

# Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

## 2015 Ice Sled Hockey World Championships in Buffalo!



### First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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### Greetings!

On April 26, the newly constructed, state-of-the-art Harbor Center in downtown Buffalo will play host to the world's top sled hockey athletes. Team USA is a two-time defending Olympic gold medal champion. The championship game will be covered by NBC. Click the link for more information: <http://www.paralympic.org/buffalo-2015>.



### Upcoming Train the Trainer Sessions

NU FRDAT has established three **Firefighter/EMS Disability Awareness Train the Trainer** sessions for this year so far.

[March 20-21 - Onondaga County, New York](#)

[May 18-19 - Jefferson County, New York](#)

[November 13-14 - Dutchess County, New York](#)

Other sessions to be determined in New York: Broome County, Northern Erie County, Southern Erie County, and Niagara County.

In addition, NU FRDAT will be hosting a **NATIONAL Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Train the Trainer** on campus on June 11 & 12. This session will still be free for NYS law enforcement trainers. NU FRDAT will also be conducting another session in Erie County.

### Recent News

[Town discusses disability awareness, accessibility](#)

[A Case Study on Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Planning in Upstate NY](#)

[Justice Department Reaches Settlement With the County of Erie, New York to Prevent Disability Discrimination at the Erie County Jail](#)

[White House Marks Passage of ABLE Act](#)

**ADA National Network FEMA Webinar Series**

**Emergency Management & Prep - Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**

### Arkansas FRDAT Receives Warm Welcome



[www.ddcouncil.org](http://www.ddcouncil.org)

Project Director Dave Whalen had productive meetings with several entities and key players during his January visit to Arkansas.

Customization of the curriculum has begun, which will address state-specific laws, guidelines, and policies. NU FRDAT will also be developing training videos featuring local Arkansas disability advocates.

Coverage of the program initiative includes KUAF radio interview (to air February 27) and [KARK News 4 Community Matters segment](#).

### New Jersey FRDAT Wheels in Motion

Project Director Dave Whalen will be attending the **Pathways to Justice Task Force Committee** meeting on March 26 in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Training dates in the spring and fall to introduce the program to law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, and 911 operators are in the process of being scheduled.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS:

March 12 - "FEMA Promising Practice: Community Maps to Catalyze Partnerships, Planning & Advocacy for Access & Functional Needs"

April 9 - "ADA National Network Learning Session: What's new in Power before and after emergencies"

## The Arc National Center on Criminal Justice & Disability Upcoming Webinars

April 30 - "Violence in the Lives of People with Disabilities: Emerging Issues & Solutions for 2015 & Beyond"

## Are you interested in our training?

### NEW YORK & ARKANSAS FIRST RESPONDERS

- if you are interested in the FF/EMS, LE, or 911 Operators Train the Trainer program, we are putting together our training schedule. Contact us for more information.

### OUT OF STATE FIRST RESPONDERS

- for more information to bring our training program to your region, contact us.

## Project Director Accepts New Roles

Project Director Dave Whalen will be traveling to **National Emergency Management Institute** in Emmitsburg, Maryland on March 2 to become an **Access & Functional Needs Trainer** for the state of New York. Dave was invited by FEMA and will be responsible for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities before, during, and after an emergency.



Dave also accepted an invitation to sit on the **Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice Committee** in Niagara County, New York. The Committee exists to promote the safety of the citizens of Niagara County, the efficient and just treatment of offenders, and to work toward prevention of crime and the reduction of recidivism for individuals with behavioral or mental health illness through collaboration between providers and to introduce and maintain ongoing interdisciplinary training and education.

## 911 Operators Training Near Completion



The FRDAT office has completed the content for the Train the Trainer curriculum for 911 Operators/Dispatchers. On March 10, the office will be meeting with board members of the **NYS 911 Coordinators Association** to finalize the product, ensuring that the program covers all need areas and subject matter specific to the profession. Anticipated rollout in late spring.

## Join Our Networks!

First Responder Disability Awareness Training is developed with the intent that the police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel who are trainers teach our curriculum within their discipline. In support of these trainers, Niagara University is looking for individuals or parents of those with disabilities and service providers in **New York and Arkansas** who would be interested in joining First Responders when they conduct this training.

[Click here if you are interested in joining our Trainer Network](#)

We also ask individuals in the community who want to advocate on behalf of Disability Awareness Training to become a FRDAT Ambassador. A FRDAT ambassador is someone who meets with first responder agencies to introduce training, make sure they are aware of the program, and look for a commitment from their police and fire departments that they will pursue and receive the training.

[Click here if you are interested in becoming a FRDAT Ambassador](#)