1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Mental Health and Substance Use 3 Disorder Awareness and Assistance Training Program; 4 creating s. 394.9088, F.S.; providing definitions; 5 requiring the Department of Children and Families to 6 establish a statewide mental health and substance use 7 disorder training program by a specified date; 8 providing program requirements; requiring the 9 department to select a coordinating agency to administer the training program statewide by a 10 11 specified date; providing requirements for such coordinating agency; requiring the coordinating agency 12 13 to submit certain reports to the department by specified dates; providing an effective date. 14 15 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 17 18 Section 1. Section 394.9088, Florida Statutes, is created 19 to read: 20 394.9088 Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder 21 Awareness and Assistance Training Program. -22 As used in this section, the term: (1)23 "Coordinating agency" means a nonprofit organization (a) 24 that is exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, governed by a board of directors, and 25

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selected by the department to administer the training program.

- (b) "Mental health" means a state of mental well-being that enables a person to cope with the stresses of life, realize his or her abilities, learn and work well, and contribute to his or her community.
- (c) "National authority" means a national organization that has developed an evidence-based training program using nationally certified trainers and that promotes a greater understanding of mental well-being as a core component of comprehensive health and health care.
- (d) "Substance use disorder" means a treatable mental health disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior leading to an inability to control the use of substances including legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.
- (e) "Training program" means a department-approved, statewide mental health and substance use disorder training program created by a national authority on mental health that incorporates strategies to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, provides an overview of mental illness and substance use disorders, and provides participants with skills to use when experiencing a crisis.
- (2) (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, the department shall establish a training program with the goal of training people whose occupations have a high level of daily interaction with the public, including, but not limited to, first responders,

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(b) The training program shall provide:

- 1. An overview of mental illnesses and substance use disorders, including risk factors and warning signs, strategies for how to help a person who is experiencing a mental health- or substance use-related crisis, and how to seek help.
- 2. Practical strategies to help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- (3) (a) By September 1, 2024, the department shall select a coordinating agency to administer the training program statewide.
- (b) The coordinating agency shall meet all of the following criteria:
- 1. Have at least 5 years of experience providing mental health and substance use disorder training in the state to at least 10,000 people.
 - 2. Be accredited by a national accrediting organization.
- 3. Provide financial statements audited by a nationally recognized auditing firm.
- 4. Submit a 5-year, statewide, phase-in implementation plan for administering the training program.
- (4) (a) The coordinating agency shall be responsible for all aspects of administering the training program based on its

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5-year, statewide, phase-in implementation plan. The plan shall set a goal for the number of people to be trained each year.

Targeted populations shall include first responders and citizens of high-risk neighborhoods and rural communities. The plan shall recommend a detailed budget to accomplish these goals, including metrics and reporting requirements.

(b) By June 30, 2025, and annually thereafter by June 30, the coordinating agency shall provide agreed-upon reporting metrics including the number of people trained and the results of surveys of people trained documenting their knowledge of mental health first aid taught in the training. The report shall also document the number of first responders trained. The coordinating agency shall also provide success stories from trainees who successfully used the training program to help someone with a mental health- or substance use-related crisis.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.