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576-02722-14

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services)

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 program requirements; requiring instructors to be certified; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature; providing for expiration of the program; providing an appropriation; 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 to 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



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

30 (3) The training program must include, but is not limited
31 to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 Section 2. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the nonrecurring
55 sum of \$300,000 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund is
56 appropriated to the Department of Children and Families to



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57 implement the provisions of this act.

58 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.