

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Agenda
Thursday, June 4, 2015

PRESENT: Project Director Dave Whalen, Principal Investigator Dr. Tim Ireland, Project Manager Samantha Morgan, Project Assistant Dr. Janine Hunt-Jackson, Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO), Det. Jim Buono (NYS), Nanette Harmon (DAS), Rich Hermanson (SANYS), Robin Hickey (NYS DDPC), Undersheriff Chuck Holder (Chautauqua Sheriffs), Claudia Kurjakovic (ILNC), Renay Moran (Epilepsy Association of WNY), Tanja Peters (parent, P2P of WNY), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Tim Czapranski (Monroe EMS), Peter Drew (Opportunities Unlimited), Bonnie Frazier (Metro Medical Response System), FPC Dan Hausman (OFPC), Michele Juda (P2P of WNY), Jon Kemp (parent, former fire chief), Marc Kasprzak (Niagara Dispatch), Mjr. William Keeler (NYS), Capt. Patrick Mann (Buffalo PD), Sarah Milko (parent, AutismUp), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston EM), Julie Phillipson (NFB of NYS), Mike Reid (FASNY), Capt. Maria Walker (Albany FD), Jim Zymanek (Amherst Emergency Services)

I. Welcome/introductions

II. Review of October 2014 minutes – Tanja motioned to approve, Renay seconded motion

III. US Department of Justice

a. MOU/Training developed – mentioned in last meeting – Community Relations Services office is using NU FRDAT to revise/develop a roll-call PowerPoint for law enforcement departments across the country.

- i. PowerPoint will only focus on intellectual disabilities and autism, despite NU FRDAT pushing obvious need to include others, but it's a good start. Will look to rollout August/September.
- ii. Mental health is obviously at the forefront and, while Dave notes it's not where it should be, there's already much attention being given to the topic through Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for example. ID is receiving more attention after the death of Ethan Saylor and others.
- iii. Undersheriff Holder mentioned the current prevalence of the Project Lifesaver program and the grants being dished out to departments to get Lifesaver equipment to their communities. These are GPS trackers for vulnerable citizens, including kids with autism.
- iv. Chief Askey mentioned start with ID/autism, but introduce new topics each year, maybe use disability months as promotions, NU FRDAT agrees this is a good idea.
- v. As mentioned in last meeting, DOJ stressed to NU FRDAT to prepare for HUGE influx of calls once this goes out.

b. Invitation – in addition to the training mentioned above, DOJ is possibly inviting Dave to do Disability Awareness Training for their department. More details to come.

IV. Firefighter/EMS training

a. Spring sessions, response/attendance

- i. Onondaga March 20-21 – 11 attendants from 10 departments to include Fayetteville and Syracuse
- ii. Jefferson May 18-19 – 11 attendants from 7 departments to include Watertown and Fort Drum
- iii. Cancelled Broome because of low registration (4) despite high outreach from NU FRDAT office and disability advocates in the area.
- iv. North Erie happening right now, June 1, 3, and 6 with 8 attendants. Scheduling South Erie and hopefully Niagara for fall. Dutchess scheduled for Nov 13-14.
- v. Still having the consistent issue of getting good attendance despite 100% of attendants saying they would recommend it to their peers.

b. EMS online training – reshoot with Full Circle Studios went extremely well. Filming has been completed and uploaded into an online format, NU FRDAT in the process of reviewing. This will be provided at a small fee to EMTs. The Center for Healthcare Education in California will be providing accreditation and helping with promotion. CHE Director Cindy Tait is very excited about the program and is looking to expand into the other disciplines with NU FRDAT.

- i. Discussion was had about the possibility of adding an “online community” where participants can create chats and discuss issues and share stories. NU FRDAT agrees this would be a good idea.

c. **State EMS Council** – Mike Reid has scheduled to get Dave in front of the Council.

V. Law Enforcement

a. **International Association of Chiefs of Police** – NU FRDAT has been accepted to present at the IACP Conference in Chicago in October. US DOJ asked Dave to be on an upcoming IACP civil rights committee.

b. **International Law Enforcement Training & Educators Conference** – NU FRDAT had a vendor table and Dave also presented at the ILEETA Conference near Chicago in late April. There was only light attendance at his sessions but it was good exposure overall.

c. Corrections

- i. Dave noted how Niagara County Sheriff’s Office has been very helpful in assisting in the development of this curriculum. They allowed Dave to go on a tour of the jail, interview some inmates, and observe the screening process.
- ii. Dave noted that the Commission on Corrections (COC), which represents county jails, along with Chairman Beilein supports this initiative.
- iii. Rich mentioned a recent incident at the Erie County jail where an inmate died from improper restraint. NU FRDAT will follow up and research this incident.
- iv. Dave noted that he thinks a lot is actually being done right, just looking to increase awareness and better identification. Looking to have this done by the end of the year.

