

By: Blanco

H.B. No. 4429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (3) identify, train, and communicate with
14 community-based licensed mental health professionals,
15 community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations;
16 ~~and~~

17 (4) coordinate services for justice involved
18 veterans; and

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

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

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

3 (1) peer-to-peer counseling;

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

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

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

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

13 (6) suicide prevention training for peer service
14 coordinators and peers; ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (5) [~~(4)~~] recommendations for program improvements.

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