

Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH



First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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Recent News

Understanding Aphasia in EMS

Court throws out 'mental retardation'

NU's First Responder Disability Awareness Training program receives state award

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OUR TRAINING?

While all first responder agencies are in need of disability awareness training, most have yet to receive it. The overwhelming positive response by the certified trainers confirms the significance of our program. While NYS is the only state in the country to have this training, we are now offering it to any

Dear David,

NU FRDAT was humbled by the 2014 Forging Pathways award it received last month from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. This provides our program with increased incentive to be sure every first responder receives the proper training and resources that will allow for appropriate and accurate response when called for.

Happy Independence Day and God Bless America.



Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council the FIRST to fund FRDAT outside of New York State

The **Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)** has agreed to bring **First Responder Disability Awareness Training** to their state. Initial funding will be for one year with the intent to cover three years to fully ensure complete rollout of the program across all first responder disciplines.



www.ddcouncil.org

Arkansas will be the first state outside of **New York** to bring this training to their first responders. While several states have been in discussion with Niagara University, credit goes to the Arkansas DDC for aggressively adding this to their agenda and getting full council approval in a few short weeks.

NU FRDAT partners with National Arc and law enforcement to provide webinar



On July 31st, Project Director David Whalen will join forces with **Chief John Askey**, Amherst (NY) Police Department, and **Captain Patrick Mann**, Buffalo (NY) Police Department to conduct a webinar for the **National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD)**, a division of the National Arc.

NCCJD has an ongoing webinar series to address proper response to individuals with disabilities in the criminal justice system. NU's webinar, entitled "**Disability Awareness Training: A Train the Trainer Program for First Responders**," is the first installment of the Suspects/Offenders' Issues Series. [Click to register.](#)

Project Director is BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!

Project Director David Whalen has been a busy man! This month, his

department across the nation. Please contact us on how to bring this program to your region.

ATTENTION: NYS FIRST RESPONDER TRAINERS

If you have gone through and received your certification to be a trainer, please let us know when you are scheduling your department's training.

Upcoming Fire/EMS

The following NYS Firefighter/EMS Train the Trainer sessions have been confirmed:

September 26-27, 2014
Rockland County

November 14-15, 2014
Montgomery County

We are also working on confirming sessions in the following NYS counties:

Broome County
Monroe County
Niagara County
Onondaga County
Ontario County
Ulster County

article, "**Disability Awareness: Know What to Say, What Not to Say**" was featured in the **Summer 2014 New York State Chief's Chronicle** magazine. [Read it here.](#)

From April 30th to June 12th Dave participated in the **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) Transit Police Citizen's Academy**. Visit the FRDAT [Facebook](#) page to see the pictures.

Also, on Wednesday, June 18, he traveled to Washington D.C. to sit in with the International Chiefs of Police (IACP) focus group, **Mental Health of Arrestees and How It Impacts Our Officers**.

Ongoing progress enhances program



You will notice improvements with our website as it has been embedded within NU's website - frdat.niagara.edu. New forms have been added under the Contact Us tab. Reference our website for the latest news, tools, videos, trainings, and resources.

The EMS online training is in full development with production scheduled to be completed by summer's end. FRDAT will be in the studio the last week of June. NU is also in discussion with the **Center for Healthcare Education** to secure certification.

FRDAT also completed two film shoots this month. One will show law enforcement **how to properly frisk an individual who uses a wheelchair**, to include where to look in a wheelchair for weapons, contraband, or stolen goods. The other video demonstrates **how a sit-to-stand power wheelchair operates**. This will enhance the durable medical equipment video already found in the Train the Trainer program.

Intern research

Ally Jones, Social Work intern, is currently researching both mental health courts and developmentally disabled offender courts across the country. This information will be used to identify best practices and assist in development of courts in jurisdictions that do not specifically have this option.

Marina Dibartolomeo, Sociology/Criminal Justice intern, is researching learning disability and incarceration. LD is identified as the disability that law enforcement encounters the most. Further research is being conducted to better understand both the implications of this and what needs to be done to address the issue.

FRDAT will be bringing in two Marketing student interns to develop the marketing plan for national outreach. This will be done in conjunction with previous marketing research, conducted by the Carr consulting firm.