

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Agenda
Thursday, February 5, 2014

PRESENT: Project Director Dave Whalen, Principal Investigator Dr. Tim Ireland, Project Manager Samantha Morgan, Project Assistant Dr. Janine Hunt-Jackson, Social Work Intern Rachael Campbell, Sociology Intern Nicole Wawro, Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO), Tim Czapranski (Monroe EMS), Nanette Harmon (DAS), FPC Dan Hausman (OFPC), Rich Hermanson (SANYs), Robin Hickey (NYS DDPC) Jon Kemp (parent, former fire chief), Capt. Patrick Mann (Buffalo PD), Sarah Milko (parent, AutismUp), Tanja Peters (parent, P2P of WNY), Julie Phillipson (NFB of NYS), Capt. Maria Walker (Albany FD)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Det. Jim Buono (NYSP), Peter Drew (Opportunities Unlimited), Bonnie Frazier (Metro Medical Response System), Undersheriff Chuck Holder (Chautauqua Sheriffs), Michele Juda (P2P of WNY), Marc Kasprzak (Niagara Dispatch), Mjr. William Keeler (NYSP), Claudia Kurjakovic (ILNC), Renay Moran (Epilepsy Association of WNY), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston EM), Mike Reid (FASNY), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited), Jim Zymanek (Amherst Emergency Services)

I. Welcome/introductions

II. Review of October 2014 minutes – Rich motioned to approve, Capt. Walker seconded motion.

III. US Department of Justice

- Dave and Dr. Ireland went to Washington DC to meet with the Community Relations Services at the DOJ. Dave stated how thankful and supportive they were – they intend to use FRDAT office as the subject matter experts.
- Dave stated how the DOJ felt they were behind in offering programs for LE and asked for our assistance. Dave and Tim introduced the Train the Trainer, which they liked, but was too comprehensive for them to rollout.
- DOJ and FRDAT will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to review/revise a PowerPoint they have asked FR DAT to provide input on. After this, they have discussed the production of a DVD, which will be available across the country. Dave is working on the script and will use national connections to ensure it is representative of the national identity. Simply put, it must show people from across America.
- Dave said the DOJ stressed that the FRDAT office must be ready for national attention and influx of calls once this goes out as we will be identified as the creator of the program in line with US DOJ.
- A major piece that is driving this is the Hate Crime Prevention Act and the identification of IWDs in Uniform Crime Reports.

IV. Firefighter/EMS training

- a. **Spring sessions** – established Onondaga, contacted Broome and Dutchess. Will also be doing Southern Erie, Northern Erie and Niagara. Dave is looking at 6 total trainings this spring.
- Jeremiah Lucey Grant – supposed to be submitted by municipal FD but have letters of support from Albany, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lackawanna and Rochester (Syracuse rejected) – biggest departments outside of FDNY will be trained. Will be submitting within next few weeks.
- b. **Response/attendance** – Dave expressed how this is still a challenge. Some Fire leaders are not seeing importance – Syracuse Chief didn't sign letter of support, Golisano board member who was a former firefighter rejected FRDAT approval of grant, despite 100% of attendants recommending the program.
- Dave wants to strategize how to get more support, needs help getting it established. He stressed that while legislation is not the intent and we do not want to force the issue, a more aggressive approach could be to sit down with Senators/Legislators.
 - Tim C. mentioned one avenue to address this – while Regional EMS Councils get some funding for training, Program Agencies get much more funding and take care of designing, developing and facilitating training.

- c. **Online training** – Dave said he will be reshooting the EMS online program, original shoot was with studio on campus, but that did not come out well. The reshoot is scheduled for end of this month with Full Circle Studios.
 - This will be done in front of a live audience on Feb 23, 27 and will be a legitimate training for attendants. FRDAT sent email to all local departments looking for participants. Dave asked Advisory Council members to pass along info.
 - Center for Healthcare Education is still very interested in crediting this program, recently reached out to FRDAT office and Dave has an upcoming phone meeting.
- d. **FF modified training** – Dave discussed how it was agreed to keep Fire & EMS training together as a combined program but there's now a thought of creating a separate Fire program. There will always be the combined program but it's content is slanted towards EMS and might be good to have the option of just Fire along with the EMS online program in development. Council members supported the idea of having the three options.
- e. **FASNY/NYS Fire Chiefs** – Dave wants to revisit this relationship, better establish their role for outreach. They receive FRDAT training announcements and post to websites. They've never invited FRDAT to conferences, Dave isn't overly concerned with this but stressed that we need their support to be fully established in NYS.
 - i. To note: FRDAT has presented to the FASNY Board of Directors, been a speaker at the FASNY EMS seminar on both Long Island and at Montour Falls, and operated a booth at the FASNY convention.
- f. **Regional EMS Councils**; an avenue FR DAT hasn't concentrated on but plays a big role in training conducted in the EMS field, also receives funding for it. Tim Czypranski elaborated on their role, as well as program agencies. He discussed how they are funded, and offered ideas to outreach to them.

