

Mental Health First Aid

For Public Safety and Law Enforcement



“Public safety officers, regardless of rank or position, may find themselves confronted with a mental health crisis. My Mental Health First Aid training helped me save a life, and regular incidents serve as reminders of how public safety officers fall back on their training in times of crisis.”

— **Captain Joseph Coffey**,
Ret., Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and Mental Health First Aid National Trainer

Why Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety teaches the skills needed to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care. This evidence-based training promotes open dialogue, reduces stigma and encourages officers to seek support when needed. Offering MHFA for Public Safety can help create a healthier, more resilient and productive department.

90%*
of police officers surveyed reported stigma as a barrier to seeking help.

High occupational stress is associated with a **250%*** increased likelihood of developing PTSD.

Officers are **35%*** less likely to experience PTSD symptoms with higher levels of peer support.

*<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11896-020-09424-9>

What it covers

- Signs and symptoms of common mental health and substance use challenges.
- How to recognize common risk factors and warning signs.
- Crisis diffusion and follow-up tactics.
- Affirming and reassurance tactics.
- How to encourage appropriate help.
- Self-help and support strategies.

Who should take it

- Law enforcement
- Other first responders
- 911 dispatchers

Training formats

- **In-person 1 Day:** Learners receive their training during a 6.5-hour, Instructor-led, in-person session.
- **In-person 2 Day:** Learners receive their training during two 4-hour, Instructor-led, in-person sessions.
- **Blended, In-person 1 Day:** Learners receive their training through a 2-hour online self-paced training, followed by a 4-hour Instructor-led, in person session.
- **Blended, Virtual 1 Day:** Learners receive their training through a 2-hour online self-paced training, followed by a 4-hour Instructor-led, virtual session.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE):

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.



Call **848-329-0978** or email brian.preiser@rwjbh.org to schedule a training.