86R26312 EAS-D

By:  Bell of Montgomery, Bailes H.B. No. 2404

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2404:

By:  Clardy C.S.H.B. No. 2404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment of the office of first responder training support within the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and to the provision of critical incident support training services to first responders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter D, Chapter 96, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 96.642 to read as follows:

Sec. 96.642.  OFFICE OF FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING SUPPORT. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Critical incident stress management team" means a trained team of peer support responders and mental health professionals who provide support to first responders using an integrated multicomponent crisis intervention system.

(2)  "Department" means Disaster Behavioral Health Services within the Health and Human Services Commission.

(3)  "First responder" has the meaning assigned by Section 421.095, Government Code.

(4)  "Institute" means the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas.

(5)  "Office" means the office of first responder training support established by this section.

(6)  "Peer support responder" means an individual member of a peer support team who, as an employee, contractor, or volunteer of a public agency, provides services designed to give compassionate or coping support to a first responder involved in, witness to, or otherwise affected by a traumatic event.

(7)  "President" means the president of Sam Houston State University.

(8)  "Public agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 2257.002, Government Code.

(b)  The president shall establish an office of first responder training support within the institute.

(c)  The president shall appoint a training support coordinator as the administrative head of the office. Except as provided by Subsection (d), the training support coordinator must:

(1)  have at least five years of experience as a first responder;

(2)  have successfully completed training in providing critical incident stress management to first responders; and

(3)  demonstrate a professional ability to provide emotional and moral support to first responders.

(d)  If the training support coordinator has not completed the training required by Subsection (c)(2), the training support coordinator must complete the training as soon as practicable.

(e)  The office may coordinate with the department to establish a program for training individuals to serve on a critical incident stress management team. An individual may not serve on a critical incident stress management team before the individual completes training in critical incident stress management at least as comprehensive as that provided by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

(f)  The office shall provide assistance in gaining access to training at least as comprehensive as that provided by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation for critical incident stress management teams. The training courses may include instruction about:

(1)  suicide awareness;

(2)  suicide prevention;

(3)  suicide intervention for first responders; and

(4)  other behavioral health topics.

(g)  The office shall provide information about the department's critical incident stress management teams to an individual who completes the office's training.

(h)  The office and department shall share with first responders who have been involved in a critical incident information regarding the availability of the Post Critical Incident Seminar.

(i)  The office shall coordinate with qualified International Critical Incident Stress Foundation instructors to provide International Critical Incident Stress Foundation training to peer support responders.

(j)  The office may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to implement this section.

(k)  The president shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

(l)  This section does not place any restrictions on the type of training provided by or to any critical incident stress management team or peer support program outside of the institute.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the president of Sam Houston State University shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section 96.642, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.