

Action Item - 39

Title: Contract with the National Center for Mental Wellbeing for Staff Training (\$52,000) – Added 6.11.2025

Board of Education Meeting Date: 6/26/2025

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform a contract, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Purpose:

To train District staff to deliver Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training

Start date: 7/1/2025

End Date: 6/30/2026

Compensation not to exceed:

\$52,000

Location: Administrative Offices; All Schools

Renewal Option:

NA

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an evidence-based training program administered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing that teaches how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges. The training gives the skills to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use challenge or experiencing a crisis. More than 2.6 million people across the United States have been trained in MHFA by a dedicated base of more than 15,000 Instructors. The Office of Prevention & Intervention (OPI) will look to contract with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing for the Adult and Youth Mental First Aid 3-Day In-Person Instructor Training.

OPI will train district staff as Trainers in Adult Mental Health First Aid. OPI will then offer additional District-wide training on Adult Mental Health First Aid to Staff and to

Parents/Guardians of our Students, in addition to offering District-wide training to schools on Youth Mental Health First Aid to students. The training helps address stigma associated with mental health and the importance of seeking help. This vendor will help us become established as a Training Entity Hub, so that we can train District staff as Trainers in Adult Mental Health First Aid. We will then offer District-wide training on Adult Mental Health First Aid to our School Staff and also to Parents/Guardians of our Students.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

The Office of Prevention & Intervention will evaluate whether the contract helped to achieve the desired outcomes if the services offered meet the mental health initiative needs of students and school communities. Training District personnel will foster sustainability and success of the programming Mental Health First Aid for students, schools, and school-based staff.

When applicable, is this an evidence-based strategy? If so, what evidence exists to support this approach?

Yes, Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based course that teaches participants how to support people with mental health and substance use challenges. MHFA training improves mental health first aid knowledge, recognition of disorders, and beliefs about the most effective forms of treatment for mental health issues. MHFA training reduces stigma, increases confidence in assisting someone with a mental health issue and increases intentions to provide mental health first aid to a small extent. These effects were evident up to six months after completing the training.

When applicable, was a larger community of District community members and/or stakeholders involved in this selection process? If so, what groups and how?

Sole Source Procurement: The National Council for Mental Wellbeing is the sole entity providing Mental Health Instructor Trainings in the United States and U.S. territories with the exception of Maryland and Missouri.

Which Goal and/or Guardrail does this Action Item support?

Has this investment been discussed during a progress monitoring session?

Which session?

The training services provided by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing is connected to Guardrails 1: Welcoming and Supportive Schools, 2: Enriching and Well-rounded School Experiences, and 4: Addressing Racist Practices.

Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?

This work supports Priority Area 1 of the Strategic Plan: Improve safety and wellbeing (physical, social-emotional, and environmental) and the Strategic Action 1.8 initiative which works to identify and improve, in partnership with the City of Philadelphia, the continuum of mental and behavioral health services to students.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

NA

Funding Source(s)

FY26 PCCD SMH and SS&S Grant

Office Originating Request:

Student Support Services