

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2015

PRESENT: Project Director Dave Whalen, Principal Investigator Dr. Tim Ireland, Project Manager Samantha Morgan, Project Assistant Dr. Janine Hunt-Jackson, social work intern Emily Palermo, sociology intern DJ Ricioppo, Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Investigator Jim Buono (NYSP), Nanette Harmon (NU ASL, DAS), Rich Hermanson (People Inc.), Claudia Kurjakovic (ILNC), Captain Pat Mann (Buffalo PD), Sarah Milko (Autism Up), Renay Moran (Epilepsy Assn of WNY), Julie Phillipson (NFB of NYS), Captain Maria Walker (Albany FD)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO), Tim Czapranski (Monroe EMS), Bonnie Frazier (MMRS), FPC Dan Hausman (OFPC), Robin Hickey (NYS DDPC), Undersheriff Chuck Holder (Chautauqua Sheriffs), Mark Kasprzak (Niagara Dispatch), Jon Kemp (parent, former fire chief), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston EM), Tanja Peters (parent, P2P of WNY), Mike Reid (FASNY), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited), Jim Zymanek (Amherst Emergency Services)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Review of June 2015 minutes – Renay motioned to approve, Claudia seconded motion

III. US Department of Justice – Dave discussed how the MOU with Community Relations Services was pulled at the last minute. They want to go another route, believed to be using self-advocates as co-trainers with conciliators. CRS will still recognize NU FRDAT as a subject matter expert, will send a letter recognizing our efforts and may come back to us for future needs. The director has left and with a Presidential election next year, this will put on hold until they see what direction each will want to go in.

- Chief Askey mentioned it seems like DOJ programs are reactive and there's only 11 conciliators for the whole country – should get more and be proactive. Could use WNY DOJ contact as a start – create a model here with the NYS Attorney General, Senators, legislators.

IV. Firefighter/EMS training

- A. Fall sessions** – Southern Erie (Hamburg) and Dutchess counties in November. Any help with outreach is appreciated.
- B. Online training** – Waiting for the Center for Healthcare Education to finish reviewing, close to done with the hope we have it out by year's end.
- C. State EMS council** – This is the group that makes decisions about state trainings. Dave has been asked to attend Dec session, he has 15 minutes to present at their Albany meeting. Tim Czapranski brought Dave to this same group when the grant began.
- D. Modified fire training** – Dave wants to create a 3 hour modified training for firefighters. 8 hours can be too much for volunteers. Don't want to minimize and could certainly go longer, but gives trainers the option to get in at least a short program.
 - Captain Walker thinks it's a really good idea, her colleagues are impressed with the program and were thinking about doing a 3 hour program anyway. This will grab their attention with a short bit and departments can always ask for more. Only concern is that everyone would opt for 3 hours but it depends on the persons attending.

V. Law Enforcement

- A. International Association of Chiefs of Police conference** – Dave has been invited to sit on the Civil Rights Committee with former DOJ CRS Director Grande Lum. NU FRDAT has also been accepted to present at the poster session at the expo. Chief Askey described the conference to the group – LE leaders from around the world discussing ideas and programs from technology to civil rights to the best training, major networking.
- B. Corrections** – FRDAT office hopes to review this and probation in the winter, look to finalize it.
- C. NYS DCJS** – Dave said they have approved funding for 4 LE trainings across NYS in 2016. Dave will be a "Special Topics Instructor."
- D. FBI** – Dave had work sessions with Jim Jankewycz at FBI, father of a child with autism. Dave will be training 300 in Buffalo field office, hoping to become a model for all 56 other field offices. Special Agent in charge Brian Boening met Dave at Erie Co Chiefs of Police meeting and got the initiative started. Chief

Askey offered to help get it pushed and can even branch into other federal LE offices (Secret Services, DEA, Customs/Border Patrol).

