

**Niagara University**  
**First Responders Disability Awareness Training**  
**Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Present: Dr. Timothy Ireland – Niagara University, David Whalen – Statewide Project Coordinator/Niagara University, Richard Hermanson – NYS Self-Advocacy Association, Peter Drew – Niagara County ARC, Julie Philipson – National Federation of the Blind NYS Chapter, Jason Goldstein – Deaf Adult Services WNY, Steve Lovi – Deaf Adult Services Executive Director, Renay Moran – Epilepsy Assn. WNY, James Zymanek – Emergency Management Town of Amherst, Susan Prince – EMT/Onondaga ARC, Dan Hausman – NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Chief Ed Gehen – West Seneca Police/Chiefs of Police Association NYS, Timothy Czapranski – NYS EMS Council, Major Robin Benziger – New York State Police, Lorraine Blum – Parent-to-Parent WNY

Absent/Excused: Under Sherriff Chuck Holder – LETDANYS, Kathleen Barton – NYS DOH EMS, Sarah Milko - UNYFEAT /Parent, Mike Reid – FASNY, John Silvernail, M.D., Tiffany Moore – Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Steve Truesdale – Disability Advocate/Consultant, Walter Reisner – United New York Ambulance Network, Robin Hickey – NYS DDPC, Ann Scherff-NYS DDPC/Parent Representative, Janice Fitzgerald – Parent to Parent NYS, Captain Patrick Mann – Buffalo PD, Jon Moffat – WNY ILC, Jay Bowers – WNY DDSO, Chief Jon Kemp – Main-Transit FD, Kevin Niedermaier – NYSEMA, Bonita Frazer – MMRS Mental Health Coordinator

- I. Introductions – everyone introduced themselves
- II. Review of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 minutes – Julie motioned, Tim C. second; minutes approved as written
- III. Grant updates –
  - a. DDPC - Dave explained that the grant was approved for a no cost extension through October 31, 2011. That made the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of year five months and now has year two starting 11/1/11.

- b. Curriculum – the curriculum is in its final stages of completion and 17 pilot training sessions (with 2 more scheduled) have been conducted across the three disciplines. Surveys of the pilot sessions have been organized and calculated and are being used to make final changes to the curriculum. Major Benziger suggested hitting the smaller sub-groups/specialties in agencies first for the training or as potential trainers as they will become the resource/“go-to” person in the agency. Also, having pocket guides for first responders would be beneficial.
  - i. Fire/EMS - Tim C. pointed out that there is a difference between “initial contact and extended contact” and there is a need for more information regarding extended contact for EMTs. Extended contact includes the time on task (transport, pick-up, transition from a familiar to a new environment, contacting appropriate hospital services) which can be up to 2 hrs. Dave stated that DOH EMS is reviewing the FR DAT with the intent to give it CME accreditation.
  - ii. LE – Major Benziger suggested integrating the training over the entire basic police training course in the academy not just one specific block of instruction (i.e. Mental health, arrest processing, handcuffing, etc.). It was also pointed out that the academy training is different to “in-service” training which needs to be taken into consideration for future trainings. A final suggestion was made to utilize School Resource Officer’s (SRO’s) as a way to spread information about outreach and registries. It was announced Buffalo Police Department is making FR-DAT mandatory training. Dave met with NYPD for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and the meeting was very productive. Chief Gehen mentioned having a program on the computer in the cars would be helpful/refresher for patrol. Dave noted this is part of what we are looking to develop in the future.
  - iii. Along with a written curriculum FR-DAT has developed videos per disability which are also used in the training. It was

suggested to create a video specific to durable medical equipment and how to properly disengage a wheelchair. Other videos are in the process of being developed by Jason and Deaf Adult Services to show basic sign language for first responders. These will also be incorporated as “still shots” in the manual. Some videos were shown to the council.

- iv. The question was brought up again as to whether we should separate the resources manuals into Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement (LE). We have completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> version of the manual and anticipate the next version to be the final. The last version was reviewed by the Monroe County Medical Director and suggestions were implemented into this last update.
- c. Roll out – our rollout trainings were very successful and a lot of useful and insightful information was gathered to assist in making changes to the program.
- d. Staffing – The office has hired a part-time position (20 hr. /week) in addition to the two graduate assistants and one research assistant currently working on the project. The position is starting at the end of February.
- e. Sustainability – Dave and Dr. Ireland met with the NU administration staff on the future of the program. Overwhelming support to make this an Institute/Center of Excellence which would imbed it into NU.
  - i. Other suggestions for sustainability were brought up such as charging an “in-state” and “out-of-state” fee for first responders wanting to participate in this training. We are also looking to possibly market our resource manual and other products.
- f. Train the trainer – One of the difficulties with the train the trainer program is determining who is a viable candidate to be a “trainer” and how much of a region/area does that person cover. Renay suggested utilizing local agencies for involvement in the program and Lorraine mentioned that having a proper dos/don’ts training for individuals with disabilities and parents would also make them

practical trainers. Major Benziger recommended developing a speaker's bureau and using that in collaboration with the trainers to build a relationship and enforce the message. NYPD has also asked for this. Webinars will also be looked into to provide greater access to training.

IV. Correspondence and outreach

- a. The office is looking to send out its second outreach mailer containing information about the program. The first mailer was sent out to county fire coordinators, city fire departments, city police departments, and law enforcement academies.
- b. We have been compiling an on-going list of national conferences for the 2012 year that the program is looking to be a part of.
- c. Surveys; the office is looking to survey law enf academies and emergency managers
- d. Inquiries – the office has been accumulating a list of people and departments who have outreached and are interested in a future training. This list will be used to determine where, when, and what type of training will be held in an area.
- e. Other - Jim Z. suggested creating a "QR" code for our website. The code can be printed on manuals, brochures, stickers, etc. and with a smart phone can be "scanned" and linked directly to our website. Tim mentioned that often times people are registering a house phone that they don't use or aren't registering a phone at all because they don't have a house phone. People need to be encouraged to register their cell phones as a means of identifying that they or someone from the address they live at has a disability when they call 911, possibly through "hyper-reach."

V. Database-this is listing all police and fire departments in NYS to include chiefs and training coordinators and EMS councils. Also includes county fire coordinators. The idea is that anyone can access the list to look up services and first responder agencies in their area.

The distribution list is composed of any person or agency the office has come in contact with or yet to come in contact with.

- VI. Website – The website has been switched to a new developer. The updated version of the website should be released in early March. It was suggested to have testimonials and stats of previous training present on the homepage.
- VII. Town Hall Training (THT) – The previous THT have been successful and we are looking forward to the 2012 sessions. This links municipality responsibilities with people invested in the disability community and the individuals responsible to execute it.
- VIII. Other – The next meeting will be in June 2012. Tentative date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Gworek

Assistant to the Coordinator