

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB927**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 23, 2024  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Fredrickson  
**One Liner:** Require suicide awareness and prevention training for certain employees of child-placing agencies and employees of the Department of Health and Human Services

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Ballard, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, Hardin, Riepe, Walz  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator John Fredrickson  
Jennifer Carter  
Katie Nungesser  
Josephine Litwinowicz  
Theresa Goley  
Shannon Haines

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Office of Inspector General for Child Welfare  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Self  
KVC Nebraska  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 927 requires DHHS to establish suicide training requirements for all child-placing agency employees. Training requirements are provided for DHHS employees. DHHS is also required to develop a list of approved training materials.

Sec. 1: Adds new section of the bill to the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act.

Sec. 2: DHHS is required to establish standardized suicide awareness training requirements for all child-placing agency employees prior to any independent contact with youth and families to increase suicide prevention in the foster care system. Such training shall incorporate a baseline curriculum using the training materials while also allowing child-placing agencies to incorporate training elements that meet the specific needs of an individual agency.



Sec. 3: All child welfare caseworkers, and any other appropriate personnel as determined by DHHS/Division of Children and Family Services, shall obtain at least 90 minutes of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention before any independent contact with youth and families and annually, thereafter. All suicide awareness and prevention training shall incorporate evidence-based practices and may include, but not limited to:

--Identification of early warning signs and symptoms of behavioral and mental health issues for youth in the child welfare system and

--Appropriate and effective responses for behavioral and mental health issues and trauma-informed care. This training shall be provided within the framework of existing training programs offered by DHHS.

Sec. 4: DHHS, in consultation with organizations and professionals within the expertise in behavioral and mental health and suicide prevention (i.e. NE State Suicide Coalition, NE chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health Education Center, National Alliance on Mental Illness NE) is required to develop a list of approved training materials.

Sec. 5: Repealer

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM2713 strikes the original sections and inserts new sections. DHHS is required to develop a baseline of curriculum and training materials related to suicide awareness and prevention in consultation with statewide and national organizations and professionals with expertise in behavioral and mental health and suicide prevention. All such training shall incorporate evidence-based practices.

Child welfare staff that provide direct services to children/families or interact directly with children/families and any other personnel as determined by DHHS are required to have this training. Such training shall include 90 minutes of behavioral and mental health training and shall be provided within the framework of existing training programs offered by DHHS.

DHHS shall include suicide awareness and prevention training to in the current foster care licensure requirements.

DHHS is required to establish standardized suicide awareness and prevention training requirements for all child-placing employees before any independent contact with youth and families. The training shall incorporate the DHHS baseline of curriculum materials. DHHS may approve the existing child-placing agency curriculum.

This act shall become operative on October 1, 2024.

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Ben Hansen, Chairperson

