August 23, 2019

To: Local Mental Health Authorities  
Local Behavioral Health Authorities

Subject: Broadcast Message No. 19.042  
Mental Health First Aid: Changes due to passage of House Bill 1070

Background

The 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, approved House Bill (H.B.) 1070 thereby adding requirements to the current Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) reporting obligations. As of now, local mental and behavioral health authorities (LMHAs/LBHAs) report the number of instructors, public school employees, higher education institution employees, and community members trained during the previous fiscal year.

As a result of H.B. 1070, LMHAs/LBHAs will also report the number of trainers who left the program for any reason during the preceding fiscal year, as well as the number of active trainers. The aforementioned categories of instructors, public school employees, higher education institutions, and community members will continue to be reported. However, LMHAs/LBHAs will also report the number trained by LMHA/LBHA region, university or school district, and category of personnel.

As in prior years, LMHAs/LBHAs will still need to report this information to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) by September 30th of each year, and HHSC will compile the information into a legislative report due by December 1st of each year. Additionally, as part of the legislative report, HHSC must provide a detailed accounting of expenditures.
Implementation

The information required by H.B. 1070 must be collected beginning **September 1, 2019** to ensure HHSC is able to report a full year of information in the legislative report due December 1, 2020.

*Short-Term Data Reporting Mechanism*

HHSC will update the current tracking spreadsheet located in SharePoint so it can be used by LMHAs/LBHAs to submit the information required by H.B. 1070.

*Long-Term Data Reporting Mechanism*

HHSC will create a new page in the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) system to allow electronic reporting of this information. HHSC anticipates developing this page within the next six months. HHSC will schedule training for LMHAs/LBHAs when the page is ready for use.

*Updates to the Statement of Work*

HHSC is updating the statement of work to include the new reporting requirements. HHSC will schedule webinars and technical assistance calls for LMHA/LBHA staff during which time HHSC will explain the new requirements and assist with using the new reporting system.

After the CMBHS system is in place, LMHAs/LBHAs will complete the B-13 invoice and enter data via the CMBHS page. The B-13 invoice allows the LMHA/LBHA to be reimbursed for training. *Data reporting via CMBHS will not supplant the currently used B-13 invoice*. Invoices received without accompanying data entry into the CMBHS system will not be paid.
Action Needed from LMHA/LBHA MHFA Staff

- Update current course sign-in sheets or develop another method for collecting required data. An example sign-in sheet is attached to this Broadcast Message.
- Assist with identification of data fields for the higher education training category - Lists requested from each LMHA/LBHA on July 1, 2019.
- Attend all webinars and technical assistance calls concerning the new data collection and reporting requirements.
- Attend all regularly scheduled monthly MHFA coordinator calls.
- Review the statement of work when it is sent for review and send questions to your respective contract managers.
- Contact the MHFA team with programmatic questions regarding the implementation of H.B. 1070.

Providers can view this broadcast at https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/behavioral-health-services-providers/local-mental-health-authorities under “IDD-BH Broadcast Messages.”

If you have questions about this broadcast, please email the MHFA Team at MentalHealthFirstAid@hhsc.state.tx.us or your assigned contract manager.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Courtney Harvey, PhD
State MH Coordinator & Associate Commissioner
Office of Mental Health Coordination