

# Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



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### Recent News

[How Misunderstanding Disability Leads to Police Violence](#)

[EMS & Service Dogs](#)

### 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,

As we welcome summer, the focus of the summer months will be the finalization of EMS online training, law enforcement online training, and 911 Operators/Dispatchers Train the Trainer. We welcome your input and look forward to providing these opportunities for trainings in the coming months.

## International Association of Chiefs of Police starts focus group on proper response to individuals with disabilities

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) will be bringing together a focus group, entitled *Mental Health Arrestees and How It Impacts Our Officers*. In the wake of the challenging incidents officers encounter, highlighted by the death of Ethan Saylor and in conjunction with the April 29 Senate hearing on the same topic, IACP is taking a proactive position on addressing this issue.



[www.theiacp.org](http://www.theiacp.org)

Project Director David Whalen has been invited to join the focus group and will be attending their first meeting on June 18th in Alexandria, VA at the IACP headquarters.

## NU produces video dispelling the myths of cerebral palsy

In an ongoing effort to provide materials that both educate and sensitize, NU FR-DAT has developed a video that highlights the abilities and talents of individuals with cerebral palsy. NU has also developed a video that exposes the challenges an officer may have when pulling over a person with cerebral palsy that drives a motor vehicle.

NU is currently in the planning stages of developing other disability-specific videos. Check out our website for more details.

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 Events

Project Director to present at the following events:

**JUNE 12 - NU FR-DAT  
Advisory Council**  
(on campus)

**JUNE 20 - Erie County  
(NY) Disability  
Advisory Board -  
Emergency  
Management**  
[www.erie.gov/ecod](http://www.erie.gov/ecod)

**AUGUST 7 - NYS  
Probation Officers  
Conference**  
(Niagara Falls Convention  
Center)  
[www.nyspoa.com](http://www.nyspoa.com)

**AUGUST 27 - NYS  
Police Juvenile Officers  
Association Conference**  
(Syracuse, NY)  
[www.snyjpoa.org](http://www.snyjpoa.org)



## NU FR-DAT meets with Chair of New York State Commission of Correction

Project Director David Whalen met with NYSCOC Chairman Thomas Beilein on May 19th to discuss training initiatives specific to corrections officers. Chairman Beilein, who also served as Niagara County (NY) Sheriff for 14 years, understood the challenges that individuals with disabilities may pose in correctional facilities and is receptive to ensuring proper training is available for his personnel.



[www.scoc.ny.gov](http://www.scoc.ny.gov)

## In other news...

On May 8th, Project Director David Whalen was invited to present to the **100 Club of Buffalo** ([www.100clubbuffalo.org](http://www.100clubbuffalo.org)), an organization that assists families of fallen first responders or first responders injured in the line of duty. The French Connection room at Chef's restaurant was filled to capacity and the program was very well received.

To date, 282 first responders from 159 different fire, EMS, and law enforcement departments have gone through the Train the Trainer program. From these trainers, **10,000 law enforcement officers and over 25,000 fire/EMS personnel can now be trained in disability awareness** across the state of New York. You can view the full summaries here:

[Law Enforcement Train the Trainer Evaluation Summary](#)

[Fire/EMS Train the Trainer Evaluation Summary](#)