

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, June, 7th 2012

Present: Dr. Timothy Ireland – Niagara University, David Whalen – Statewide Project Coordinator/Niagara University, Richard Hermanson – NYS Self-Advocacy Association, Julie Philipson – National Federation of the Blind NYS Chapter, Jason Goldstein – Deaf Adult Services WNY, Renay Moran – Epilepsy Assn. WNY, James Zymanek – Emergency Management Town of Amherst, Dan Hausman – NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Sarah Milko - UNYFEAT /Parent, Janice Fitzgerald – Parent to Parent NYS, Janine Hunt-Jackson – Project Assistant, Chief Jon Kemp – Main-Transit FD, Sam Morgan – Graduate assistant, Becky Gworek – Graduate assistant, John Buttino – Eggertsville Fire Chief, OPWDD Fire Rep

Absent/Excused: Under Sherriff Chuck Holder –Chautauqua county Sheriff’s dept/ LETDANYS, Kathleen Shaw – NYS DOH EMS, Mike Reid – FASNY, Tiffany Moore – Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Walter Reisner – United New York Ambulance Network, Robin Hickey – NYS DDPC, Ann Scherff-NYS DDPC/Parent Representative, Captain Patrick Mann – Buffalo PD, Jon Moffat – WNY ILC, Jay Bowers – WNY DDSO, Kevin Niedermaier – NYSEMA, Bonita Frazer – MMRS Mental Health Coordinator, Peter Drew – Niagara County ARC, Susan Prince – EMT/Onondaga ARC, Chief Ed Gehen – West Seneca Police/Chiefs of Police Association NYS, Timothy Czapranski – NYS EMS Council, Major Robin Benziger – New York State Police

- I. Introductions – everyone introduced themselves
- II. Review of February 9th, 2012 minutes –Jim Z. motioned, Dan H. second; minutes approved as written
- III. Train the Trainer (TTT)
 - a. Progress – It is still being determined as to whether or not it is necessary to separate the training for fire and EMS. The curriculum for law enforcement (LE) has been completed and they will be the first discipline to begin train the trainer. Full circle studios is working

on the final product of the TTT curriculum which will be produced in DVD format.

- b. Format – TTT content is designed for an 8 hr. block of instruction and broken down into 2 hr. increments/modules. This will make the material easier to teach and organize times to instruct as “all-day” trainings are often difficult to organize and have adequate attendance. To have the best reception of information materials need to be made available in both a hard and electronic copy as suggested by Dan H., Jim Z., and Jon K. Dan suggested to model the Fire Fighter (FF) 1 online program and have DAT as a part of the basic class for fire fighters for credit. It was also suggested to have a community member or disability advocate to come in and work with the trainer.
- c. Rollout target date – The anticipated rollout for the LE TTT is September 2012 through the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). For fire and EMS the FR-DAT office is planning on having the TTT curriculum completed by the end of summer with rollout late fall.

IV. Law Enforcement

- a. DCJS
 - i. Basic course revision – FR-DAT has completed and submitted a revised version of the Municipal Police Training Course (MPTC) on persons with disabilities which is taught at the academies across NYS. DCJS has approved all the corrections and input made by the office and will begin incorporating it into their new curriculum.
- b. Rollout – Rollout for TTT will begin in September in 9 regions designated by DCJS.
- c. Police Chief Training – Through discussion it was pointed out that police chiefs themselves are not technically “first responders” in the sense that they are not the first people on scene like patrol officers. Therefore they may not benefit in the same way as patrol officers in the FR-DAT training. The FR-DAT office is looking to design a police

chief specific training incorporating aspects of the FR training as well as elements from Town Hall Training (THT) such as ADA compliance.

- d. Other – discussion was made about specific training for corrections officers, hospital staff, and campus safety officers. Dave elaborated on his meeting with NYPD in which both were to swap training videos and collaborate on including both of them. NYPD was sent the FR-DAT videos but said they were not going to use them and stated they could not send their curriculum.

V. Firefighters

- a. OPWDD – Due to a fire in 2009 OPWDD has worked as a liaison to volunteer FF agencies through the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC). They have done fire department outreach projects and work to educate FR about group homes and their floor plans in case of an emergency.
- b. State Fire Instructors – Dan has arranged for Dave to be at the SFIs training sessions, held in Feb, July, and Oct. OFPC anticipates that they will be the main trainers of DAT. The first session was very well rec'd.
- c. Jeremiah Lucey grant – Jim Z. suggested obtaining letters of support for this grant from IAFF and OFPC. This grant is awarded in sums of \$25,000 or \$50,000 to municipal fire companies.
- d. Other – At the Fire Chiefs Expo in summer 2012 Dave will be sharing a booth with OPWDD to promote the DAT training.

VI. EMS

- a. Realignment – This is no longer happening anymore – NYS is going to remain as 18 regions.
- b. Certifications – FR-DAT was approved in March by DOH EMS for accreditation. The 2013 training curriculum is coming out soon for EMS and it was suggested that the FR-DAT office do a material review similar to that done with DCJS.

VII. Sustainability

- a. NU Progress – Dave and Dr. Ireland met with NU administrators who stated that the university would like to make FR-DAT a national

Institute. Jan brought up the possibility of making the DAT training part of the criminal justice curriculum at NU as part of one of the intro classes. There is also possibility to incorporate the DAT training into other disciplines at the university.

b. Business Plan

i. Fee for service – after the roll out sessions have been fully completed and TTT has begun there will be a standard rate depending on department for the FR-DAT office to come out and do training for departments.

c. Other funding options – Many suggestions were made about alternative sources of funding. Julie suggested training for ER personnel and medical schools. Other funding options can be from developing a modified training for OCFS, TSA, corrections and probation officers, and out of state sources.

VIII. Website

a. The website is in its final stages and is currently available for use (www.fr-dat.com).

IX. Town Hall Training (THT) – The previous THT have been successful and we are looking forward to the 2012 sessions. THT has continued to expand and there are several trainings in the coming month. Information for trainings can be found on the website.

X. Other – The next meeting will be in October 2012. Tentative date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Gworek

Assistant to the Coordinator