

# Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

PTSD Awareness Month



## First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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### Recent News

[Ohio responders get lesson in American Sign Language](#)

### New Resources

[NAMI: Preparing for the Unimaginable](#)

[Disabilities Among Prison and Jail Inmates, 2011-12](#)

### Related Events

[ADA National Network Learning Session: Cal OES Office of Access and Functional Needs \(OAFN\) Web Map - Integration Through Innovation - June 9](#)

June is PTSD Awareness Month. While post-traumatic stress disorder is becoming more understood, it still has hurdles to overcome relative to stigma and proper response. As noted in NU FRDAT training, the incidence of PTSD amongst first responders is extremely high. Please make yourself more aware through the many entities that provide information and resources.

## NU FRDAT Enhances Relationship with TBI Advocate & State Office

In a continuing effort to improve and enhance materials, resources, and information, NU FRDAT has partnered with the **New York State Department of Health Traumatic Brain Injury Division** and TBI advocate and survivor, Brent Feuz. This partnership has led to:

- A Firefighter/EMS Disability Awareness Train the Trainer conducted May 10-11 in Albany, NY, funded by NYS DOH TBI. Attendees received a comprehensive curriculum on TBI.
- A video featuring Brent, whereby he candidly discusses his TBI specific to medical providers, law enforcement, firefighters, and EMTs. This will be available later this month.
- Dispersment of Brent's **Guide to Approaching Mild/Moderate Brain Injury in New York State**. In support of NU FRDAT's expansion, Brent now has developed a manual that can be used nationwide.

## NU FRDAT Attends 28th Annual DD Day



What is considered the largest single day conference on developmental disabilities in America, **Western New York Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD Day)** was held in Niagara Falls, NY on May 26. Over 1,500 individuals attended the conference, including Megan Bomgaars from A&E's hit show *Born This Way*.

NU FRDAT had a vendor table and Project Director Dave Whalen, a former DD Day committee member and chair, held a workshop on community inclusion and advocacy. [Watch a news clip of the event.](#)

## New Products

NU FRDAT met with two innovative groups that have produced items that create a more natural experience for people with disabilities.

**DEAFEC, LLC** has developed deaf or hard of hearing communication guidelines in the form of a pocket manual, which allows for medical professionals to have emergency American Sign Language signs. While not intended to replace an ASL interpreter, this booklet does allow for immediate conversation specific to a medical emergency or hospital setting. Learn more at [www.deafec.com](http://www.deafec.com).

The Summit Center has created **SafeGuard Protective Apparel** for service providers and caregivers who interact with individuals with autism who may have behavioral challenges. The intent is to have an unobtrusive appearance that blends into a wide variety of settings while preventing injuries from bites and scratches. Learn more at [www.safeguardprotectiveapparel.com](http://www.safeguardprotectiveapparel.com).

[BIANYS Professional Symposium - June 8](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[May Newsletter](#)

[Incidents Map](#)

[Request Training](#)

[Report an Occurrence](#)

[Join Our Trainer Network](#)

[Become a FRDAT Ambassador](#)

## NYS Law Enforcement Agencies: Training Available Through the Justice Center!

New York State police departments who do not already have a trainer and are interested in receiving the Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training can contact the NU FRDAT office or the NYS Justice Center to receive training from one of the many qualified individuals from their state office.



As noted in a previous newsletter, NU FRDAT and the Justice Center now have a working agreement with the intent to both provide training and enhance current curriculum for police officers relative to their response to individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Contact our office or Deputy Director Lawrence Murello, Training Academy, [lawrence.murello@justicecenter.ny.gov](mailto:lawrence.murello@justicecenter.ny.gov).

## TRAINING & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**June 11-16** - [NENA 2016 Conference & Expo \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

**July 10-13** - [NYSACP 2016 Training Conference \(Buffalo, NY\)](#)

**July 13-15** - Westchester Co. (NY) Fire/EMS & Emergency Mgmt.

**July 27-29** - [NYS Probation Officer Conference \(Niagara Falls, NY\)](#)