

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 149347 Austin, Texas 78714-9347 1-888-963-7111 TTY: 1-800-735-2989 www.dshs.state.tx.us

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D. COMMISSIONER

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January 10, 2014

To: Executive Director, Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers

Executive Directors, Local Mental Health Authorities

Executive Director, Local Behavioral Health Authority

Executive Director, Disability Rights Texas

Members of the Local Area Network Advisory Committee (LANAC)

Members of the Council for Advising and Planning (CAP) for the Prevention and

Treatment of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

From: Ross Robinson, Director

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program Services Section

Request for Comments

New Chapter 412, Subchapter A, concerning Mental Health Prevention Standards

Due: January 24, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Grant Funding Program is to train employees and contractors of local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities to become certified trainers of MHFA and to provide MHFA training to educators within their catchment areas to maximize the number of youth exposed to people trained in the Mental Health First Aid protocol.

Who is affected?

Local mental health authorities (LMHAs), local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs), their employees and contractors.

Background

The 83rd Texas Legislature appropriated funds to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide grants to LMHAs and LBHAs for providing MHFA training to their employees and/or their contractors for the purpose of becoming MHFA certified trainers. The MHFA trainers will have the responsibility of training educators within their catchment area at no cost to the educators or their employers. In addition to funds for training employees and/or contractors to become certified MHFA trainers, there are also grant funds available to provide MHFA training to educators.

Training will be on the MHFA protocol as a preventive measure to assist children who are in distress and assist them to receive the most appropriate intervention. Each LMHA and LBHA is encouraged to have at least two employees certified as trainers. These people may be an existing employee, a new hire, or a contractor.

Please submit your comments via email to MHSArules@dshs.state.tx.us with the phrase "MHFA (412-A), 12-6-13, Informal Comments" in the subject line or by US mail to Lloyd Shangreaux, Department of State Health Services, P.O. Box 149347, Mail Code 2091, Austin, TX 78714-9347.

Call Lloyd Shangreaux with questions or concerns at 512/206-5970. Thank you.