

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Joint Budget Committee

**FROM:** Carolyn Kampman, JBC Staff

**SUBJECT:** Request for Information Concerning Mental Health First Aid

**DATE:** March 11, 2014

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The supplemental bill for the Department of Human Services (H.B. 14-1238) included an appropriation of \$266,730 General Fund for mental health first aid training. This funding is intended to cover the cost of training 90 instructors and certifying 1,860 individuals, and to support statewide outreach, promotion, and coordination of mental health first aid curriculum that is focused on youth. This appropriation was accompanied by the following footnote:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that \$253,830 of this appropriation be used for the purpose of augmenting existing contracts with the approved agencies as specified in Section 27-66-104, C.R.S., in order to train additional Mental Health First Aid instructors and to certify educators, first responders, and military service personnel in Mental Health First Aid. It is further the intent of the General Assembly that \$12,900 of this appropriation be used for the purpose of supporting statewide outreach, promotion, and coordination of Youth Mental Health First Aid.

On March 5, the Committee approved the Department's request for \$750,000 General Fund for FY 2014-15 for mental health first aid training. This funding is intended to cover the cost of training 180 instructors and certifying 6,750 individuals. The Committee also approved the following footnote to accompany the appropriation:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that this appropriation be used for the purpose of augmenting existing contracts with the approved agencies as specified in Section 27-66-104, C.R.S., in order to train additional Mental Health First Aid instructors and to certify educators, first responders, and military service personnel in Mental Health First Aid.

As requested, staff has drafted a new request for information to ensure that the General Assembly receives information about the use and impact of this state funding.

**N DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID – THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE, BY NOVEMBER 1, 2014, A REPORT CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURE AND IMPACT OF STATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS THAT WERE TRAINED AND THE NUMBER OF EDUCATORS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL WHO WERE CERTIFIED AS A RESULT OF FY 2013-14 EXPENDITURES. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2014-15.**