



Report on the Mental Health First Aid Program

**As Required by
Health and Safety Code, Section
1001.205(b), as amended by
Senate Bill 1533, 85th Legislature,
Regular Session, 2017**

Health and Human Services

December 2017



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Introduction

The *Report on the Mental Health First Aid Program* for fiscal year 2017 is submitted in compliance with Health and Safety Code, Section 1001.205(b), as amended by Senate Bill 1533, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017.

Section 1001.205(b) requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to submit a report on the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program annually, by December 1, to the Legislature. The report must include compiled information submitted by local mental health authorities (LMHAs), including the number of:

- LMHA employees and contractors trained as MHFA trainers during the preceding fiscal year;
- university employees, school district employees, and school resource officers who completed an MHFA training program provided by a LMHA during the preceding fiscal year; and
- individuals from the community who are not employed by a university or school district who completed an MHFA training program provided by a LMHA during the preceding fiscal year.

MHFA is an eight-hour, evidence-based curriculum teaching individuals how to help someone developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. MHFA training increases awareness of mental health, reduces stigma around mental illness, and teaches individuals how to assess a situation, provide assistance, and connect someone with a mental health issue to resources.

In fiscal year 2017, HHSC, LMHAs, local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs), and various partners coordinated to connect resource officers, school district employees, and community-based personnel with MHFA training. LMHAS and LBHAs provided training to 4,448 individuals in the community not employed by a university or school district, such as student teachers, law enforcement, correctional employees, veterans, and other key groups at a cost of \$444,800. Although these individuals benefit from training, funds are not currently appropriated by the Legislature to reimburse LMHAs and LBHAs for training them.

Participating LMHAs and LBHAs submitted annual statewide training and community partnership development and maintenance plans. MHFA partnerships were actively

developed and expanded to include community organizations, councils such as the Texas Council of Community Centers, and state agencies such as the Texas Education Agency and Department of Family and Protective Services. Partners assist with training, outreach, marketing, and identifying and addressing barriers to training.

Mental Health First Aid Data

Table 1. LMHA and LBHA Employees and Contractors Trained

Fiscal Year	Number of LMHA and LBHA Employees and Contractors Trained
2016	147
2017	158

Table 2. University Employees, School District Employees, and Resource Officers Trained

Fiscal Year	Number of University Employees, School District Employees, and Resource Officers Trained
2016	7,137
2017	7,951

Table 3. Community Members Not Employed by a University or School District Trained

Fiscal Year	Number of Community Members Not Employed by a University or School District Trained
2016	4,490
2017	4,448

Figure 1. Total Individuals Trained, Fiscal Year 2014 Through 2017

