Purpose for Training
School Social Workers are uniquely trained to provide Early Warning Signs of Mental Health Problems to school staff to meet licensure requirements for MDE. View Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.09, 122A.18 amended by Special Session, Chapter 9, Article 2, Section 7 (http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=122A.09).

- To meet requirement for licensure renewal
- To become better informed about issue

CEU Requirement: The statute does not state the number of CEU’s needed to meet the requirement. This is a decision by local re-licensure committees.

Background Information

Overview of Content of Training
What is the continuum of mental health and mental illnesses for children and adolescents? What is the education professional’s role and responsibility for early identification?
Causes and etiology of mental health disorders
Normal development as a context for understanding
Key warning signs and symptoms (not exclusive but training should cover these specifically)
- Depressed mood
- Excessive fears and anxieties, irritability etc
- Changes in behavior and performance (frequency, duration and intensity)
- Impaired concentration and thinking
- Suicidal gestures
Educational implications
Potential connection to substance use
Knowledge of next steps-knows options and provides examples of the processes and procedures at local level
Coordination of mental health services at local level
Partnering with parents/guardians-understanding the home/school connection
How do cultural variables fit into mental illness symptoms?
Confidentiality and privacy concerns

Learner Objectives
The participant will: Define the concepts of mental health and mental illness Be able to identify the key warning and adolescents. Parents from nonprofit organizations that have been trained and are knowledgeable about mental illness and treatment options.
Please see www.msswa.org for a PPT of Early Warning Signs training.