

**Niagara University**  
**First Responders Disability Awareness Training**  
**Advisory Council Agenda**  
**Thursday, October 9, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Project Director Dave Whalen, Principal Investigator Dr. Tim Ireland, Project Manager Samantha Morgan, Project Assistant Dr. Janine Hunt-Jackson, Marketing Intern Gabby Balsadore, Social Work Intern Rachael Campbell, Marketing Intern Valerie McQuade, Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Investigator Jim Buono (NYS Police), Tim Czapranski (Monroe Co. EMS), Prof. Nanette Harmon (Deaf Access Services, NU ASL), Marc Kasprzak (Senior Dispatcher, Niagara Co. Sheriffs), Jon Kemp (past-Chief Main-Transit FD,parent), Claudia Kurjakovic (ILC of Niagara County), Captain Patrick Mann (Buffalo PD), Renay Moran (Epilepsy Association of WNY), Ashley Pacelli (NYS DDPC), Tanja Peters (Parent to Parent of WNY, parent), Julie Phillipson (NFB of NYS), Michael Reid (FASNY), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara), Captain Maria Walker (Albany FD)

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO), Janice Fitzgerald (Parent to Parent of NYS), Bonita Frazer (Metro. Medical Response System), Edward Gehen (Retired Police Chief), Dan Hausman (OFPC), Richard Hermanson (SANYS), Undersheriff Chuck Holder (Chautauqua Co. Sheriffs), Sarah Milko (AutismUp, parent), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston Co. EM), Jim Zymanek (Amherst Emergency Services)

- I. Welcome/Introductions – everyone introduced themselves
  - Marc Kasprzak, Niagara County Sheriff’s County Dispatch, added as 911 operators/dispatch rep
  - Investigator James Buono and/or Major William Keeler will now represent New York State Police in place of Major Robin Benziger
- II. Review of June 2014 minutes – motion to approve by Julie P., motion seconded by Capt. Walker
- III. Firefighter/EMS training
  - A. Fall/spring sessions
    - Monroe County Sept. 9, 10, 23, & 24 – 12 attendants
    - Rockland County Sept. 26 & 27 – 5 attendants
    - Ontario County Oct. 3 & 4 – 9 attendants
    - Niagara County scheduled for Nov. 3, 5, 6, & 10 nights, currently 7 registered.
    - Montgomery County scheduled for Nov. 14 & 15, currently 3 registered.
    - Spring schedule not yet determined (looking at Ulster & Broome)
  - B. Response/attendance
    - Claudia K. asked about the counties in Southern WNY. Dave explained how the process works whereby counties reach out to us. We respond to those that show interest and are willing to schedule and outreach. Dave encouraged her to connect with FR in counties she referenced, to include Allegany and Chautauqua.
    - Marc K. – Niagara Co. outreach from Fire coordinators office has been strong, with several angles being incorporated.
    - Jon K. noted one reason for challenges in attendance is no one wants more training, not enough time, not mandatory despite necessity.
    - Dave discussed Monroe Co. was the first really aggressive effort by advocates. Autism Up called about 45 departments but this effort still didn’t increase attendance. The Advocacy Center also did some outreach.
    - Mike R. noted it’s hard to find actual trainers to attend the Train the Trainer version, just not enough people to take on that responsibility.
    - Dave notes there tends to be a prevailing lack of interest from firefighters with almost every training, and there have been instances where it is difficult convincing chiefs to implement.

That said, there is some high interest from EMS. Most attendees in the FF/EMS TTT are from EMS, and discussion is advanced.

