



## **Project Overview: Anna Maria College Advances Mental Health Training for Public Safety Professionals**

Anna Maria College launched this Mental Health First Aid training initiative in 2022 with a \$1,075,000 grant from the Department of Justice. The funds were facilitated through Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren to enhance mental health training for public safety professionals.

### **Objective Highlights:**

#### **Training Public Safety Professionals:**

- **Comprehensive Training:** Over **2,000** public safety professionals across various sectors, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, probation, and corrections, have been trained and certified in MHFA. These trained professionals represent **128** municipalities and **73** federal, state, county, and private agencies.
- **Facilitation of Training:** To date, 100 public safety professionals have been trained and certified as instructors in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). These instructors are strategically located statewide and represent key sectors, including law enforcement, corrections, paramedics, firefighters, and dispatchers.
- **Public Safety Training Institute:** Anna Maria College has established a dedicated training institute to further its mission.
- **Academic Integration:** The college has introduced a credit-bearing course, "PSY 122 Let's Talk About Mental Health: First Responders," successfully piloted in Fall 2023, educating undergraduate and graduate students preparing for careers in public safety.

#### **Promoting Mental Wellness**

- **Outreach and Engagement:** AMC has established connections with 50 public safety administrators, including police chiefs, to facilitate additional staff training in MHFA.

#### **Key Partnerships:**

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Department of Corrections Employee Assistance Unit
- Crisis Negotiation Team & Crisis Intervention Team
- Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts Sheriff's Association
- Massachusetts State Fire Marshal & Director of Fire Academy

- Police Chiefs of Central Massachusetts
- Fire Chiefs of Central Massachusetts

**Future Goals** (require additional resources)

- Additional sectors would greatly benefit from this training:
  - Constituent Services
  - Human Services
  - K-12 school resource officers
  - Public Sector employees
  - Educators
  - Youth Program directors

Anna Maria College remains committed to promoting mental wellness and equipping the public safety community with the tools to address mental health challenges effectively.

For more information, please contact:

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