d. **Department of the Interior** – Dave discussed the fast-track relationship between NU FRDAT and DOI. He met with the HR office in April who had found us in a search online. This is park police, including Washington D.C. parks. 2 training officers are coming to the LE TTT on campus in June. DOI will look to be trainers across the country and implement FRDAT in their academy.

e. **NYS Justice Center** – Dave noted NYS JC continues to have positive discussions with NU FRDAT – they are looking to be the East Coast training center, may have funding available.

f. **Curriculum update** – NU FRDAT has successfully revamped the LE curriculum. Dave, Sam, and Janine sat together in many work sessions to thoroughly dissect content – added missing pieces, removed any redundancies, added videos (<http://frdat.niagara.edu/tools/videos/>) and content on ADHD and ID. Dave noted that NU FRDAT is encouraging officers formerly trained to go through a refresher to get this new material. This is to be debuted at the June training.

g. **DAT TTT – June 11-12, Sept 15-16** – Dave noted there’s about 25 officers registered for the June training. September training has been confirmed and will be at the New York State Police Academy in Albany.

VI. 911 Operators/Dispatch

a. Curriculum complete

a. **Rollout** – June 21-22 in Genesee County – Dave noted attendants are mostly from county centers, asked council if there’s a better way to reach out to local municipal/town dispatch. Undersheriff Holder noted there’s usually only one PSAP per county, Erie is an exception.

- i. Discussion was had about 911 accreditation, which is through NYS Sheriff’s. Someone noted 911 DAT could become component of one of the 70 standards to become a certified 911 operator.
- ii. Rich asked if NU FRDAT will also train 211 and 311 operators – Dave had previously met with the center in Buffalo, will follow up on this idea.

b. **National Emergency Number Association (NENA)** – Dave noted he’s been in very good conversation with NENA – accepted to attend conference in Denver end of June, meeting with board members to try to incorporate 911 DAT into national training infrastructure.

VII. FEMA Access and Functional Needs Training

– Dave discussed going to the Emergency Training Institute in Maryland twice to become the only Access & Functional Needs FEMA trainer in NYS, one of only 20 across the nation.

a. Jim Flemming, FEMA Region II Disability Integration Specialist, will join Dave in a four county presentation to encourage emergency management to better respond to individuals with access and functional needs across the area in mid-July. Erie, Niagara, Genesee, and Livingston counties are involved.

VIII. Out of state

a. **New Jersey** – Dave discussed NU FRDAT receiving mini-grant to provide direct department training to introduce FRDAT to the state, first round in June, second round in October. NJ Council on Developmental

Disabilities set quota at 75-150 between two sessions. These are trial sessions that will get data to provide support for fully funding NU FRDAT in New Jersey.

- i. 911 dispatch/certification – 12 registered, Tuesday June 9
 - ii. FF/EMS – only 3 registered, Tuesday June 9
 - iii. Law enforcement – FRDAT session is part of a three day rookie refresher course, around 60 registered, Wednesday June 10
- b. **Arkansas** – Dave shared AR article featuring FRDAT with council - http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/community-matters-comprehensive-disability-awarene/10408/Mm_YPNJLb0yZ0kmlA1Djlw
- i. Training dates set – August & December
 - ii. Law enforcement curriculum certification – Commission on Law Enforcement Standards & Training will approve
 - iii. Videos – Arkansans with disabilities per customization – weatherman with Tourette Syndrome, self-advocate with mild ID and learning disabilities, gentleman with TBI and physical disabilities
- c. **Rhode Island** – interest from Rhode Island College Center for Excellence on DD
- d. **Montana** – interested in emergency management training, would conduct introduction for fee
- e. **CDD state plan** – Dave mentioned that 2016 state plans coming up, discussed the package endorsed by Robin was sent out to all states to promote NU FRDAT. If put into state plan, it HAS to get done.

IX. Sustainability

- a. **Niagara University** – NU did a press release, featured in EMS World. Dave noted he has identified 28-35 potential ways to stay sustainable – includes all of the above initiatives along with hospitals.
- i. Meeting with President/VP – Dr. Ireland noted FRDAT is core to NU's Vincentian mission, will sit down with admins to layout program in hopes that NU can step and support the program. NYS DDPC grant ends Oct. 31, but opportunities to become self-sufficient. Noted that NU FRDAT is on the cusp of county, state, and federal levels, just could use more solid support from the university.

X. Other

XI. Next meeting – October 8, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Morgan
Project Manager