- Lisa S. discussed how OPWDD Quality Assurance called for partnering between Opportunities Unlimited and local FDs to assess fire safety at programs and homes (walk throughs, copies of floor plans etc.). She has had poor reply from VFDs to carry this out.
  - Dave trying to convince A LOT of people that this is necessary. The office has a lot happening and individual county, FD, or PD outreach won't be happening from our office, advocates have responsibilities in outreach as well.
  - Mike R. on getting feedback that this isn't needed. Fire personnel automatically diverge to EMS when medical condition involved. Maybe just give an hour awareness course to Fire only. Police and EMS have much more personal and direct interactions – fire training could be just conduit to getting the right people there. Mike is involved with American Heart Association – found huge discrepancies between deliveries between instructors after TTT. There's a trend of doing all video/online training. Gives you quality control. Dave concerned that a lot is lost with only using videos but conversely sees advantage of quality control.
- C. Online training – concluded filming – will be videos of Dave and Janine presenting the curriculum. It is customized strictly for EMS, so all Fire content in current FF/EMS TTT is removed (i.e. Fire Safety Planner) Want to rollout in January. Fee based.
- The Center for Healthcare Education (CHE) will accredit the training. Dave will be meeting with President on campus 10/27. They are based in California.
  - Mike R. explained who CHE is, a California-based company for Continuing Medical Education credits. Very good group to partner with for accreditation.
- D. National Assn. of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) – Dave felt he had a good meeting with them, but not overly progressive. They seemed guarded. They stated how they develop all their trainings on their own.
- Tim C. said strength is this group is national including Canada. Broad-based, wide membership.

#### IV. Law enforcement

##### A. Fall/spring sessions

- Sept. Monroe County training rescheduled to Dec. 9 & 10
- Dave was featured presenter at Law Enforcement Training Directors Association of NYS (LETDANYS) Conference – went very well, different twist doing it at a conference, testimony from Monroe County LE training director included on eval sheets
- Spring schedule not yet determined

##### B. Dept. of Justice – introduced to FRDAT by local attorney generals which got all the way to Community Relations desk. Second phone meeting Sept. 28 included the Director of Community Relations who wants to bring a team to campus by the end of October.

- Dr. Ireland – sounds like there will be a teaser done through DOJ to introduce interested parties across nation then they call NU for full program. Could be a really nice springboard.
- Dave will consider if any Advisory Council members should be at the meeting. Still have to finalize and get a feel of their expectations. Meeting dates given were Oct. 24, 28, or 30. They also mentioned interest in Dave's bullying piece, fire/EMS, and 911 as well.
- Claudia K. made the point of not only focusing on developmental disabilities, Dave noted training is eclectic and covers all disabilities that would challenge a FR which is why DOJ seemed interested.

##### C. International Association of Chiefs of Police – Dave attended focus group, "Mental Health of Arrestees" – made the point not to only focus on mental illnesses. Summer FRDAT intern researched mental health courts.

- Sam Cochran, creator of CIT training, attended; well-rounded group

- There was a general discussion about funds being cut for mental health services and issue of identification/privacy.
  - o Point of FRDAT is so there is immediate recognition without having to refer out.
  - o Tim C. – EMS can have access to Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) database. 3.7 million records up since last year. Physicians have to get permission to upload patient’s information to database. Active call to 911 acts as consent to access records. Basically, same idea as emergency mgmt. registries. RHIO info - <http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/toolbox/RuralHealthITtoolbox/Collaboration/whatisrhio.html>
- Captain Mann – Police Mental Health Project got 4 departments in Erie County trained in CIT and there will be a 5<sup>th</sup> by the year’s end.
- Tanja P. noted start-up project in Chemung Co. through OPWDD addressing DD and MH services; two homes in Canandaigua and West Seneca along with a Crisis Team to respond within WNY. NY START - <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/ny-start/home>
- D. Corrections – Dave got a tour of the Niagara Co. Jail, talked to some inmates, nurses, guards, administration, etc. Heavy focus on mental health issues.
  - Next step is meeting with Chair Beilein of NYS Commission of Corrections, creating Correctional Disability Awareness Training and building it into their training.
  - Dave noted training won’t be as extensive as law enforcement. Will do the same for probations. Do need some funding to expand into these areas.
- E. NYS Justice Center – began DAT in their training academy
- V. 911 Operators/Dispatch – again, Marc K. is new Advisory Council 911 representative
  - A. Progress – Janine and Dave have both reviewed, merging notes. We’re welcoming input. Will be done before Christmas and looking to rollout in spring.
    - Will be about 6 hours. Heavy emphasis on speech and communication challenges. Dave showed the group some examples of slides and videos. Dave is working with 711 Sprint Relay, they provided a lot of videos that will be embedded (TTY, VCO, Speech to Speech, TeleBraille, and more). Will build in “blue pages” into the resource manual with specific tips/questions to communicate between first responders – mental illness, autism, ID, DME, seizure, suicide.
    - Nanette H. noted captioned phones are not very accurate and there’s a huge delay. Can’t have total reliance on technology.
  - B. September conference – Dave attended and introduced to all attendees, opened up for input. Workgroup held with Marc K and 2 of his personnel. We reviewed the entire program, quality input provided by dispatchers.
  - C. Introduction to program – response very positive. This piece will compliment LE & FF/EMS getting trained.
  - D. National Emergency Number Association (NENA) – Dave had an excellent phone meeting to get this national, very interested.
- VI. Out of state
  - A. New Jersey – mini-grant received from NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities – 2 day introductory training in the spring. Intent is that they will then fully fund FRDAT program in NJ.
  - B. Arkansas – small hiccup – have to reformat to sole source. Originally were going to contract but that was not appropriate per their funding guidelines. This will delay AR program but should be good to go in a few weeks.
    - Dave – talked to all key players on LE piece, they claim to have 24 hours in person with disabilities training at State Police, however, nothing built into any other LE training areas. Dave also talked to state EMS director, who supports program.
  - C. LA County Sheriff’s Dept. – 4 ADA lawsuits filed against them, called for training. NU waiting to see if it will occur.

