

## COURSE CONTENT:

- Disabilities defined specific to law enforcement
- Victimization/abuse and individuals with disabilities
- Service provision and supports and how to develop a collaborative relationships
- Challenging behaviors and responsiveness
- Municipality role and responsibility
- Progressive approaches to addressing challenging situations
- Proper etiquette and interactions skills
- Alternative forms of communication (i.e. Speech-Generating devices, ASL)
- Comorbid/secondary & tertiary disabilities
- Durable Medical Equipment, Assistive Technology
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specific to law enforcement
- Interface with CIT
- Incident review, identifying appropriate response
- Community resources and networks
- Department Infrastructure
- Current trends and topics

# Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training



**PURPOSE:** Disability awareness training has tailored a presentation for law enforcement. It brings together education on disabilities while enhancing sensitivity. The presentation includes the history of disabilities, definitions, etiquette and interaction skills, the disabled perspective, challenging behaviors, and current trends and topics, all relevant to police officers.

**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. The NU FRDAT model Recognition-Identification-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) is incorporated into each disability

**Fee for service:**  
Consultation  
Half/Full Day In-Service  
Train the Trainer

## **RELATION AND IMPACT TO LAW**

**ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:** The ability to respond appropriately to situations, whatever the magnitude, is essential in the initial interaction involving individuals. High profile events have exposed the lack of training and preparedness in responding to this population. This training addresses every area of response and specific interaction skills in encountering individuals with disabilities, challenges faced and how to overcome them, federal/state guidelines and supports provided, victimization, identifying and working with service providers, and the latest initiatives and programs. Attendees will also be provided with an in-depth explanation of why society discriminates against individuals with disabilities and the injustices that occur.

## **NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS/PARTNERS**

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (Buffalo)
- Amherst, NY Police Department
- South Dakota LEA
- NYS Association of Chiefs of Police
- NYS DCJS
- Virginia DCJS
- Kansas City Regional Police Academy
- Missouri Department of Public Safety
- Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training Program

## Project Director Biography



### LEARNER OUTCOMES:

- Disabilities they will encounter and how to appropriately respond
- Introduction to the Recognition-Identification-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) Model
- Ensure proactive response that is sensitive but appropriate to challenging situations
- The ability to understand characteristics of individuals across all disability spectrums will be provided throughout the session

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Video presentations specific to disabilities most frequently encountered with a breakdown and open discussion allow for all questions to be answered

For more information, please visit us on the Web at [frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)



**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 recently 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

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 9-1-1 telecommunicators, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services in the state of New York. Other states have since contracted with NU, recognizing the program as the only comprehensive disability awareness education for first responders in the nation.

NU developed training in collaboration with New York State law enforcement associations and NYS DCJS, whereby they have revised and upgraded the Basic Course for Police Officers with this program. The program has been accredited by the Missouri POST and VA DCJS, was contacted by the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a program, and is creating curriculum for South Dakota LEA.



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