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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2023

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING TO BE OFFERED

Brookings, SD – An adult Mental Health First Aid training will be held on May 31st at the Dakota Nature Park. This is an in-person, 8-hour course and lunch will be provided by START-SD. This training gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis such as contemplating suicide. This is an evidence-based program widely used throughout the United States.

The goal of training is to help support an individual until appropriate professional help arrives. Mental Health First Aiders learn a strategy that includes: Assessing risk, respectfully listening to and supporting the individual in crisis, identifying appropriate professional help, and other supports.

Participants are introduced to risk factors and warning signs for mental health or substance use problems, will engage in experiential activities that build understanding of the impact of illness on individuals and families, and will learn about evidence-supported treatment and self-help strategies.

Mental Health First Aid is intended for people and organizations that make up the fabric of a community. Professionals who regularly interact with people such as teachers, police officers, nurses, human resource directors, primary care workers, school/college leadership, faith communities, and friends and family of individuals with mental illness or addiction, and community members are encouraged to attend.

Deadline for registration is May 19th. The training is free. Contact Heidi Gullickson, Brookings Area United Way, at heidi@brookingsunitedway.org or 605-692-4979 for more information or register at <https://brookingsunitedway.org/mhfa/>

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