



## Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice

### **FY2017 RECOMMENDATION/FY17-MH04 Include Mental Health First Aid® Curriculum in the POST Basic Academy**

**Status:** Implementation Unknown

#### **Actions/Updates**

##### **2023 UPDATE (JUNE)**

During the FY 2023 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2023-158 to reauthorize the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was postponed indefinitely on May 7, 2023. Therefore, with the sunset of the Commission, all activities of the CCJJ ceased on June 30, 2023.

No further monitoring of CCJJ recommendations will occur.

##### **2019-2022 UPDATE**

Status unknown.

##### **2018 UPDATE**

Status unknown.

##### **2017 UPDATE**

This recommendation includes recommended actions by officials of the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board and the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

#### **Description**

Officials from the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) will work with staff from the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) to review the Mental Health First Aid® curriculum, and modify when possible, for inclusion in the POST basic academy standard curriculum.

#### **Agencies Responsible**

Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

#### **Discussion**

POST officials report that approximately 4,500 law enforcement officials in Colorado have received Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, a 40-hour training that includes information on signs and symptoms of mental illnesses, mental health treatment, co-occurring disorders, legal issues and de-escalation techniques. However, many law enforcement agencies, particularly

smaller agencies, cannot send staff to participate in a week-long CIT training. Mental Health First Aid® (MHFA) is an eight hour training focused on risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, and strategies to help individuals in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Under the umbrella of the Commission's Mental Health/Jail Task Force, POST officials met with Task Force members and together the group developed the concepts described here regarding integrating MHFA training into the POST curriculum. CBHC may be able to assist with funding through grants and fund matching. The course is expected to be available in the spring of 2017.