

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
<b>155-35 (COR)</b> As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing; and substituted and further amended on the Floor	Régine Biscoe Lee Louise B. Muña Telena Cruz Nelson Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF PART III, CHAPTER III, PUBLIC LAW 35-36, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2019."	6/5/19 2:23 p.m.	6/21/19	Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	9/10/19 4:00 p.m.	9/24/19 12:26 p.m.	Request: 6/21/19  7/26/19  Request: 9/27/19 As amended	
	<b>SESSION DATE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>TRANSMITTED</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>			
	9/30/19	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF PART III, CHAPTER III, PUBLIC LAW 35-36, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2019."	10/4/19	10/7/19	10/18/19				



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I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

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OCT 7 '19 PM 12:48

Jessica Cruz

October 7, 2019

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
*Ufisinan I Maga'håga*  
*Hagåtña, Guam 96910*

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith are **Bill Nos. 76-35 (COR), 81-35 (COR), 93-35 (COR), 128-35 (LS), 136-35 (COR), 149-35 (COR), and 169-35 (COR)**; and **Substitute Bill No. 155-35 (COR)**, which were passed by *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on October 4, 2019.

Sincerely,

AMANDA L. SHELTON  
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (8)



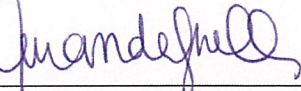
*I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

**CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN**

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 155-35 (COR), "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS PERSONNEL; AND TO AMEND SECTION 5 OF PART III, CHAPTER III, PUBLIC LAW 35-36, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2019," was on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019, duly and regularly passed.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Speaker

Attested:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Legislative Secretary

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This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October,  
2019, at 12:48 o'clock P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'håga's Office*

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Law No. \_\_\_\_\_

***I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2019 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 155-35 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on General  
Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing;  
and substituted and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Régine Biscoe Lee  
Louise B. Muña  
Telena Cruz Nelson  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Telo T. Taitague  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje  
William M. Castro  
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD  
James C. Moylan  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Clynton E. Ridgell  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Mary Camacho Torres

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR  
GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM  
ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS PERSONNEL; AND  
TO *AMEND* SECTION 5 OF PART III, CHAPTER III,  
PUBLIC LAW 35-36, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "*YOUTH  
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2019.*"**

1        **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2        **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act *shall* be known as the "*Youth Mental*  
3        *Health First Aid Act of 2019.*"

1           **Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
2 that in 2003, Guam was awarded a Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive  
3 Grant for substance abuse prevention and control by the Substance Abuse and  
4 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse and  
5 Prevention. Utilizing the principles of outcomes-based prevention, the grant  
6 specified the creation of a State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)  
7 which would oversee the strategic use of data to inform and guide substance abuse  
8 prevention policy and program development on Guam. After a few years of data  
9 gathering and analysis by SEOW, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center  
10 (GBHWC) Prevention & Training Branch, and the Governor’s PEACE Council  
11 (Prevention Education and Community Empowerment Council), Guam’s first State  
12 Epidemiological Profile (Epi Profile) was published in 2007.

13           In 2008, GBHWC received a youth suicide prevention grant as part of a  
14 SAMSHA program funded by the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. Strengthening  
15 and enhancing suicide data collection, surveillance, and analysis were some of the  
16 program’s objectives. This task was assigned to SEOW. The data collected and  
17 analyzed as a part of this grant program was incorporated into the subsequent updates  
18 to Guam’s Epi Profile.

19           By 2016, both of these grant programs had ended but the work of the Guam  
20 SEOW continued to be funded through another grant—Partnerships for Success. As  
21 of 2016, SEOW had served as the longest-running data workgroup on Guam, and is  
22 considered to be the island’s definitive authority on substance abuse epidemiology;  
23 and, through its continuing work and publications, it will continue to provide the  
24 local evidence base for substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion.  
25 Most recently, through its lead, Dr. Annette M. David, SEOW published the Guam  
26 Epi Profile 2016 Update.

