

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the establishment of a mental health first aid training program; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish a mental health first aid training program; providing for a mental health first aid course to be offered by behavioral health managing entities or other community providers; providing course requirements; requiring instructors to be certified; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature; providing for expiration of the program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Mental health first aid training program.—

(1) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a mental health first aid training program to help the public identify and understand the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders and provide the public with skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing a mental health or substance use problem.

(2) The training program shall provide an interactive mental health first aid training course through contracts with behavioral health managing entities or other appropriate community providers. The contracting entity shall work

27 cooperatively with local schools to provide for training to the
 28 staff in schools as a first priority, when appropriate.

29 (3) The training program shall include, but is not limited
 30 to:

31 (a) An overview of mental illnesses and substance use
 32 disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

33 (b) Information on the potential risk factors and warning
 34 signs of mental illness or substance use disorders, including
 35 depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders, and self-
 36 injury, and common treatments for those conditions.

37 (c) An action plan that encompasses the skills, resources,
 38 and knowledge required to assess the situation, select and
 39 implement appropriate interventions, and help an individual with
 40 appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care.

41 (4) The department shall ensure that instructors in the
 42 training program have been certified by a national authority on
 43 mental health first aid programs.

44 (5) The department shall submit a report on the
 45 effectiveness of the mental health first aid training program
 46 provided pursuant to this act, with recommendations regarding
 47 continued implementation of the program. The report shall be
 48 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
 49 Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2016.

50 (6) This section expires June 30, 2017.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.