



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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David Lawrence Center Introduces Mental Health First Aid Certification Prevention Program

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County’s only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce the introduction of the Mental Health First Aid Certification Prevention Program for identifying warning signs in Youth and Adult populations.

David Lawrence Center has partnered with the Collier County Sheriff’s Office and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to provide the nationally recognized program which acts as a unique and powerful vehicle for improved mental health literacy. Certified staff train participants to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness on a first-aid basis in either the child and adolescent or adult populations. Over two four-hour sessions, the program teaches participants how to help someone developing signs and symptoms of mental illness or an emotional crisis by introducing them to risk factors and warning signs, building understanding of their impact, overviewing common treatments and teaching how to safely de-escalate a crisis situation.

The program is designed for adult participants who can elect to take either the adult or youth certification program which teaches how to offer initial help in a mental health crisis and connect persons to the appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care.

David Lawrence Center CEO Scott Burgess states, “In the light of the nation’s recognition that mental illness needs to be better understood and effectively treated, David Lawrence Center is proud to be at the forefront of bringing awareness and training to our community through Mental Health First Aid. Given 1 in 4 individuals will be directly impacted by mental illness in their lifetime, this Mental Health First Aid program will save, change and improve the lives of many.”

Mental Health First Aid is open to the public, but can be tailored to support the type of aid provided by special interest groups. Some special interest groups include schools, businesses, child and adult care centers, healthcare networks and public transit operations. Special interest groups can host closed sessions which can be scheduled to fit their availability at the location of their choice.

For registration information or to schedule a class for your special interest group, contact the David Lawrence Center Mental Health First Aid Coordinator at 239-354-1437 or via e-mail at mhfirstaid@dclmhc.com.

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

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