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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Hershel Lyons
DATE: June 29, 2018

Contact Information:
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DPS: 2018-102

SUBJECT: Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Pursuant to Senate Bill 7026

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) announces, pursuant to section (s.) 1012.584, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *Continuing education and inservice training for youth mental health awareness and assistance*, the selection of evidenced-based Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training. YMHFA consists of an eight-hour face-to-face course that facilitates mental health literacy and gives adults the necessary skills to interact with youth who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis, including helping adults working with youth identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness.

YMHFA is managed, operated and disseminated by the National Council for Behavioral Health in partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health. YMHFA USA is a national authority on training and certification in youth mental health awareness and assistance. YMHFA utilizes a trainer certification model to help school personnel and adults working with youth to identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness and substance use disorders and provides such personnel with skills to help a person who is developing or experiencing an emotional disturbance, mental health or substance use problem.

The FDOE is also developing an online module and an additional face-to-face training to assist districts with training designated staff in youth mental health as required by s. 1012.584, F.S. These additional trainings will further assist with ensuring all personnel within a respective school district receive youth mental health training.

As required by s. 1012.584, F.S., each district school safety specialist shall earn, or designate one or more individuals to earn, certification as a youth mental health awareness and assistance trainer. In collaboration with the Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET) and each district school safety specialist, the FDOE will facilitate initial training for identified faculty and staff in each district.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The department has identified 185 YMHFA trainers and over 2,000 first aiders trained in coordination with the Florida SEA Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE) Project. Currently, initial training of district personnel will be based on identified districts' needs and capacity building according to the following:

- The Director of the SEDNET Administration Project will provide a survey to each district school safety specialist who will identify school personnel in need of the required training by listing individuals who have not previously attended YMHFA training. The district school safety specialists can access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMHAT>.
- The district school safety specialist shall complete the survey, notify the Director of the SEDNET Administration Project of district personnel to be trained as YMHFA trainers or first aiders, and provide completed YMHFA application forms to the SEDNET Director.
- The SEDNET regional project staff is also charged with creating, facilitating, leading and providing meeting notes and documentation of the Youth Mental Health Aid Training (YMHAT) SEDNET Regional Advisory stakeholder workgroup meetings for their respective regions. The YMHAT SEDNET Regional Advisory Stakeholder Workgroup will assist with determining how the appropriations can best support local district needs in implementing s. 1012.584, F.S. The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), in collaboration with the SEDNET regional project staff, will ensure proper accountability and compliance with applicable state and federal requirements.
- Individual allocations for each of the SEDNET regional projects are listed by Fiscal Agent (school district) in the attached Allocations Schedule.

Three initial YMHFA “train-the-trainer” sessions will take place according to the following schedule:

1. July 30, 2018 through August 3, 2018 (Concurrent Session A)—Northwest Florida
2. July 30, 2018 through August 3, 2018 (Concurrent Session B)—Northeast Florida
3. August 6, 2018 through August 10, 2018—South Florida

Further information will be provided to those who are selected to participate in the trainings via the survey, including specific times and locations.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado, BEESS bureau chief, at Monica.Verra-Tirado@fldoe.org or Dr. Curtis Williams, BEESS program director, at Curtis.Williams@fldoe.org.

HL/cw

Attachment

cc: Jacob Oliva, Executive Vice Chancellor of K-12 Public Schools
Nickie Zenn, Statewide Program Director of SEDNET Administration Project
Anne Bozik, Program Specialist for BEESS
School District Student Services Directors