

Niagara University
First Responders Disability Awareness Training
Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2016

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, Chief John Askey (Amherst PD), Jay Bowers (WNY DDSO), Investigator Jim Buono (NYSP), Bonnie Frazier (MMRS), Nanette Harmon (NU ASL, DAS), Rich Hermanson (People Inc.), Mark Kasprzak (Niagara Dispatch), Jon Kemp (parent, former fire chief), Renay Moran (Epilepsy Assn of WNY), Tanja Peters (parent, P2P of WNY), Mike Reid (FASNY), Lisa Scalzo (Opportunities Unlimited)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Tim Czapranski (Monroe EMS), FPC Dan Hausman (OFPC), Robin Hickey (NYS DDPC), Undersheriff Chuck Holder (Chautauqua Sheriffs), Claudia Kurjakovic (ILNC), Captain Pat Mann (Buffalo PD), Sarah Milko (Autism Up), Kevin Neidermaier (Livingston EM), Julie Phillipson (NFB of NYS), Captain Maria Walker (Albany FD), Jim Zymank (Amherst Emergency Services)

I. Welcome/Introductions

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

III. Firefighter/EMS training

- a. Online training** – NU FRDAT continues to work with the Center for Healthcare Education and Cindy Tait. The CHE advisory board reviewed and provided input. Full Circle Studios is adding final touches, NU IT will embed in learner management system. CHE will promote across the nation.
 - 1. Mike asked about cost – Dave responded \$20-25
 - 2. UPDATE – cost will be \$25
- b. State EMS Council** – Mike Reid sits on council, Dave presented in December, last time was 4.5 years ago. Dave informed council of no more state funding, explained operations. Dave connected with President Steve Kroll, who is also NYSARC Executive Director.
- c. Municipal Fire/EMS training** – November Hamburg Train the Trainer was cancelled despite strong efforts from NU FRDAT and the host, Matt Giacomini at Lake Shore FC. NU FRDAT also attempted, through Tower Foundation, to do an exclusive Municipal FD training, with no response despite several outreach efforts. Dave mentioned possibly revisiting FASNY – Mike said the Training & Education Committee was meeting Feb 12 and he would mention it, possibly look into getting back in front of FASNEY EMS council.
 - 1. Jon – the problem is two-fold: not having time to do more training, not seeing need
 - 2. Nanette – create a visual piece to show the need? A video for example
 - 3. Tanja – write to the news, “letters to the editor”
 - 4. Chief Askey – advocate at Amherst fire mtg, may need to focus more on convincing leaders first
 - 5. Jim – create a video piece of the trainees explaining the need and their approval of course
 - 6. Mark – maybe find an approach away from Train the Trainer?
 - 7. Jon – departments have so much mandatory training, where do you squeeze in optional training? Mike added that it’s very difficult to get training mandated.
 - 8. Discussed a modified three hour version

IV. Law Enforcement

- a. Side note** – NU FRDAT received word of the Mesa, AZ fatal shooting incident, contacted Chief of PD
- b. International Association of Chiefs of Police conference** – Dave attended at the end of October and sat on Civil Rights committee – requested to permanently sit on committee to represent dis. community. Dave thought it was an excellent place to be, 19,000 attendees – FLETA, corp sponsors, etc.
 - 1. UPDATE: Dave had a meeting with Chief Wil Johnson on the Civil Rights committee. Chief explained it’s meant only for Chiefs. Dave won’t be on it but will provide input as needed. Dave noted it was a good conversation.
- c. NYS DCJS** – Dave has been a Special Topics Instructor, has full support
 - 1. **2016 trainings** – not yet scheduled: Onondaga April, Westchester June, Long Island and other

2. **Basic course revision** – Dave has been asked to revise the basic police officer course to include NU FRDAT curriculum, this has been the goal ever since LE DAT training was established! Course was previously only 2 hours on autism, deaf, blind, and Alzheimers. After revision, it will now be 8 hours with ALL disabilities included. It's being released end of March, only county academies, not state troopers – Jim and colleague Captain Dodd can do outreach to troopers.

