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OCFS Guidance on Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) Training During COVID-19 Emergency Period

Updated April 1, 2020

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are encouraging staff seeking Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) provisional or full certification to continue with required training whenever possible. Maintaining an available and skilled behavioral health workforce is vital to ensuring continuity of services for children and families during this challenging time. To this end, OCFS has enacted measures to increase the flexibility in obtaining required training for BHP certification. We expect that these accommodations will be in force until such a time as the state of emergency and restrictions around in-person gatherings are lifted. Woodfords Family Services is the DHHS-contracted entity that manages the BHP certification process and implements the training program.

Further guidance will be forthcoming as conditions and needs change. These accommodations and recommendations are subject to change at the discretion of OCFS. Check back to the OCFS COVID-19 response website often for updates.

“Live Day” training accommodations

Agencies with a Certified BHP Instructor are permitted to hold virtual BHP Live Day classes during this civic emergency. Only staff who are coming due for full certification in the next 45 days are eligible to participate in a virtual BHP Live day. Due to the nature of virtual training, it is recommended that the virtual BHP Live Day be divided into at least two days. Once gatherings are again permitted, the expectation is that agencies will return to providing face-to-face Instructor-led Live Days.

Woodfords Family Services is offering Virtual BHP Live Day sessions for staff statewide who are coming due for certification in the next 45 days and who have the capability to participate virtually (strong internet connection and the ability to connect to Adobe with audio VOIP). The first session will be held 3/31 & 4/1, 8:30am – 1pm. Learners must be present virtually for both dates, 8:30am – 1pm, to be marked complete for the Live Day requirement. Additional sessions will be offered in April and May. Classes are posted online at <https://www.woodfords.org/bhp-bl-training-calendar/> and in Relias where staff can self-enroll.

Agencies and individuals can also contact Woodfords directly for assistance with enrollment and/or implementing virtual BHP trainings. bhp@woodfords.org; 207-878-9663 x4138 or x4175.

CPR/First Aid Training Requirement

While restrictions on in-person gatherings are in effect, online Child & Adult CPR/First Aid certification from one of the following organizations will be accepted in lieu of the standard requirement for in-person or a blended course. This accommodation applies only to staff who are coming due for certification during this civil emergency. Once the state of civil emergency and/or restrictions on in-person gatherings have been lifted, the standard CPR/First Aid training policy will be reinstated and live or blended CPR/First Aid will again be required. Online only CPR/First Aid will not be accepted at that time.

Approved online CPR/First Aid training courses:

- **Red Cross Adult, Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED Online**
<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/classes/adult-child-and-baby-first-aid%2Fcpr%2Faed-online/a6R0V0000015EUt.html>
Class ID: a6R0V0000015EUt
Cost: \$35.00

- **American Health Care Academy**
CPR/AED (adult, child, infant quiz) and First Aid Training
<https://cpraedcourse.com/course/cpr-first-aid-certification>
Cost: \$35.95

- **National CPR Association**
The combination class CPR/AED/First Aid Certification does not specify that child CPR is included. Therefore, participants must take **both** classes:
 1. CPR/AED Certification - includes Adult, Child & Infant CPR
<https://www.nationalcprassociation.com/cpr-aed-certification/>
Cost: \$39.95
AND
 2. First Aid Certification
<https://www.nationalcprassociation.com/first-aid-certification/>
Cost: \$39.95

Questions regarding BHP training & certification:

Please contact Woodfords Family Services: bhp@woodfords.org; 207-878-9663 x4138 or x4175

General questions regarding the BHP program:

Please contact Amy Beaulieu, Policy Specialist, OCFs: amy.beaulieu@maine.gov; 207-624-7900.