

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, June 12th, 2014

Present: David Whalen (Project Director), Samantha Morgan (Project Manager), Dr. Janine Hunt-Jackson (Project Assistant), Ally Jones (Student Intern), Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO Talent Dev. & Training), Nanette Harmon (NU Coordinator of ASL & Deaf Studies), FPC Dan Hausman (NYS Div. of Homeland Security & Emergency Svcs., NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control), Richard Hermanson (Self Advocacy Assn. of NYS), Robin Hickey (NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Program Planner), Claudia Kurjakovic (WNY Independent Living IL Specialist & Disability Rights Advocate)-to note, Claudia will be the new representative for ILCs, Sarah Milko (Autism Up President), Renay Moran (WNY Epilepsy Assn. Info. Svcs. Coord.), Tanja Peters (Parent to Parent of WNY Lead Coordinator), Julie Phillipson (Nat'l Federation of the Blind of NYS Secretary), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited Director of Day Services),

Guest: Todd Vaarwerk (WNYIL)

Absent: Dr. Timothy Ireland (Principal Investigator, NU College of A&S Dean), Mjr. Robin Benziger (NYS Police), John Buttino (NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Fire & Safety Rep.), Tim Czapranski (Monroe Co. EMS Office Administrator), Bonnie Frazer (MMRS Mental Health Coordinator), Edward Gehen (West Seneca PD Retired Chief), Under Sheriff Chuck Holder (Erie Co. Sheriff's Office, NYS Law Enforcement Training Directors Assn. President), Jon Kemp (Main-Transit FD), Capt. Patrick Mann (Buffalo PD), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston Co. Office of Emergency Management Director), Heather Randolph (WNYIL IL Specialist & Disability Svcs. Advocate), Michael Reid (Firemen's Association of the State of New York Director), Capt. Maria Walker (Albany FD), Jim Zymanek (Amherst Dept. of Emergency Svcs. & Safety Director)

- I. Welcome/introductions
- II. Review of February 2014 minutes – motion to approve by Julie Phillipson, motion seconded by Renay Moran & Rich Hermanson
- III. Firefighter/EMS Training
 - a. Trainings conducted since last meeting – Sullivan, Westchester, Suffolk, Wayne/Ontario Counties (see Evaluation Summary attachment)
 - i. Essex cancelled due to ZERO registrants – outreach may not have been best, however, there was a conference in that location beforehand that we figured would promote interest/registration

- ii. Onondaga cancelled due to only five registrants
 - iii. Not uncommon for stiffs – may begin charging those who don't show up
- b. Response
- i. EMS attitude very positive, many quality questions/discussions
 - ii. Fire departments have been less responsive to training – chiefs aren't seeing the need and it's been hard to get into training curriculum with some
 - iii. Positive note – most fire/EMS graduates will be training multiple departments. Some counties, like Suffolk and Wayne, are coordinating efforts with the entire class of trainers.
- c. Next step
- i. Relying on parent/advocacy groups to put pressure on departments to attend – we announce dates and these groups make the phone calls
 - ii. Coming from entities outside of NU may have more influence; Sarah Milko also thinks empowering parents to get their first responders trained will be beneficial and successful
 - iii. Planning to do 8 maybe 9 trainings in the fall
 - iv. FDNY: outreach made to set up a follow-up to review and establish how they will incorporate the training
 - v. Chief Askey mentioned that non-mandatory training makes it hard to get registrants. Said to look into insurance companies giving small incentives/tax breaks to departments – keeps taxes down, good money and PR strategy
- d. EMS online training
- i. Basically turning manual into online curriculum without fire component
 - ii. Start taping June 23-24 on NU campus
 - iii. Need to get nationally certified
 - 1. NYS allows FRDAT to be counted as 8 hrs of non-core credits
 - 2. Have to work with and pay two entities to get approval for national certification. Dave will follow up with the Center for Healthcare Education, as recommended by Gene Myer from NYS DOH EMS.
 - iv. Todd Vaarwerk mentioned getting national disability groups to support this, “put their stamp on it”
 - v. Dave is now a part of the National Arc's National Center for Criminal Justice & Disability and is going to try to get this weaved in through them, amongst other groups

