

Niagara University First Responders-Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Minutes
Friday, June 10, 2011 9am-noon

Present: Dr. Timothy Ireland – Niagara University, David Whalen – Statewide Project Coordinator/Niagara University, Richard Hermanson – NYS Self-Advocacy Association, Robin Hickey – NYS DDPC, Ann Scherff-NYS DDPC/Parent Representative, Janice Fitzgerald – Parent to Parent NYS, Chief Ed Gehen – West Seneca Police/Chiefs of Police Association NYS, Captain Patrick Mann – Buffalo PD, Peter Drew – Niagara County ARC, Julie Philipson – National Federation of the Blind NYS Chapter, Jason Goldstein – Deaf Adult Services WNY, Timothy Sczapranski – NYS EMS Council, Jon Moffat – WNY ILC, Jay Bowers – WNY DDSO, Renay Moran – Epilepsy Assn. WNY, Tiffany Moore – Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled

Absent/Excused: Chief Thomas Wutz – NYS OFPC, Chief Jon Kemp – Main-Transit FD, James Zymanek – Emergency Management Town of Amherst, Kevin Niedermaier – NYSEMA, Under Sherriff Chuck Holder – LETDANYS, Kathleen Barton – NYS DOH EMS, Sarah Milko - UNYFEAT /Parent, Bonita Frazer – MMRS Mental Health Coordinator, Major Robin Benziger – NYS State Police, Mike Reid – FASNY, Susan Prince – EMT, John Silvernail, M.D.,

1. Review of February 4, 2011 minutes. Pete Drew approved Ann Scherff second. Accepted as written.
2. Update on First Responders connections
 - a. Law Enforcement; Dave presented in Lake Placid to the Law Enforcement Training Directors Assn. NYS Executive Board. Board was very receptive to FRDAT, provided input into how academies would perceive the training. Dave presenting at Police Juvenile Officers Assn. NYS Convention on August 31, 2011. Met with NYPD 5/2/11, they explained how information would be shared with sworn officers through command sergeants. Initial focus will be at academy level. Support for both half day training and full day training depending upon department. Chief Gehen encouraged to think about web based training and podcasts. Other discussion regarding NYS OPWDD and calling 911 regarding alleged incidents of abuse. Chief Gehen felt this needed better coordination.
 - b. Fire; Dave presented at the County Fire Coordinators NYS 4/1/11 and the FASNY Executive Board 4/2/11 at the State Fire Training Academy. Program was very well received, all willing to work with NU. Meeting with FDNY on 5/1/11 with Chief Robson of Fire Training Academy and Chief Fitton of EMS Training Academy, very receptive to training, explained how it would be worked into FDNY. Dave to present WNY Volunteer Fire Convention 7/28/11 in Warsaw, 13 counties represented. Still looking to make more in roads with municipal fire fighters. To note: no fire representation at meeting today.
 - c. EMS; Dave presented to NYS EMS Training Council Committee in May and a meeting set up with DOH EMS to review rough power point draft. Tim C. discussed statewide

certification (CEU credits), this is something that Dave has been in discussion with appropriate parties

- d. Emergency Management; proposal into NYS Office of Emergency Management for statewide training
 - e. 911/Dispatchers; Met with state assn. President Merklinger, has Dave presenting at Statewide Conference in October. Julie sparked discussion on how to consolidate 911 systems.
3. Training Plans
- a. Pilot rollout; anticipated rollout to be August – October, need to provide 15 sessions, these will not be train the trainer initially.
 - b. 2012; will look to do extensive train the trainer programs throughout the second year of the grant.
 - c. Method of Delivery; looking to provide half day/3 hr. sessions for fire and EMS and half/full day for law enforcement. Will connect with the various associations and councils to, initially, coordinate through them.
 - i. Trainer network; will look to establish trainer network of individuals with disabilities and others to ‘assist’ trained first responder personnel. Concern is consistency and appropriate message being delivered.
4. Surveys; still in the process of analyzing the data.
- a. Parent; received 210 responses
 - b. First Responder; received 420 responses, majority of reply came from EMS. Some areas to note were a lot of requests to learn sign language and support for the need of this type of training.
 - c. Individuals with disabilities; received approx. 80, a lot of response from individuals with sensory disabilities
5. Curriculum;
- a. Development progress; continuing to meet with content experts to finalize end product per discipline. Anticipate July to have all information necessary. (near) end product should be complete by August
 - b. First Responder review; looking to bring together a small group of first responders per discipline to review end product.
 - c. Module into full session; differing requests for curriculum include modules that are discipline specific, videos (FDNY) and half day and full day sessions. Dave will coordinate this as per the direction from first responders
 - d. 2012-13; looking into the future we will look at online training specific to disabilities, podcasts, apps, and webinars
6. Database
- a. Tracking; we are in the process of continuing to develop our database that will include every police and fire department in NYS. We will track departments and individuals trained at each site

- b. Outreach; we continue to attempt outreach through the state assns. in the hopes of introducing the program in the curriculum. We will also use email as we continue to grow our database
7. Website
 - a. Development; our site name will be www.fr-dat.com, we have also secured all other domain names that are close to ours
 - b. Content; in progress
 - c. Resources; we will look to have community disability specific information to include agencies and service providers in various regions so as to allow first responders to make connections in their area. We will also have disability specific information that first responders can access.
 - d. Training potential; as discussed earlier online training. We will also have a calendar of events that people can access to see where training is occurring
8. Other;
 - Dave has received calls from the Ohio Governor's Council and a first responder from Wisconsin who now has a disability, both very interested in how to get this in their state. Part of our plan for sustainability is to provide this program to other states.
 - NU FR-DAT is taking the position that this will be the training of choice for first responders in NYS. Dave noted concern with similar programs being offered that might not have the full content or accuracy in first responders not embracing the program or learning the extent necessary. Dave has been exposed to some of these first hand.
9. Next meeting – October; time and date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

David V. Whalen