

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and  
Senator Sobel

586-01610-14

2014574c1

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the establishment of a mental  
3 health first aid training program; requiring the  
4 Department of Children and Families to establish a  
5 mental health first aid training program; providing  
6 for a mental health first aid course to be offered by  
7 behavioral health managing entities or other community  
8 providers; providing program requirements; requiring  
9 instructors to be certified; requiring the department  
10 to submit a report to the Governor and the  
11 Legislature; providing for expiration of the program;  
12 providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16 Section 1. Mental health first aid training program.-

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

23 (2) The training program shall provide an interactive  
24 mental health first aid training course through contracts with  
25 behavioral health managing entities or other appropriate  
26 community providers. The contracting entity shall work  
27 cooperatively with local schools to provide training to the  
28 staff in schools as a first priority, when appropriate.

29 (3) The training program must include, but is not limited

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30 to:

31 (a) An overview of mental illness 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 by  
40 providing appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help  
41 care.

42 (4) The Department of Children and Families shall ensure  
43 that instructors in the training program have been certified by  
44 a national authority on mental health first aid programs.

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

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

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