

Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Agreement and Expectations

The Lake County Health Department intends to train and certify over 2,000 people in Mental Health First Aid over a five-year period. The purpose of this campaign is to significantly increase the number of people who are prepared to help individuals with behavioral health challenges. This initiative is also designed to reduce stigma so that people who face behavioral health challenges have community support and feel comfortable seeking help.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training that teaches parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human service workers and any other citizen how to identify, understand and respond to an adolescent (ages 12 to 18) who may be experiencing a mental health or substance challenge. Classes are taught in-person.

This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Instructor Training

The Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training course is a three-day in-person training session that prepares individuals to be certified to teach the eight-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid course. In order to be accepted into the instructor training class, all participants are required to have completed an eight-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid course. This course will be offered on August 23, 2024, at the Lake County Health Department. Registration information can be found at www.mentalhealth.today. National Trainers will guide candidates through the training with an emphasis on coaching and preparing candidates to be ambassadors of Youth Mental Health First Aid. The course will be conducted this year on November 6, 7, and 8, and run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

The National Trainers will conduct an individual evaluation of each candidate, and each candidate will provide a peer review for their colleagues. There are three possible outcomes from the instructor training: **full certification, provisional certification** or **no certification**. Attendance is not a guarantee of certification. Once certified as an Instructor, a person is eligible to teach the eight-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid course. There is an additional two-hour self-paced class afterwards in order to add the virtual certification.

Instructor Agreement

A Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor is required to serve as a presenter, facilitator and, most importantly, an ambassador of the Mental Health First Aid USA program. As a prerequisite to applying to become a Lake County Health Department Youth Mental Health First Aid Certified trainer, all applicants must read, understand and agree to abide by the following:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors must exhibit positive attitudes towards individuals with behavioral health challenges and should have enthusiasm to reduce the

stigma/discrimination associated with mental illness and addiction disorders, as this is an aim of Youth Mental Health First Aid and the curriculum is designed to promote recovery.

- Instructors agree to conduct each Youth Mental Health First Aid training in pairs. If an Instructor does not have a partner, the Lake County Health Department will assist with finding a training partner. Virtual classes last four hours. In-person training session lasts approximately nine hours and consists of eight hours of training content. The in-person training sessions can be conducted in one day or broken up into two four-hour days.
- Prior to conducting the training and then following the training, Instructors agree to commit the time necessary to prepare for the training, enter data and summarize the training.
- As a condition of maintaining certification and status with the Lake County Health Department Mental Health First Aid project, Instructors who are certified at the expense of the Lake County Health Department agree to teach the Youth Mental Health First Aid course a minimum of three times in the year following the training to Lake County Health Department approved groups.
- Instructors who are certified as part of this project agree not to charge any fee for their time for trainings conducted in partnership with the Lake County Health Department Mental Health First Aid project.
- Instructors agree, pending availability, to attend quarterly Instructor support meetings. These will be held virtually for the foreseeable future.
- Instructors agree to register all Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings they conduct with the national Mental Health First Aid website: “Connect”.
- Instructors agree to use the project website (www.mentalhealth.today) for training registration.
- Instructors understand and agree that the Lake County Health Department Mental Health First Aid project assumes no responsibility or liability for injury to either person or property resulting from any incident that occurs during training sessions attended by or conducted by Instructors.
- Instructors understand that they are agents representing Mental Health First Aid and are expected to dress and groom in a manner that is appropriate for business and enhances a positive image of Mental Health First Aid both locally and nationally.
- Instructors agree to collect and enter course evaluations and incorporate feedback.
- Instructors who are certified to teach Blended courses with both in-person and virtual Instructor-led trainings will pay a \$150 annual fee to MHFA and maintain a Zoom license at instructors cost.

Lake County Health Department Agreement:

The Lake County Health Department will support the training efforts in the following ways:

- Provide LCHD certified trainers with Youth Mental Health First Aid manuals for trainings conducted in partnership with the LCHD Mental Health First Aid project.
- Provide the Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor training at no cost to approved individuals, including materials. This is currently valued at over \$2,000.
- Provide logistical and technical support as needed, for setting up training courses to be held virtually, and help with outreach and publicity, connection with co-trainers.
- Provide instruction and assistance regarding systems for scheduling, registration, and reporting of data

- Check the box if you have read the Mental Health First Aid Instructor Agreement and Expectations in its entirety and are in full agreement with the above terms and expectations.**

PRE-APPLICATION ASSESSMENT: AM I READY TO BE AN INSTRUCTOR?

This self-assessment is designed to help you determine your level of readiness to become a Mental Health First Aid instructor. The self-assessment score will not be included in your final application score, should you choose to apply. Please rate yourself on the following items using the scale below.

