Resolution: (A-16)

Introduced by: John Smith and Jane Doe, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health; John Doe, Harvard Medical School

Subject: Promotion of Mental Health Screenings During First Semester of Medical School

Referred to: MSS Reference Committee (Jane Smith, Chair)

Whereas, Medical education can have significant negative effects on the well-being of medical students; and

Whereas, Medical trainees with a history of depression were almost four times as likely to report recent suicidal thoughts as those without; and

Whereas, A 2015 study revealed that 28.8% of resident physicians have depression or depressive symptoms; and

Whereas, Existing AMA-MSS policy aims to reduce stigmatization mental health issues in the medical community (345.007MSS) and supports medical schools to create a mental health awareness and suicide prevention screening program (345.009MSS); and

Whereas, Existing AMA policy calls for our AMA to work with the Department of Education and state education boards and encourage them to adopt basic mental health education designed specifically for preschool through high school students, as well as for their patients, caregivers and teachers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA-MSS promote mental health screenings of medical students during their first semester of each medical school academic year.

Fiscal note:

Date received:

References:


**RELEVANT AMA AND AMA-MSS POLICY**

**Increasing Detection of Mental Illness and Encouraging Education D-345.994**

1. Our AMA will work with: (A) mental health organizations, state, specialty, and local medical societies and public health groups to encourage patients to discuss mental health concerns with their physicians; and (B) the Department of Education and state education boards and encourage them to adopt basic mental health education designed specifically for preschool through high school students, as well as for their parents, caregivers and teachers.

2. Our AMA will encourage the National Institute of Mental Health and local health departments to examine national and regional variations in psychiatric illnesses among immigrant, minority, and refugee populations in order to increase access to care and appropriate treatment. Res 412, A-06; Appended: Res 907, I-12

**Improving Physician Mental Health and Reducing Stigma through Revision of Medical Licensure Applications 345.007MSS**

AMA-MSS aims to reduce stigmatization mental health issues in the medical community by (a) opposing state medical boards’ practice of issuing licensing applications that equate seeking help for mental health issues with the existence of problems sufficient to create professional impairment and (b) opposing the breach in a physician’s private health record confidentiality by requiring access to these records when an applicant reports treatment. MSS Res 17, I-13

**Implementation of an Annual Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Program at Medical Schools 345.009MSS**

AMA-MSS supports medical schools to create a mental health awareness and suicide prevention screening program that would: 1) be available to all medical students on an opt-out basis, 2) ensure anonymity, confidentiality, and protection from administration, 3) provide proactive intervention for identified at-risk students by mental health professionals, and 4) educate students and faculty about personal mental health and factors that may contribute to suicidal ideation. MSS Res 15, I-15