect and fairness and will be monitored. Hiring procedures and guidelines for campus safety personnel will involve participation of a broad representation of campus community groups including students, faculty and staff. This begins a continuous process of evaluation and improvement. Campuses will continually engage their communities and strengthen campus safety practices.

Action 1-1: Organized events

Please list all organized events, during the reporting period, relating to community engagement associated to actions in Guideline 1.

1-1 Organized events: Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UC Merced Police adapted to the needs of the community during this time period. Our students are outdoors walking to class, on their way to eat a meal and to participate in their extracurricular activities on campus. We held each event and Police insight activity away from UCMPD and in the open. We have realized we must go to the students, as each year they appear more apprehensive about coming to us at the police department.

We set up each event in the quad area or on Academic walk for high visibility and maximum engagement. With the demands of academics, the growing number of activities on campus, and all the distractions of life, setting up in these strategic locations has proven to be effective in allowing UCMPD and students to at least have a simple moment of "hello" when there is not time for a deeper conversation. Food and

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candy remain the key to attract students to our booth/event. We always have a quick activity for students to participate in that conveys information about safety , upcoming events, services and/or resources.

Spring 2023 Transfer student orientation

Human Trafficking awareness tabling

Mentor Program Adopt-a-road cleanup on N. Lake Road/Bellevue

Hot chocolate with the PD

Violent Intruder response training open sessions

Police Insight- Crime scene

Police insight- fingerprinting

Mentor Program meetings

Police Insight- Internet Safety

Police Insight- Social media

Police Insight- Online predators

Police Insight- Shoeprints/tire print

Police Insight- Driving under the influence/drunk goggles

Office of Student involvement Spring bash tabling

Take back the night event/tabling

Police Insight- Stalking

Police Insight- Suicide

Police Insight- Mental health

Earth day cleanup on N. Lake Road/Bellevue

Bobcat Day tabling

Radar experience

Chill out with the PD- cold drinks

CABsterical

New Student orientations

Merced County Re-Direct program

Action 1-2: Lessons learned

Provide lessons learned from past community engagement activities and describe how they informed (or will inform) future community engagement.

Lessons learned (Action 1-2): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The main way we increase engagement is food and candy remain the key to attract students to our booth/event. We always have a quick activity for students to participate in. It is a way to relay information and to connect about safety issues.

Another lesson learned is having students and officers present at the same time increased attendance at our events. It may be our perception only, but we believe students are encouraged to approach us when they see student service ambassadors laughing with officers. Humanizing police officers is critical to gain trust with students who do not view law enforcement in a positive light.

A major lesson we learned is to avoid specific events only focusing on one identity on campus. Although our intentions were good, questions always come up about how come we are not doing events for a different identity. We always remind students to invite us to their activities and we will be there.

Action 1-3: Future events

Please list future events, planned between July and December 2023, relating to community engagement associated with actions in Guideline 1.

Future events (Action 1-3): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

New Student orientation

Property/electronics registration

5 minute UCMPD overview presentations in the classrooms

Violent intruder response training for individual departments

Open sessions for VIRT

Police insight- Rental house scams

Police insight- Scam employment opportunities not to fall for

Police insight- Eye witness activity

Police insight- Phone scams

Police insight- Domestic violence

Police insight- Fentanyl awareness

Drunk goggles/alcohol awareness

Veterans Day parade

Police insight- traffic stops

Police insight- Human trafficking dating sites/emoji awareness

Downtown Christmas parade

Susan Fridays

Police insight- crime scenes

Action 1-4: Community input

Describe how community input from periodically administrated surveys (Action 1.6) and from the real-time feedback platforms (Action 1.7) are informing decisions about community safety?

Community input (Action 1-4) Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UC Merced Police dispatchers send survey opportunities to individuals who have contact with our department in any capacity on a daily basis. There is an open narrative question at the end of the survey for any comments, suggestions, feedback and complaints. UC Merced receives exceptional feedback daily. If and when we do not, we read the information to look into what the issue was.

Although rare, the complaints are about a dedicated officer who conducts traffic enforcement daily. The commenter does not want the police officer to do so. UCMPD has a legal and moral obligation to provide for traffic safety and the campus expects the department to keep the streets safe for the growing number of people use the roadways and sidewalks.. Aside from this, any reports of actual or perceived misconduct by any member of the department is immediately reviewed and investigated as appropriate in accordance with the CSP.

The entire department is provided with periodic updates on the survey results. Due to the results being

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positive, we thank them for their professionalism and the way they treat our community.

Action 1:5: Training dates

Please provide dates, during the reporting period, that sworn and non-sworn personnel have received or will receive high quality and regulatory training as described in the plan (Action 1.4 and 1.11).