1 – Strongly disagree 2 – Disagree 3 – Neither agree or disagree 4 – Agree 5 – Strongly Agree

Score	
<u>Before the Training</u>	
I have proof of completion of the Youth Mental Health First Aid eight-hour course.	
I have solid knowledge of mental health, mental illness and substance use.	
I am comfortable presenting in front of groups of 15-30 participants.	
I am familiar with the use of PowerPoint, Zoom, and a remote.	
I am comfortable adhering to a set curriculum of objectives, required talking points and activities.	
My organization has made this program a priority for me and my time.	
<u>During the Training</u>	
I have cleared my schedule of any conflicts during the 3-day training timeframe.	
I am ready to give adequate time to work on my exam and presentation.	
<u>After the Training</u>	
I am willing and able to spend an average of 40-hours learning the curriculum prior to teaching my 1 st course.	
I intend to solicit feedback from others to improve my instruction (i.e. other instructors, participants).	
I am confident that I can plan and deliver 3 courses in the coming year.	
I intend to invest in learning activities to support my mastery of the curriculum.	
I will promote and maintain the fidelity of the Mental Health First Aid course.	
Instructors who are certified to teach blended courses with both in-person and virtual Instructor-led trainings	
I will pay a \$150 annual fee to MHFA and will maintain a Zoom license at the instructor's cost.	
<u>Interest</u>	
I am passionate about teaching a mental health public education model of intervention.	
De-stigmatization of mental health and substance use disorders is important to me.	
<u>Interpersonal Skills</u>	
People describe me as someone who can connect with diverse audiences.	
I am able to resist becoming defensive when challenged and am able to understand the emotion underneath the challenge and respond respectfully.	
When facilitating groups, I can effectively draw people out or limit participation.	
I have the flexibility needed to work well with another instructor who has a different style of instruction and interaction.	
<u>Regulation</u>	
My life experiences will serve as an asset to teaching Mental Health First Aid.	
I am confident that I am emotionally ready to be an instructor (i.e. if I have experienced a trauma in my own life, enough time and healing has taken place).	
I am able to maintain my composure when participants disagree/challenge me or the course content.	
<u>Organizational Skills</u>	
I can organize my thinking, speaking and materials to effectively teach the course.	
I can monitor myself and adhere to a timed agenda throughout the course.	
TOTAL SCORE:	
Scoring Rubric:	
<i>Highly ready</i>	109 -120
<i>Very ready</i>	97- 108
<i>Moderately ready</i>	84 - 96
<i>May not be ready at this time</i>	below 84

APPLICATION: INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Part I: Applicant Information

Name (First Last):

Title:

Email:

Primary Phone Number:

Secondary Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Gender:

Applicant Type:

(Check all that apply)

- I am a current instructor – this is an expedited application
- I am applying as an independent trainer (not affiliated with org) I am applying as an agent of my employer
- Other (please specify: _____)
- I identify as a person with lived experience or a person in long term recovery
- I support a family member with serious mental illness

Organization Name:

(if applying as an agent of your employer)

Industry Type:

(Check all that apply)

- Faith community
- Corporate
- Human Resources/Employee Assistance Program
- Law enforcement/Public Safety
- Higher Education
- Primary/Secondary Education
- Hospitality
- Older Adults Social Services
- Behavioral Health Care
- Other Health Care
- Government
- Other (please specify): _____

How did you find out about the instructor training program?

- Employer email/Employer requirement
- Professional relationship
- Personal relationship
- Internet search
- Mental Health First Aid USA website
- Mental Health First Aid instructor
- Have taken the eight-hour course
- Other (please specify): _____

Part II: Applicant Experience and Qualifications

1. Why do you want to become an instructor? (max 200 words)

2. Please provide a description of your personal and/or professional experiences in the field of mental health that qualify you to teach a Youth Mental Health First Aid course (i.e. clinical experience, personal or family history, social service experience, etc.). Please provide time frames for any relevant experience. (max 300 words)

3. Please provide a description of your experiences in adult instruction that would qualify you as a strong candidate to be an effective Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor (i.e. group facilitation, teaching, etc.). Please provide time frames for any relevant experience. (max 300 words)

4. Have you taken the required Youth Mental Health First Aid course?

Yes

No

If so, when did you take the course? (mm/yyyy) _____

5. What do you believe are the skills and attitudes needed to be an effective Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor? (max 150 words)

6. What would you do if during one of the Youth Mental health First Aid training sessions you are conducting, approaches you privately about a personal mental health problem s/he is experiencing? (max 250 words)

Name

Date

NOTE: Upon completion, email this form to info@mentalhealth.today and someone will contact you about the next steps.