1           The key findings of the Epi Profile revealed that tobacco consumption by  
2 youth is higher in Guam than in the United States; notably, one (1) in three (3) high  
3 school students and nearly one (1) in four (4) middle school students reported using  
4 e-cigarettes. The median measure of marijuana use among students in Guam was  
5 higher than that of the mainland U.S.; notably, 4.5% of high school students reported  
6 having tried methamphetamines, 11% reported taking prescription drugs without a  
7 prescription, and in 2015, 37% of high school students reported that illicit drugs were  
8 offered, sold, or given to them on campus. In the area of mental illness, the Epi  
9 Profile revealed that the median measure of “persistent sadness” among Guam high  
10 school students was significantly higher than that of the U.S.

11           Finally, the Epi Profile revealed that our youth had “an elevated likelihood of  
12 suicidal ideation and attempts” than youth across the U.S. A notable area of concern  
13 is our age-adjusted suicide rate, which was reported to be 36.6 per 100,000, markedly  
14 higher than the U.S. rate. Suicide deaths occurred predominantly among younger  
15 people; from 2008 to 2016, in particular, fifty percent (50%) of all suicide victims  
16 were under thirty (30) years old.

17           In 2008, the National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH) brought Mental  
18 Health First Aid to the United States; and, NCBH operates the program as “Mental  
19 Health First Aid USA.” Mental Health First Aid is a public education program  
20 designed to help individuals understand mental illness, support timely intervention,  
21 and, ultimately, save lives. Specifically, it is an eight (8)-hour course that teaches  
22 people how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and  
23 substance abuse disorders; and there are three (3) types of courses geared to  
24 providing aid to adults, youth, and public safety personnel. As a means of addressing  
25 the nation’s mental health crisis, NCBH’s goal has been to make Mental Health First  
26 Aid as common and readily available as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and  
27 traditional first aid.

1           In 2015, the U.S. Congress recognized the significance of this effort and  
2 passed “The Mental Health First Aid Act of 2015” with bipartisan support. This Act  
3 authorized Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) in grants to fund Mental Health  
4 First Aid training programs across the country. To date, more than 1.5 million  
5 people have received Mental Health First Aid training through a network of over  
6 twelve thousand (12,000) certified instructors. Of these 1.5 million people, four  
7 hundred (400) are Guam residents, of which one hundred ten (110) are Guam  
8 Department of Education (GDOE) principals, assistant principals, teachers,  
9 counselors, and school aides. Of the twelve thousand (12,000) certified instructors,  
10 six (6) are GBHWC personnel, specially certified to provide Youth Mental Health  
11 First Aid training.

12           Youth Mental Health First Aid training is designed to teach adults how to help  
13 youth ages twelve (12) to eighteen (18) years old who may be experiencing a mental  
14 health or substance abuse challenge or crisis. Participants will review typical  
15 adolescent development, discuss unique risk factors and warning signs of youth  
16 mental health problems, and come to understand the significance of early  
17 intervention.

18           On Guam, our history and our cultural values teach us that prioritization of  
19 family and community are paramount to individualism. We are a society that, over  
20 centuries, has given genuine meaning to the saying, “it takes a village to raise a  
21 child.” But, we cannot fight facts; the facts of our recent history are sounding an  
22 alarm, forcing us to recognize that our values are not translating. Something is  
23 broken within our families and, therefore, within our community. And, those who  
24 are suffering the most from this brokenness are our children, *i famagu'on-ta*.

25           It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to act before the already deafening  
26 alarm rings any louder, and before the next Epi Profile update reveals the depth of  
27 an even deeper wound. We can act by putting a Youth Mental Health First Aid tool

1 in the hands of those who spend the most time with our children, and do this through  
2 establishing and funding this pilot program for GDOE and GACS personnel.  
3 Fortunately, we have instructors at the ready; and surely, we will have recipients at  
4 the ready as well.

5 **Section 3. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Pilot Program for**  
6 **Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and Guam Academy Charter Schools**  
7 **(GACS) Personnel.** The Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC)  
8 *shall* establish a pilot program for Youth Mental Health First Aid training for GDOE  
9 and GACS personnel.