Training dates (Action 1-5): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Completed and Scheduled Training

1-18/1-19 Crisis Intervention & Behavioral Health Training

1/27 Mobil Field Force Training

1/31 Human Trafficking Survivor Film/Speaking Event

2/1 Constitutional Use of Force

2/15 Internal Affairs Investigations

3/10 California Sexual Assault Investigator Training Conference

2/15-6/15 Background Investigations

5/1-5/31 Disney's Approach to Quality Service

5/6 Crowd Management Training

6/5 ICI Domestic Violence

6/15 California Sexual Assault Registration Training

7/17 Fentanyl Overdose Training

8/21 International Sexual Assault Conference

9/11 Impact Instructor Course

10/23 Intro to Crime Scene

Various Dates-Blood Born Pathogens

Various Dates-Clery Act for Campus Security Authorities

Various Dates-Cyber Security Awareness Fundamentals

TBD Courses

First Aid/CPR Update

Perishable Skills Firearms

Perishable Skills Defensive Tactics

Implicit Bias and Racial Profiling

Use of Force and De-escalation

Domestic Violence Update

Tactical Communications

Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias

Accessibility Services Training

UndocuAlly Training

Action 1-6: Additional information

Is there anything else you would like to report progress on related to Guideline 1?

Additional information (Action 1-6): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

We always offer our events/education awareness to all members of our community. Different voices and perspectives challenge us to remain adaptable for those we serve.

Our hiring panels have always been inclusive. The panels includes a student government representative, staff assembly member and faculty representative. UCMPD has always understood the value of having feedback and evaluation of potential PD employees by our community stakeholders.. Following the adoption of CSP, we have continued this practice of having a representative panel. Under CSP, we have hired student service ambassadors, a dispatch/records supervisor, CLERY analyst, and IACLEA accreditation manager, and two police officers this reporting period

Guideline 2 — Holistic, Inclusive and Tiered Response Services

To ensure the safety of the UC community, a tiered response model will match a call for service with the appropriate type of response and responder(s). This holistic approach will include mental health, wellness, basic needs, bias/hate response, law enforcement, emergency response and other services through interdepartmental partnerships and cross-trainings. Multidisciplinary crisis teams will be available

24/7 and triage behavioral health crises, conduct wellness checks, and safely connect individuals to coordinated care, including health and social support resources. Non-sworn security personnel will more visibly render services such as residence hall foot patrols, providing safe shuttles/walks for students, staffing events requiring additional security, and diffusing unsafe behavior.

The University will prioritize deterrence and violent crime prevention over the enforcement of non-violent minor offenses, such as non-hazardous traffic violations. The University will reinforce existing guidelines that minimize police presence at protests, follow de-escalation methods in the event of violence and seek non-urgent mutual aid first from UC campuses before calling outside law enforcement agencies.

Action 2-1: Public safety tiers

Please provide names of units/teams that carry out the functions of the four tiers of public safety providers.

Public safety tiers (Action 2-1): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The campus is in the final stages of an agreement with Merced County Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis Unit. The staff from the county will be housed on campus and responded to a behavioral health crisis that is initiated by staff in CAPS. The county staff have 5150 authorization and will work with the CAPS team to provide the appropriate level of intervention. Should hospitalization be determined, emergency transport will be called.

Action 2-2: FTE by tier

Please provide the FTE of personnel that carry out functions within each of the four of public safety providers.

FTE by tier (Action 2-2): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Tier 1: Imminent Danger Crisis Response

Sworn Officers – 19 (including the chief, 1 lieutenant , and 3 sergeants)

Tier 2: Mental Health Stabilization

2 Behavioral Health Professionals

Tier 3: Counseling Intervention

6 behavioral health specialists and staff psychologists

Tier 4: Wellness Check

3 Public Safety Ambassadors

Action 2-3: Service calls by tier

Please provide the total number of calls for service for each tier of public safety providers.

Service calls by tier (Action 2-3): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Tier 1: Imminent Danger Crisis Response

27

Tier 2: Mental Health Stabalization

N/A

Tier 3: Counseling Intervention

99

Tier 4: Wellness Check

N/A

Action 2-4: Budget for non-sworn tiers

Please provide the total campus budget for non-sworn tiered response providers (i.e., personnel in security, student services partners, and mental health and professionals).

Budget for non-sworn tiers (Action 2-4): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

[Response]

Action 2-5: Hours of mental health responders

Are non-sworn mental health responders and providers available 24 hours, 7 days a week? If not, please provide the days or hours of service.

Hours of mental health responders (Action 2-5): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Yes

M-F between 8:00AM and 5:00PM, on-site responders. Afterhours and weekends, on-call service is used.

Action 2-6: Restorative justice and/or neighborhood courts

Describe the utilization of restorative justice programs or neighborhood courts for the adjudication of nonviolent and low-level crimes. If your jurisdiction has limited the opportunities for this by formal partnerships, what alternatives are you exploring and implementing internally?

Restorative justice and/or neighborhood courts (Action 2-6): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

This has not been implemented but conversations have been re-initiated with the newly elected District Attorney. Currently, the number is less than 10 incidents in the community during a given academic year and this has not been a priority for the DA's office.

