86R15508 SRA-F

By:  Blanco H.B. No. 4429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of mental health first aid training in the mental health program for veterans.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 434.352(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  For the mental health program for veterans, the commission shall:

(1)  provide training to peer service coordinators and peers in accordance with Section 434.353;

(2)  provide technical assistance to peer service coordinators and peers;

(3)  identify, train, and communicate with community-based licensed mental health professionals, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations; [~~and~~]

(4)  coordinate services for justice involved veterans; and

(5)  contract with local mental health authorities as defined by Section 531.002, Health and Safety Code, to provide to veterans and immediate family members of veterans mental health first aid for veterans training.

SECTION 2.  Section 1001.222(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The department shall develop a mental health intervention program for veterans. The program must include:

(1)  peer-to-peer counseling;

(2)  access to licensed mental health professionals for peer service coordinators and peers;

(3)  training approved by the department for peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

(4)  technical assistance for peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

(5)  identification, retention, and screening of community-based licensed mental health professionals;

(6)  suicide prevention training for peer service coordinators and peers; [~~and~~]

(7)  veteran jail diversion services, including veterans treatment courts; and

(8)  training for veterans and immediate family members of veterans on mental health first aid for veterans.

SECTION 3.  Section 1001.224, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.224.  ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each year, the department shall submit a report to the governor and the legislature that includes:

(1)  the number of veterans who received services through the mental health program for veterans;

(2)  the number of peers and peer service coordinators trained;

(3)  an evaluation of the services provided under this subchapter;

(4)  in addition to Subdivision (1), the number of veterans and immediate family members of veterans who received mental health first aid for veterans training through the mental health program for veterans; and

(5) [~~(4)~~]  recommendations for program improvements.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.