

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 901
Final Reading

Introduced by McGill, 26.

Read first time January 14, 2014

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to amend section
2 71-830, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to
3 provide for psychology internships as prescribed; to
4 change duties of the Behavioral Health Education Center;
5 to eliminate obsolete provisions; to adopt the Nebraska
6 Mental Health First Aid Training Act; and to repeal the
7 original section.
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-830, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3 71-830 (1) The Behavioral Health Education Center is
4 created ~~beginning July 1, 2009,~~ and shall be administered by the
5 University of Nebraska Medical Center.

6 (2) The center shall:

7 (a)(i) Provide funds for two additional medical residents
8 in a Nebraska-based psychiatry program each year starting in 2010
9 until a total of eight additional psychiatry residents are added in
10 2013. ~~Beginning in 2011 and every year thereafter, the~~ The center
11 shall provide psychiatric residency training experiences that serve
12 rural Nebraska and other underserved areas. As part of his or her
13 residency training experiences, each center-funded resident shall
14 participate in the rural training for a minimum of one year.
15 ~~Beginning in 2012, a~~ A minimum of two of the eight center-funded
16 residents shall be active in the rural training each year; and

17 (ii) Provide funds for five one-year doctoral-level
18 psychology internships in Nebraska within twelve months after the
19 effective date of this act and every year thereafter and increase the
20 number of interns in the program to ten within thirty-six months
21 after the effective date of this act. The interns shall be placed in
22 communities so as to increase access to behavioral health services
23 for patients residing in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska;

24 (b) Focus on the training of behavioral health
25 professionals in telehealth techniques, including taking advantage of

1 a telehealth network that exists, and other innovative means of care
2 delivery in order to increase access to behavioral health services
3 for all Nebraskans;

4 (c) Analyze the geographic and demographic availability
5 of Nebraska behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists,
6 social workers, community rehabilitation workers, psychologists,
7 substance abuse counselors, licensed mental health practitioners,
8 behavioral analysts, peer support providers, primary care physicians,
9 nurses, nurse practitioners, ~~and~~ pharmacists, and physician
10 assistants;

11 (d) Prioritize the need for additional professionals by
12 type and location;

13 (e) Establish learning collaborative partnerships with
14 other higher education institutions in the state, hospitals, law
15 enforcement, community-based agencies, and consumers and their
16 families in order to develop evidence-based, recovery-focused,
17 interdisciplinary ~~curriculum~~ curricula and training for behavioral
18 health professionals delivering behavioral health services in
19 community-based agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement. Development
20 and dissemination of such ~~curriculum~~ curricula and training shall
21 address the identified priority needs for behavioral health
22 professionals; and

23 (f) Beginning in 2011, develop two interdisciplinary
24 behavioral health training sites each year until a total of six sites
25 have been developed. Four of the six sites shall be in counties with

1 a population of fewer than fifty thousand inhabitants. Each site
2 shall provide annual interdisciplinary training opportunities for a
3 minimum of three behavioral health professionals.

4 (3) No later than December 1, ~~2011, and no later than~~
5 ~~December 1~~ of every odd-numbered year, ~~thereafter,~~ the center shall
6 prepare a report of its activities under the Behavioral Health
7 Workforce Act. The report shall be filed electronically with the
8 Clerk of the Legislature and shall be provided electronically to any
9 member of the Legislature upon request.

10 Sec. 2. Sections 2 to 8 of this act shall be known and
11 may be cited as the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act.

12 Sec. 3. The Legislature finds that:

13 (1) National statistics show that one in four Americans
14 will face a mental illness in his or her lifetime;

15 (2) Mental health first aid builds an understanding of
16 how mental illness affects Nebraskans, provides an overview of common
17 treatments, and teaches basic skills for providing assistance to a
18 person who may be developing symptoms or experiencing a crisis;

19 (3) A mental health first aid program is an education
20 program recognized on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
21 Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and
22 Practices; and

23 (4) The Behavioral Health Education Center administered
24 by the University of Nebraska Medical Center has conducted a series
25 of mental health first aid training courses and the experience of

1 providing such courses may be utilized regarding the implementation
2 of a mental health first aid training program as prescribed by the
3 Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act.

4 Sec. 4. For purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health First
5 Aid Training Act:

6 (1) Behavioral health regions means the behavioral health
7 regions established pursuant to section 71-807; and

8 (2) Mental health first aid means the help provided to a
9 person who is experiencing a mental health or substance abuse problem
10 or in a mental health crisis before appropriate professional
11 assistance or other supports are secured.

12 Sec. 5. (1) The Division of Behavioral Health of the
13 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a mental
14 health first aid training program, using contracts through the
15 behavioral health regions, to help the public identify and understand
16 the signs of a mental illness or substance abuse problem or a mental
17 health crisis and to provide the public with skills to help a person
18 who is developing or experiencing a mental health or substance abuse
19 problem or a mental health crisis and to de-escalate crisis
20 situations if needed. The training program shall provide an
21 interactive mental health first aid training course administered by
22 the state's regional behavioral health authorities. Instructors in
23 the training program shall be certified by a national authority for
24 Mental Health First Aid USA or a similar organization. The training
25 program shall work cooperatively with local entities to provide

1 training for individuals to become instructors.

2 (2) The mental health first aid training program shall be
3 designed to train individuals to accomplish the following objectives
4 as deemed appropriate considering the trainee's age:

5 (a) Help the public identify, understand, and respond to
6 the signs of mental illness and substance abuse;

7 (b) Emphasize the need to reduce the stigma of mental
8 illness; and

9 (c) Assist a person who is believed to be developing or
10 has developed a mental health or substance abuse problem or who is
11 believed to be experiencing a mental health crisis.

12 Sec. 6. The Division of Behavioral Health of the
13 Department of Health and Human Services shall ensure that evaluative
14 criteria are established which measure the efficacy of the mental
15 health first aid training program, including trainee feedback, with
16 the objective of helping the public identify, understand, and respond
17 to the signs of mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse. The
18 behavioral health regions shall submit an aggregated annual report
19 electronically to the Legislature on trainee demographics and
20 outcomes of the established criteria.

21 Sec. 7. The behavioral health regions shall offer
22 services to and work with agencies and organizations, including, but
23 not limited to, schools, universities, colleges, the State Department
24 of Education, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, law enforcement
25 agencies, and local health departments, to develop a program that

1 offers grants to implement the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid
2 Training Act in ways that are representative and inclusive with
3 respect to the economic and cultural diversity of this state.

4 Sec. 8. It is the intent of the Legislature to
5 appropriate one hundred thousand dollars annually to the Department
6 of Health and Human Services to carry out the Nebraska Mental Health
7 First Aid Training Act.

8 Sec. 9. Original section 71-830, Revised Statutes
9 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.