- d. **Corrections** – program is still on the back burner due to no funding
- e. **NYS Justice Center** – about 10 active trainers right now – trained Rotterdam PD and at NYS Juvenile Officers conference. NU FRDAT has a proposal with them to become the Eastern NYS hub - \$45,000 three-year working agreement that would finalize the relationship.
 - 1. Rich – legislators are going after the Center. Dave mentioned he intends train investigators, develop forensic interview training, as well as other progressive projects.
- f. **NYS Chiefs of Police conference** – Dave to attend in July in Buffalo
- g. **March 8 direct training** – offshoot from Dec FBI training, Capt Mann will be co-presenting with Dave. UPDATE: 53 registered.

V. **911 Operators/Dispatch**

- a. **March 21-22 TTT** – Erie Co Fire Academy, funded by the Tower Foundation
- b. **National Emergency Number Association (NENA)** – NU FRDAT soon to sign agreement – endorsement, accreditation, reimbursement for trainings, trainers within NENA. The national board is meeting soon to approve. Dave has been working with Education Coordinator Ty Wooten and will present at the June Indianapolis conference. Dave will also share a table with NENA at the IAED conference in DC in April. Also looking into Pennsylvania and New Jersey statewide conferences – 911 DAT curriculum already accredited in NJ.
 - 1. Mark – NENA and APCO are huge, great step for NU FRDAT

VI. **Master Trainer** – NU FRDAT has moved forward with this expansion step. These will be first responders that have already been trained and express a deeper interest in the program. Orientation will be March 14-15 on campus and once hired, trainers will conduct direct trainings across the country for NU FRDAT.

VII. **Emergency Management Access and Functional Needs Training**

- a. **NYS DDPC grant submission** – NU FRDAT approached by DDPC to submit proposal – looking at three-year \$300,000 sole source. Part of their state plan is emergency management response. Submission passed the committee level, executive level today, last step is getting through the full council and NYS Comptroller, to start in July or September. If approved, this will be the pilot for a federal tracking program, whereby IWDs will be identified by active participation in planning, preparedness, and recovery.
- b. **NYS Office of Emergency Management** – Dave is recognized as a NYS OEM trainer, has been meeting with them.

VIII. **Healthcare Disability Awareness Training** – NU FRDAT is developing train the trainer curriculum for the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center who has received funding from Golisano to create DD clinic. NU FRDAT has found just as many issues with healthcare professionals, if not more, as first responders.

- a. Mike – Northshore LIJ has also expressed interest in this curriculum
- b. **Catholic Health** – they have put in an inquiry for training in June. UPDATE: they are no longer interested.

IX. **Out of State**

- a. **New Jersey** – concluded in Oct, NU FRDAT has to follow up with Values into Action. A NJ police chief met Dave at the IACP conference and is interested in further training. As mentioned, 911 was accredited.
- b. **Arkansas** – DDC Executive Director Eric Munson finally called back, Dave looking to start anew after cease and desist. NU grant writer identifying possible corporate sponsors to continue program. Dave explained that AR first responder entities are fully on board and willing to look past DDC.
- c. **Missouri** – new mandate for mental illness training – LE DAT has been recognized as 2016 12 hour accredited course. Dave will be meeting with people across the state at the end of Feb – DDC, Sheriffs, first responders, individuals with disabilities, Victim Task Force, governor's office.
- d. **Arizona** – Mesa incident shows need for this training. NU FRDAT has submitted a proposal to be presented to DDC council – DDC President is also a first responder and has it on their agenda.
- e. **National Association for Council on Developmental Disabilities** – national oversight of DDCs. Executive Director Donna Metzler did a blog on San Bernadino shooting – will promote NU FRDAT to country.

f. Pennsylvania – conducted in November – 25 total attendants, 100% would recommend the training

g. Proposal in Delaware for LE training

X. Sustainability

a. **Niagara University** – Dr. Ireland submitted a strategic plan to NU administration - \$200,000/year.

b. **Lawley Insurance** – interested in corporate sponsorship as well as some new initiatives within Risk Management/Loss Control

c. **Albany law firm** – Dave connected with them after learning they funded a TBI training program – interested in funding NU FRDAT. \$75,000 proposal – introduction in Vermont, NYS Fire/EMS and 911 TTT sessions, corporate sponsor advantages.

d. **NYS TBI** – Department of Health division, funding \$3500 video and Albany Fire/EMS TTT May 10-11

e. **Other** – Dave met with Senator Ortt and Chief Staffer January 4, submitting \$25,000 member item.

XI. Other

XII. Next meeting – June 23, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Morgan

Project Manager