Action 2-7: Additional information

Is there anything else you would like to report progress on related to Guideline 2?

Additional information (Action 2-7): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Our ability to provide a comprehensive tiered response is limited by the region's ability to recruit mental health providers and no authorized 5150 hospitals in the region.

Guideline 3 — Transparency and Continuous Improvement through Data

A systemwide dashboard with campus-level detail will be created and regularly updated to inform and empower the UC community. Based on new systemwide reporting requirements and uniform standards for data collection, this information will be used to assess campus safety practices, generate recommendations for best practices and hold the institution accountable.

Action 3-1: Data reporting

Are you reporting all data described in the UC Community Safety Plan for publication on the Systemwide Data Dashboard. If not, please describe any challenges with data reporting.

Data reporting (Action 3-1): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Yes

Action 3-2: Data-informed decisions

Has campus safety data informed community safety decisions and continuous improvement? If so, describe how and provide examples.

Every day our team looks at what is being reported to UCMPD on calls for service, feedback conversations, daily surveys and information obtained in campus meetings.

Our patrol Sergeants and Investigations Sergeant adjust to the real time information being observed in the field, the complaints received, and the challenges presented by a busy campus, bustling with activity. Assigning extra patrol to an area with traffic congestion, are where unsafe drivers are passing on a double yellow line, locations where drivers are failing to stop at stop signs or utilizing part of the roadway to drop off students are issues we must dedicate attention to ensure that students, staff, faculty, and visitors to the campus can safely walk and bike on the campus.   We do so by being highly visible, conducting traffic stops and educating drivers on the dangers of the driving.

Although some of our daily surveys requested for an officer to stop doing enforcement, we view this as a positive because it is known the officer is being proactive to reduce traffic accidents and improve the traffic safety.

We are also going to be training the resident assistants in spotting potential fire hazards in housing. Students are using candles to mask odors. UCMPD is partnering with Emergency management and fire safety to present on how to keep your space clean. Teaching our students about dusting, vacuuming, trash removal and washing laundry will reduce unpleasant smells. We are going to explain alternatives to candles in an effort to prevent fires.

Action 3-3: Data as a tool for improvement

How are you using the Systemwide Data Dashboards as an analytical and comparison tool for continuous improvement?

Data as a tool for improvement (Action 3-3): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

UCMPD uses statistics to determine how to best use its limited resources. The statistics aid in the allocation of efforts, staffing, and helps the department gauge effectiveness and measure response. An example of this is the assignment of staffing and resources to address a theft problem in a particular area of the campus. In this incident, we were able to identify the types of theft taking place and then appropriately deploy some crime prevention tools and staff. In this case, our actions ultimately resulted in some arrests which stopped the thefts.

Action 3-4: Additional information

Is there anything else you would like to report progress on related to Guideline 3?

Additional information (Action 3-4): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

There is no additional information to include for this section.

Guideline 4 — Accountability and Independent Oversight

Campus complaint processes are essential mechanisms for the community to report misconduct and ensure that officers are acting consistently with rules, policies and the law. A standardized and robust

complaint and investigation process will be implemented through police accountability boards.

The Office of President will designate a full-time position in service to the campuses to coordinate campus safety, ensure continuous improvement through best practices and monitor the implementation of the UC Community Safety Plan.

Two UC campuses are currently accredited by IACLEA, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. IACLEA is grounded in President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and continually evaluates and implements best practices for campus safety as part of its accreditation standards. The remaining eight UC campuses will seek this accreditation. Review and accreditation by independent third-party experts will ensure operational readiness, align policies and procedures with modern professional standards and best practices, promote a strong emphasis on the safety of the public and officers, offer additional community input opportunities, and provide an independent and ongoing audit and review function.

Action 4-1: Police Accountability Board status

Is your Police Accountability Board (PAB) or equivalent committee operational and have trainings been conducted (4.1b)? If not, when is the projected date to be established?

Police Accountability Board status (Action 4-1): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The PAB bylaws have been approved by the campus. We are now in the process of recruiting members. Trainings have been scheduled for September.

Action 4-2: Links to PAB information

Please provide any links to a member roster, by-laws, procedures, and PAB website.

Links to PAB information (Action 4-2): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

https://pab.ucmerced.edu/

Action 4-3: Certification status

Please describe your progress and status on IACLEA certification.

Certification status (Action 4-3): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

Our application has been submitted and a consultant hired to assist with the documentation gathering.

Action 4-4: Additional information

Is there anything else you would like to report progress on related to Guideline 4?

Additional information (Action 4-4): Implementation detail / description of actions taken

The workload for ICLEA and the cost associated with this effort is not something the campus has budgeted for in this current fiscal year. We are exploring options to provide the support needed.

Other updates

Please provide any other updates or comments associated with the implementation and continuous improvement of the UC Community Safety Plan.

NA