- V. Law Enforcement** – Dave pointed out that this has taken a backseat to the Fire/EMS training as it was first rollout. That said, it is still be offered and with new Tower Grant, will offer Niagara and Erie trainings to include national outreach.
- a. **International Association of Chiefs of Police** – Dave stated he wants to do more with them, DOJ said to anticipate more of a relationship and asked Dave to submit for the IACP National Conference in October.
 - b. **Corrections** – Dave discussed how this is another training identified under DDPC grant, will need to be customized, not first responders but closely related.
 - Incidents at Rikers Island led to NYS legislative hearing, Dave pointed out it consistently focused on training, one of the panelists was Commissioner Beilein who was the former Niagara Co. Sheriff and who Dave has met with. He supports our program moving fwd.
 - Dave discussed his tour of the Niagara Co Jail, review of protocols and lack of identification of disability, and will view the admissions/intake process in the next few weeks. One objective would be to develop a screening tool that addresses the disabilities currently overlooked (i.e. autism, Intellectual disability, Tourette syndrome)
 - Dave has begun developing the base of the corrections program, will focus on victimization, mental illness, suicide, behavior issues, etc.
 - Intern Nicole Wawro is tasked with doing research for this training – she discussed her internship which includes doing case studies and identifying disability awareness issues within the system. She has developed a survey that we'd like to see go out to all Corrections officers in NYS, waiting on input from key players.
 - c. **Probation** – connection to above-mentioned corrections training, Dave said this is another avenue for training. He met with this dept. last November. Tim C. noted that Monroe County has Task Forces where probation officers can enter homes without search warrants, so it would be crucial for them to have disability awareness training.
 - d. **NYS Justice Center** – Dave discussed how the Center is allowing for more direct reporting and more investigations, stated how the program is good but is also under a lot of scrutiny and is being sued. Main point – all investigators have not been trained in disability awareness, they have trainers available that can help with this. Dave meets with them a few times a year and has progressive discussions with the Chief of Investigations, noted he pushes the Center's role in first responder trainings.
 - e. **DCJS** – Dave noted the meeting he had in November was very productive, he asked for funding, DCJS sees the importance and positive responses, discussing FRDAT becoming 8 hours in basic course, FRDAT will send

challenging incidents to help support initiative, may ultimately be modifying NYS LE training in general. They have asked for assistance in promoting and 'selling' FR DAT to LE across NYS.

- f. **Missing Persons** – Dave noted that first responders can go to this site and reference a checklist to help identify persons. Dave reviewed the checklist to include information that helps in identifying persons with disabilities.
- g. **Domestic violence** – Intern Rachael Campbell is tasked with researching domestic violence issues for people with disabilities, she discussed reviewing domestic violence shelters and accessibility and bringing DAT to these shelters.

VI. **911 Operators/Dispatch**

- a. **Progress** – Dave stated this will be a finished product tomorrow, discussed how FRDAT staff sits together reviewing every piece in this curriculum, will go back and review Fire/EMS and LE based on this approach.
 - Heavy on speech and language and what needs to be understood to communicate to first responders, will be about 70% different from other trainings, completes the first responder circle, resource manual will have immediate/direct “coaching lines” for intellectual disability, autism, amongst other disabilities. Dave will need final approval from 911 Coordinators Assn., will host a review day in the near future.
 - Premise warnings and the registry were also discussed relative to having knowledge of person with a disability when call comes in.
- b. **Rollout** – Dave said rollout will be in spring, training should be less than two days, hopefully maybe even down to 8 hours. Rollout will be through NYS 911 Assn.
- c. **National Emergency Number Association (NENA)** – Dave said NENA is very interested, has had two productive meetings, they will also help with rollout nationally. Dave is looking to go to NENA Conference in Denver in July.