10 (a) Training Recipients. Training *shall* be provided to five hundred  
11 (500) GDOE and GACS personnel on a first-come, first-served basis;  
12 provided, that each public school with students enrolled in grades six (6)  
13 through twelve (12) first be allotted a minimum of twenty (20) slots.  
14 Participation *shall* be limited to GDOE and GACS personnel directly  
15 responsible for student instruction or supervision at each school. Each  
16 participant who completes the training program *shall* receive a Certificate of  
17 Completion.

18 (b) Training Providers. Training *shall* be conducted by Certified  
19 Mental Health First Aid instructors from Guam. Instructors *shall* also be  
20 familiar with all local entities, including government, private sector, and non-  
21 profit organizations that provide mental health care services and resources for  
22 youth in need. This familiarity *shall* include knowledge of each entity's area  
23 of specialization, location, operating hours, contact information, client  
24 qualifications, and best methods of contact or referral procedures.

25 (c) Training Course Content. The training course provided pursuant  
26 to this Act *shall* be the Youth Mental Health First Aid training course designed  
27 by Mental Health First Aid USA, which is operated by the National Council



1 for Behavioral Health. This course introduces participants to common mental  
2 health challenges for youth and reviews typical adolescent development. It  
3 teaches a five (5)-step action plan for how to help adolescents in crisis and  
4 non-crisis situations. Specific topic areas covered include anxiety, depression,  
5 substance abuse disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior  
6 disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

7 The content of the training course designed by Mental Health First Aid  
8 USA *shall* be supplemented with a local component. This local component  
9 *shall* include all of the information described in Subsection (b) about services  
10 and resources available for youth facing mental health challenges.

11 Participants who complete the program should be able to recognize the  
12 symptoms of common mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders, de-  
13 escalate crisis situations safely, and initiate timely referral to available  
14 resources.

15 (d) Certificates of Completion. Instructors *shall* be responsible for  
16 ensuring participants who complete all required hours also demonstrate  
17 understanding of the course content. Upon successful demonstration by a  
18 participant, instructors *shall* be responsible for issuing a Certificate of  
19 Completion to the participant. Instructors who issue such certificates on behalf  
20 of Mental Health First Aid USA must be authorized to do so on behalf of the  
21 organization.

22 **Section 4. Funding.** The Youth Mental Health First Aid Pilot Program  
23 *shall* be funded from the appropriation in Section 5 of Part III, Chapter III, Public  
24 Law 35-36. The appropriation in this Section *shall not* lapse and *shall* continue until  
25 fully expended.

26 **Section 5. Annual Reporting Requirement.** The Guam Behavioral Health  
27 and Wellness Center (GBHWC) *shall* maintain data on the total number of

1 individuals in Guam enrolled in the Youth Mental Health First Aid training program  
2 and the total number of those individuals enrolled who received a Certificate of  
3 Completion. Of these totals, the data *shall* specify the number of Guam Department  
4 of Education (GDOE) and Guam Academy Charter Schools (GACS) personnel who  
5 enrolled in the training program and the number who completed the training pursuant  
6 to this Act. GBHWC *shall* also maintain data on factors affecting youth mental  
7 health, including at a minimum, rates of tobacco use, alcohol consumption, drug use,  
8 depression, and suicide rates among youth ages twelve (12) to eighteen (18) years  
9 old. This data *shall* be compiled into an annual report which *shall* be transmitted by  
10 January 31 of each year to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

11 **Section 6. Amendment of Youth Mental Health First Aid Pilot Program**

12 **Funding.** Section 5 of Part III, Chapter III, Public Law 35-36 is hereby *amended* to  
13 read:

14 “**Section 5. Youth Mental Health First Aid Pilot Program.** The sum  
15 of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (**\$300,000**) is appropriated from the  
16 General Fund to GBHWC to fund the Youth Mental Health First Aid Pilot  
17 Program, other mental health and suicide prevention strategies, and costs  
18 incurred for the State-Added questions on the Behavior Risk Factor  
19 Surveillance System survey.”

20 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.