

COURSE CONTENT:

- Disabilities defined specific to first responders needs
- Emergency preparedness and federal guidelines
- Service provision and supports and how to develop collaborative relationships
- Challenging behaviors and responsiveness
- Recognition-Identification-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) model
- Progressive approaches to addressing emergency situations
- Proper etiquette and interactions skills
- Access and functional needs
- Fire Safety Planner and outreach
- American Sign Language specific to first responders
- Durable Medical Equipment, Assistive Technology
- Community resources and networks
- Department Infrastructure
- Current trends and topics

Firefighter/EMS Disability Awareness Training



PURPOSE: Disability awareness training has tailored a presentation for emergency responders designed for firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. It brings together education on disabilities while enhancing sensitivity. The presentation includes definitions, etiquette and interaction skills, the disabled perspective, challenging behaviors, and current trends and topics, all relevant to first responders.

TEACHING STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES:

Disability awareness incorporates sensitivity training so the audience can empathize with the injustices individuals with disabilities face. Videos, extensive materials and resources, federal guidelines, and current best practices will highlight the content and allow for attendees to best respond and interact with all citizens in their community.

RELATION & IMPACT TO FIRE/EMS: The ability to respond appropriately to emergency situations that involve individuals with disabilities has challenged the field for years. High profile events have exposed the lack of training and preparedness in responding to this need. This training addresses every area of response to individuals with disabilities including, but not limited to, characteristics of individuals with disabilities, challenges faced and how to overcome them, federal guidelines (to include the American with Disabilities Act), and supports provided, access and functional needs registry and community proactive approaches, emergency preparedness defined and how to implement, municipality emergency services role, identifying and working with service providers, outreach and fire safety planning, and the latest initiatives and programs.

PRESENTATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS:

- NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control
- Fire Department of New York (FDNY)
- NYS Emergency Management Association
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities—Office of Safety & Security
- St. Louis Fire Department
- Missouri EMS Association
- NYS Department of Health—EMS

Fee for service:
Consultation
Half/Full day in-service
Train the Trainer

****Contact us for pricing****

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

- Disabilities they will encounter and how to appropriately respond
- Will be able to better understand the challenges they face and how to address them effectively
- Emergency preparedness that will allow for proactive response in the township or community being served will be emphasized
- The ability to understand characteristics of individuals across all disability spectrums will be provided throughout the session

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Video presentations specific to emergency situations and individuals with disabilities with a breakdown and open discussion allow for all questions to be answered
- An extensive amount of materials specific to first responders is provided

For more information, please visit us on the Web at

frdat.niagara.edu

Project Director Biography



David Whalen founded Disability Awareness Training in 2004. He specializes in training law enforcement, emergency responders, human service providers, public/private/school transportation, corporations and businesses, places of worship and educators.

Mr. Whalen worked for 17 years serving adults with developmental disabilities before working with low-income, medically frail seniors in a Managed Long Term Care program. He served as President of the NYS Association of Day Service Providers. He also sat on the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day committee for 18 years.

Dave is past Chair of the Town of Amherst's Committee on Disabilities, past-President of Williamsville CSD Special Education Parent Teacher Students Association (SEPTSA). He is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Parent Network of WNY and co-founder of the Diocese of Buffalo's Disability Action Team. In 2010, he was appointed by the Board of Regents to serve on the NYS Independent Living Council (NYSILC) and co-founded Access Buffalo. In September 2010, he received, in collaboration with Niagara University, a NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council grant to develop disability awareness training for First Responders. The program has since been funded by the states of Missouri, Virginia, and South Dakota. He was appointed to the Erie County Disability Advisory Board and has served on it since 2010. He accepted an invitation to join the International Association of Chiefs of Police focus group—Mental Health of Arrestees and How Impacts Our Officers and sat on their Civil Rights Committee at the October 2015 conference. He has been awarded Deaf Advocate of the Year (WNY Deaf Access Services), the Vincentian Medal of Honor (Niagara University) and the Gaudete Medal (St. Bonaventure University).

He has a BA in Psychology and a MS in Education in Community Counseling from St. Bonaventure University, where he serves as the Buffalo Alumni Chapter President and was awarded Alumni of the Year (2004).

Dave and his wife Sandy live in Williamsville and are proud parents of their twins David and Rachel. David and Rachel were born 11 weeks premature, from that David has multiple disabilities with a primary diagnosis of cerebral palsy. He is an employee of NU FRDAT, serving in the role of Office Assistant

Program Background

Beginning in September 2010, the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council funded a five-year \$750,000 grant to Niagara University to develop curriculum for the training of firefighter, law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services, 911 dispatchers in the state of New York. Although some states have some versions of this program, no state has developed a fully comprehensive program.

NU collaborated with New York State fire associations and the NYS Department of Health, to include the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services council, in development of a training end product. The product was updated and enhanced with the input of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), who contracted with NU in 2017.



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