- IV. Law Enforcement-DAT was the feature (and cover) piece for the NYS Chiefs of Police magazine's June 2014 edition
 - a. Trainings conducted – Erie & Essex County, good response and attendance
 - b. Senate Hearing – “Law Enforcement Response to Disabled Americans” – Dave attended
 - i. “Disabled Americans” was in the title but 85% was on mental health. While we understand and support the dire need to respond to individuals with MI, there tends to be an oversight of other areas of need.
 - 1. Patti Saylor (child with Down Syndrome was killed by off-duty cops in Maryland) was the only panelist *not* from mental health field
 - ii. Todd Vaarwerk said the disability community wasn't notified
 - iii. Emphasis on Crisis Intervention Training/Memphis Model
 - c. International Assn. of Chiefs of Police
 - i. Dave has accepted an invitation to be on a focus group, “Mental Health of Arrestees and How It Impacts Our Officers” – first meeting next Weds., June 18, 2014
 - d. NYS Justice Center
 - i. FRDAT has had two meetings with the center since last advisory council meeting
 - ii. Center could be our Capital hub – they are talking of having a training academy through the center
 - iii. Discussion about current state of center – investigators need better training, needs to work on community and police relationships
 - e. Other: Dave met with Chair of the Dept of Corrections, Tom Beilein, to begin dialogue on Corrections officer training. Dave will be presenting at the NYS Probation Officers and NYS Police Juvenile Officers conferences in August.
- V. 911 Operators
 - a. May conference – realized 911 was the final piece to first responder puzzle, very enlightening, made several connections. Also learned of other components (landmark identification, missing persons) that we need to both add into our program and work with the state offices overseeing this
 - i. Ability to communicate characteristics, challenges to first responders
 - b. Rollout in the fall with an introduction at the Sept 911 operators conference
 - c. Content
 - i. Missing persons

1. When NYS added “vulnerable persons” to missing – jumped from 7 to 27 in 2012 and to 48 in 2013

ii. GPS

1. GeoComm developed \$2 million landmark identification program
2. Not just address, but name/title of location
3. Relevance to residences with persons with functional needs
4. Todd Vaarwerk mentioned the identification should be voluntary – possible issue with privacy, freedom of choice

iii. 711 Relay NYS

1. This is the specialized communication that is operated by Sprint in NYS and overseen by a woman based in Geneseo
2. Has provided video for us to use in training
3. Speech-to-speech, carryover, video relay, etc.

VI. Emergency Management

- a. Not directly funded for this discipline but obvious connection
- b. Asked by FEMA to present in NYC for Washington administrators
- c. Albany Law Disability Clinic doing county outreach/analysis in conjunction with NYSILC emergency preparedness committee, which Dave chairs. Initiative built off of NYC lawsuit lost by city after improper and noncompliant response by authorities during Irene/Lee and exacerbated by Sandy
 - i. Outreach to 10 counties in Capital Region – 5 agreeable, 3 or 4 reserved, 1 rejected and required FOIL
- d. Intent is to assist municipalities, avoid lawsuits – we’re trying to help before they get a notice of being negligent

VII. Out of state

- a. Maryland – created LE training commission, seems to be trying to develop their own identity, did inform them we can save them time and money.
 - i. FRDAT has talked with Center for Health & Homeland Security at U. of Maryland and has a handshake agreement with them
 - ii. A firefighter/EMT is pushing for us in Fairfax Co, VA and Montgomery Co., MD
- b. New Jersey – mini-grant with Values Into Action, hoping this leads to bigger grant
- c. Arkansas – just called last week, taking FRDAT proposal to their DDPC next Thurs. June 19, 2014 – they are on the fast track!
- d. Alaska – didn’t get the funding they thought they would but still interested
- e. Vermont – met with reps from Landmark College, could be a hub

- f. Other –Alameda County (CA) Sheriff’s Office has inquired.
- VIII. Sustainability
- a. Golisano – asked us to put in for grant but ended up denying us
 - b. Corporate outreach – see attached list
 - c. Other states as already discussed.
 - d. Grants/foundations – We are reviewing Tower Foundation, will submit letter of interest. We have inquired to the Jeremiah Lucey grant if we could submit an all-encompassing grant that would include several municipal depts. across NYS.
 - e. Chief Askey asked if we would consider PayPal donation on our site, Dave to look into.
- IX. NU
- a. DAT class – submitted syllabus, not sure when it will start
 - b. Website – now embedded within NU site, frdat.niagara.edu. Council asked if it was accessible, to be reviewed by Todd and Julie.
 - c. Video production – will now be doing on campus, “quick hits” on disability topics pertinent to first responders, intended to be educational. Completed a video on dispelling myths of CP and a video of an individual with CP being pulled over.
 - d. Public relations
 - i. New brochure done, NU marketing dept put together
 - ii. Support – brochure input, website improved, article on program, YouTube channel started
 - iii. YouTube – now have our own playlist within NU’s channel
 - iv. George Will – spoke at NU graduate commencement, praised NU’s efforts to help developmentally disabled. Has child with Down syndrome. Father Maher is going to talk to him about writing a national article on FRDAT.
 - e. Facebook: discussed our page. Chief Askey offered to link up with his page, and feels other PDs would be willing. He notes a lot of likes for many topic areas.
- X. Town Hall Training: currently on hold until funding is obtained.
- XI. Other – Dave attended and received a certificate of participation from the NFTA Citizens Police academy

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha L. Morgan
Project Manager

NU First Responders Disability Awareness Training Funding outreach

- 711 Relay
- McGuire Group
- Keltic Financial
- Charles Schwab
- Brown Chiari
- Phillips Lytle
- GeoComm
- Zetron
- Harris
- Reeds
- Hyper Reach
- McNeil Insurance
- Bully Hill
- Ellicott Development
- Read Speaker
- MVP Healthcare

Individual donor and/or assist in outreach

- Golisano
- Paladino
- Vanner
- 100 Club (select) members