VII. **Out of state**

- a. **New Jersey** – approved mini-grant through Values in Action, Dave discussed how this will just be an introduction to FRDAT that will hopefully lead to full funding of the program.
 - Dave discussed how NJ already has a few things in place – mandatory 1 hour DVD for all disciplines, CIT training
 - FRDAT was featured in NJ CDD magazine – People & Families “First to Respond: Sometimes the Last to Know”
- b. **Arkansas**
 - i. **State visit** – Dave went to Little Rock last week, stated how there was an incredible reception, developed relationship with the Criminal Justice Institute which holds a lot of state LE trainings, AR LE Training Academy, AR Fire & EMS Academy Directors, Little Rock FD, Bryant FD, videographers, advisory council
 - Dave mentioned how there’s only 5 LE academies in the entire state and state pays for academy training
 - Dave is to review a disability training course they currently use, will do another meeting to identify videos to be made and participants in those videos
 - ii. **Year 2** – Dave said they’ve already approved Year two.
- c. **Alaska** –going through the process of passing a bill for LE training, someone did a Google search and found us, made contact with Dave and had a good productive talk, would be through Alaska ILC
- d. **Miami** – ADA Coordinator contacted Dave relative to municipal training and became interested in FRDAT, Dave tried pushing Train the Trainers but they want him to come do direct trainings
- e. **Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department** – Dave hasn’t heard much from them lately
- f. **Northeast Pennsylvania FRDAT** – Dave said they’ve done outreach for 10 counties to be trained, waiting to hear back.
- g. **Alleghany PA region** – Dave said the original contact has moved on and is passing task onto the new person.
- h. **CDD state plan** – Sam developed an info sheet to give to every state’s CDD to incorporate into their 2016 state plans, will use Robin Hickey for help with outreach.

- VIII. **Sustainability** – Dave said this is the home stretch for the DDPC funding, ends October 2015, AR funding expires at same time but already have Year 2 solidified

- a. **Out of state/fee for service** – Dave stated fees of \$5,250 for one TTT or \$7,875 for combined TTT package, goal is to get state-level funding, Colorado CDD expressed interest, with DOJ this exposure will shoot up, need to create Master Trainer network to help take on these inquiries. Dave has identified 4-5 first responders who are trainers and would make for excellent master trainers.
- b. **Tower Foundation awarded** - \$85,000 to conduct trainings in Niagara and Erie counties which are open to the state, Dave said this money allows FRDAT to create EMS online program, train Master Trainers, address supplies and travel, goal is have 80% of Niagara/Erie Fir departments trained and the rest of the police depts. It also allows for WNY to be the national model and headquarters for the program.
- c. **Online donation** – link on website, anyone at any time can now donate to FR DAT. We are also developing a mobile app that will cost \$0.99. It is modelled after the resource manual.
- d. **Select corporations/donors** – Dave stated can always use council members help in linking to these sources. Our identification and outreach to corporations and donors will be a major piece relative to sustainability
 - i. **RAVE Mobility**; Dave met them at the 911 Coordinators conference last Sept. They have indicated high interest in being involved in the program. Their product is a direct compliment to 911 FR DAT.
- e. **MVP Healthcare**; NU FR DAT submitted a request for \$25,000 for support of training in NYS and VT-update, Dave has since rec'd reply that they will not be funding our program.

IX. Niagara University

a. Video production

- i. **Finalizing frisking/wheelchair video**: adding captions and addressing a possible reshoot with one of them.
- ii. **Autism video**: looking at doing a video that would be a quick expose on individuals with autism similar to the one done on cerebral palsy.
- iii. **Escorting an individual who is blind**: Julie and the FR DAT office developed a video on how to escort an individual who is blind. We need to finalize it.

b. Social media – Sam stated FRDAT is on Facebook, is looking into Twitter, social media is where the word gets out so need help spreading posts and outreach, getting help from marketing consultant and interns

c. Post-2015 – Dave said he is hopeful NU and FR DAT will be a part of NU after this year, talks have begun. A DAT Institute makes a lot of sense and will continue to be explored.

X. Other – Dave has accepted FEMA's invitation for him to become an Access & Functional Needs Trainer for the state of New York.

XI. Next meeting – Wednesday, June 10, 2015 (note it is not on a Thursday)

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Morgan
Project Manager