- D. Northeast PA FRDAT – ILC and LINK (aging program) to bring LE & FF/EMS TTT. Introduced June 2013 with the IL rep there. This would be for LE and FF/EMS and include 10 counties.
  - E. Vermont – some interest from the Wyndham Co. Sheriffs office.
  - F. Fairfax County VA FF/EMS – looking to do this through county funds (fee for service)
  - G. Other inquiries – CT disability group, Colorado, Alaska
- VII. Sustainability
- A. Out of state/fee for service – finalized, this would bring in funds. Two day TTT fee is \$5,250 plus travel, FRDAT gives a break if they want FF/EMS and LE at \$7,850 (this would be 4 full days).
  - B. Tower Foundation – Niagara and Erie Co. funding source for developmental disabilities. FRDAT submitted for \$85,000 grant proposal – will find out early December.
  - C. DDPC Year 5 – extension granted and begins November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - D. Online donation – getting finalized
  - E. Select corporations/donors – marketing interns charged with identifying groups. Still looking into NU Institute – could be more progress.
    - Tim C. discussed connecting with United Way. People can donate to them and identify FRDAT to receive funds.
    - Renay M. pointed out the new Ralph Wilson Foundation. Go Fund Me on Facebook is another way to outreach.
    - Tanja P. noted National Grid starting to help families with mental illness/disabilities. Dave has a meeting scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> and will be asking for support.
    - Dave is still pushing for Jeremiah Lucey grant, reaching out to municipal fire departments to directly send letters of support and submit proposal.
- VIII. Niagara University
- A. Video production
    - 1. Frisking – Dave showed a new video we’ve made with Janine sitting out of her power wheelchair and Sgt. Harrington from Niagara Co. Training Academy conducting a search of the wheelchair. May need to reshoot some parts and want to put wording on the video as notes.
    - 2. Autism video still on drawing board
      - Nanette H. – consider making 100% of videos captioned, knows some deaf EMTs. Could add language saying “if someone needs an interpreter” so services could be incorporated – just so we are recognizing the missing piece. Tim C. – RIT can provide services.
      - Dave will caption EMS online training, but have to ship out which won’t be cheap.
  - B. Social media – part of marketing plan that marketing interns are working on. Need to expand Facebook and develop FRDAT Twitter.
  - C. Intern projects
    - Marketing interns Gabby Balsadore & Valerie McQuade – reviewing marketing plan and corporate outreach
    - Social work intern Rachael Campbell – domestic violence and persons with disabilities
    - Sociology intern Nicole Wawro – corrections and disability awareness
  - D. App development – Dr. Tong of NU Computer Information Sciences to turn resource manual into an app
- IX. Other – no other comments or discussions were brought up.
- X. Next meeting – February 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha L. Morgan  
Project Manager