- E. **Dept. of the Interior** – Per request from the Equal Opportunity Officer, Dave has sent a proposal –that would bring the Train the Trainer to all 4 main offices, customized the TTT, create online training, and provide direct training at the Grand Canyon (due to improper incident). Dave mentioned this will be done through the HR department but the Chief and Training Captain are fully on board.
- F. **NYS Justice Center**
 - a. Dave said they've asked for an agreement, looking to fund FRDAT and provide direct trainings. Dave provided the example of a kid getting his arm broken while restrained on a bus by a Rotterdam PO, JC went and trained the whole department. Also trained at NYS JPOA conference in Syracuse. Could be eastern training hub. We will also look to develop more specific training (i.e. forensic interviewing of I/DD).
- G. **Curriculum updated** – finalized in June, includes video additions
- H. **DAT TTT – November 4-5 Erie County** – funded by Tower Foundation, we want to ensure all PDs in WNY receive it, almost at 50% now.

1.WNY Chiefs outreach: we sent letters and emails to all PDs that have not gone through.

VI. 911 Operators/Dispatch

- A. **Rollout recap** – Genesee in June had 16 attendants representing 9 centers, cancelled Niagara in September – WNY may not be a favorable location. Response was very positive. It was noted that there are not nearly as many dispatch centers as there are PDs and FDs.
- B. **National Emergency Number Association (NENA)** – Dave attended NENA conference in June – developing agreement to endorse and create network of master trainers. NENA is in the process of endorsing the program, which will give us extensive exposure. Approved to present at International Association of Emergency Dispatch conference in April 2016 in DC, will also look at APCO and others for national outreach.

VII. FEMA Access and Functional Needs Training

- A. **County initiative** – Jim Flemming, FEMA Region II Specialist, came on a tour of 4 WNY counties in September – Erie, Niagara, Livingston, and Genesee. 83 total attendants. The tour focused on stressing to emergency managers that planning MUST include the disability community and to create Core Advisory Groups (disability boards). Dave also presented the EM DAT he has developed.
- B. **NU FR DAT next steps**
 - 1. **Emergency Management DAT** – Dec 15 @ NU – Dave described this as a condensed training focused on the operational and accessibility scope of things, access and functional needs not just disabilities. NU FR DAT has asked NYS to consider funding the program.

VIII. Out of state

- A. **New Jersey** – second round this month, 3 hour training for each discipline, 911 is certified for CEUs. Dave mentioned the hope is that after these introductions, the state decides to bring DAT in full.
- B. **Arkansas**
 - 1. **Training** – Aug got cancelled due to flight problems
 - 2. **Cease and desist order** – DDPC ordered to stop all operations, but Dave discussed how there's already that relationship with the first responders, December training scheduled – can't go unless someone else funds it.
- C. **Arizona** – proposal sent to DDPC, President was unable to present at Sept meeting due to a surgery
- D. **Tennessee** – Dave mentioned a Chattanooga PD Lt reached out, the state lost a lawsuit and is required to create LE DAT, DD office only offers 2 hour VERY specific to DD, no other topics. Lt inquiring as to our program coming to TN.
- E. **Central PA** – signed contract, funding pending, will be TTT for all three disciplines. This will entail 8 counties.
- F. **CDD state plan outreach** – sent 56 letters in April to all councils to be included in their 2017 state plans.

IX. Healthcare DAT

- A. **Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center** – signed contract, Dr. Hunt-Jackson and Emily are doing research, conducting questionnaires. Dave and Janine will be meeting with a committee on Friday to begin official launch.

- Dr. Hunt-Jackson and Julie each shared an experience with the healthcare system to show the need for this training
- X. Sustainability**
- A. NU 2016 plan** – Dave talked about the meeting with NU President and other admin with Dr. Ireland – gave them 5 options, one being thanks for everything and walking – Father Maher DID NOT want FRDAT to leave NU. A funding plan was submitted to admin last week, to include a discussion of the Institute on Disability Awareness.
 - B. Delta Global Services** – will provide training and funding, waiting for contract to be finalized and approved on NU end.
 - C. Center for Healthcare Education** – same as DGS above, but will also promote EMS online training
- XI. Other** – Dave mentioned the Advisory Council will still be maintained despite DDPC funding ending, which is October 31st.
- XII. Next meeting – February 2016**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Morgan
Project Manager