

Niagara University  
First responders Disability Awareness Training  
Advisory council agenda  
Thursday, October 6, 2011

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, 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, Jon Moffat – WNY ILC, Jay Bowers – WNY DDSO, Renay Moran – Epilepsy Assn. WNY, Chief Jon Kemp – Main-Transit FD, James Zymanek – Emergency Management Town of Amherst, Kevin Niedermaier – NYSEMA, Investigator Jim Buono NYS Police – alternate for Major Robin Benziger, Bonita Frazer – MMRS Mental Health Coordinator, Susan Prince – EMT/Onondaga ARC, Dan Hausman – NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control

Absent/Excused: Under Sherriff Chuck Holder – LETDANYS, Kathleen Barton – NYS DOH EMS, Sarah Milko - UNYFEAT /Parent, Mike Reid – FASNY, John Silvernail, M.D., Chief Ed Gehen – West Seneca Police/Chiefs of Police Association NYS, Timothy Czapranski – NYS EMS Council, Tiffany Moore – Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Steve Truesdale – Disability Advocate/Consultant, Walter Reisner – United New York Ambulance Network

I. Introductions – everyone introduced themselves

II. Review of June 10, 2011 minutes – Robin motioned, Julie second; minutes approved as written

III. Grant update

A. no cost extension – Dave explained the no cost extension for the first year that would make the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter a 5 month quarter. This is due in part to the grant start date being 9/1/10 but funding coming in until mid-October, delaying some of the initial start to the program. Dr. Ireland and Dave have submitted to the DDPC which in turn has forwarded on for approval. DDPC, which supported

this move, is waiting to hear back, however we are proceeding anticipating the approval.

B. curriculum – curriculum is near complete and pilot trainings have begun. One of the first responses is that 3 hours is not long enough. Discussion ensued as to the length of training. First responders present stated clearly that the training should be the proper length to cover all the material. One way to achieve this will be to establish the trainer curriculum in modules where by training may be conducted over more than one session. That will work for Fire/EMS training. Captain Mann noted a way to prioritize content is what attendees need to know versus what is nice to know

1. Fire/EMS – Dave asked the council about the need to have a separate training for fire and EMS. He has already seen in the pilot sessions done and had comments made by attendees that having separate trainings for EMS and fire is not necessary. Council members representing fire and EMS, for the most part felt the same. Discussion of a blended curriculum with modules which may be specific to patient treatment versus emergency/fire response, and along those lines basic into advanced curriculum.

2. Law enforcement - law enforcement (LE) training will need to be half day or full day. This will be in line with either academy training or department training which calls for different modes of delivering the training.

C. rollout – 18 entities are identified for pilot trainings across the three disciplines. Already receiving training were the NYS Juvenile Police Officers Association at their convention, NYS 911 Operators at their statewide conference and the Finger Lakes EMS Council in Canandaigua. Evaluation summaries and full evaluation forms were passed around for everyone to review.

D. staffing – currently we have one 25 hr./week graduate research assistant, two 20 hr./week graduate assistants to the coordinator, however there will be a brief vacancy of one of those positions and two 8 hr./week undergraduate students working as an independent study.

E. Sustainability; we are hoping to keep this program sustainable well beyond the 3 year grant. There has been preliminary discussion with the DDPC about funding a 4<sup>th</sup> year. It is becoming apparent that this project will call for more than 3 years to see it to fruition.

1. Buffalo Fire Dept – Dave had a meeting with BFD Commissioner Garnell Whitfield last week, it was very productive. He also noted that 92% of his firefighters are also EMTs (see above discussion). He will look to incorporate the training on a mandatory basis. We also discussed a grant from the Dennis Leary

Foundation which recognizes Leary's cousin, Jeremiah Lucey (killed in the line of duty) whereby they fund training for professional fire departments, allotting between 25-50 thousand dollars.

IV. Trainer Network; Dave updated the council on the challenges of finding trainers who will deliver this across the state. He has had several comments on the trainings he has done noting that he (Dave) has the knowledge and passion to deliver this – how will trained trainers be able to duplicate that? Captain Mann noted the team approach utilized in Erie County used for elder abuse training. Jon Kemp discussed some form of brief video to get the attention of first responders. Most felt this would be effective as a “PR” piece.

A. First Responders; Dave asked the best way to connect with fire, EMS and LE trainers in regards to outreach, how the training should be delivered and ensuring that we have individuals who have some relationship to the disability community. He noted at the LE Training Directors Executive Board meeting in May 2011 that several academy directors stated they would ensure a trainer who will have some compassion for this topic.

B. Disability advocates; Dave presented at the NYS Independent Living Council September 16, 2011 board meeting on outreach to ILCs and their disability advocates who also provide training. He has a meeting with the NYS Association of Independent Living on 10/20/11 to further discuss recruitment of trainers. Robin noted that the first responders are the main trainers and we want them to take ownership of this.

1. NYS Independent Living Centers; Westchester ILC will be the initial roll-out of the Train the Trainer (TTT) curriculum. This is prompted by an incident with the New Rochelle Police Department.

## V. Database

A. Distribution lists; distribution lists are in the process of being developed for first responders, parents, individuals and service providers. This will allow us to have outreach and communicate training schedules, current trends and topics, etc. Discussion ensued about having a Facebook page to share information. Recommendation to reach out to the United Way that has a distribution list. Entities like the Developmental Disability Alliance of WNY, who also has an extensive listing, may also be a way to expand the list.

1. E-newsletter – we have subscribed to Constant Contact, which is an email newsletter outlet. First responders received the first newsletter a few weeks

back. We are currently working on a newsletter for individuals, parents and service providers. This is intended to keep all abreast of the happenings and updates.

B. Tracking training sessions; We do intend to track all sessions that are occurring across the state. We want to ensure we are reaching all first responders and it will also help us to identify any systemic issues.

VI. Website; Dave and Becky introduced the website, noting it is a soft launch. Went through several pages identifying what our intentions are. A comment made on the section of the website for trainers.

VII. Town Hall Training; Dave introduced the Town Hall Training (THT) program of which we were recently funded through a charitable trust. One of the ultimate goals of THT is that each municipality has a committee on disabilities. Amongst other topic areas (i.e. accessibility, employment) there is a clear link to working with the emergency managers and first responders within the municipality. There is a link on the website for THT. THT entails a full-day training of invested individuals who want to advocate for individuals with disabilities within their municipality. Five trainings are scheduled over the next 5 weeks.

VIII. Emergency management; As discussed in the past although separate from first responders we have embraced the need to ensure education and training for all who have a role in this is provided through the NU FR-DAT office. There is a link on the website dedicated to emergency management. Dave attended the FEMA Get Real II Conference in Arlington, Virginia September 12-14. The conference focus was on emergency response to individuals with disabilities. He will be summarizing all the presentations and providing that information to emergency responders. There will also be information on the link on the website.

IX. Other; We are currently working with Dr. Rivera in the Criminal Justice Department to analyze the surveys we sent out. We may be looking at additional surveys.

X. Next meeting will be sometime in February 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Gworek