



Greetings!

We are excited to announce two new states that will now be receiving First Responder Disability Awareness Training. We appreciate you reading our newsletter, as this is the forum that allows us to communicate promising practices, current trends and topics, and the latest happenings within our office. Please feel free to forward by clicking "Forward this email" at the bottom of this page.

We want to hear what you think about our new format! [Click here to take the poll](#)

IMPORTANT RELATED EVENTS:

[Disaster Behavioral Health and People With Access and Functional Needs: Resources from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) webinar - August 11](#)

[Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention Annual Conference - Sept 29](#)

RECENT NEWS	NEW RESOURCES
Chicago Police Officers Escort Lost Elderly Woman Home, Stock Her Empty Cabinets with Groceries	NY-Alert Emergency Preparedness
Wandering Bill Gains Senate Approval	Individuals With Serious Mental Illnesses in County Jails: A Survey of Jail Staff's Perspectives
Upstate NY cop pushes man home after wheelchair battery dies	Deaf Access Services FREE Assistive Technology

NU FRDAT AWARDED GRANT FROM STATE OF MISSOURI



It has come to fruition! The State of Missouri, through its **Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (MODDC)**, has awarded Niagara University a 2-year \$150,000 grant to deliver the comprehensive First Responder Disability Awareness Training. This award allows NU FRDAT to be embedded into law enforcement, firefighter, emergency medical services, and 911 dispatcher training

curriculums.

Project Director Dave Whalen's trip to Missouri in March established an understanding of the program and relationships with key players in the first responder and disability communities. Collaboration with these individuals will include the development of a statewide advisory council and customized curriculum across the four disciplines.

The contract period will be from August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2018, with discussion for a third year already under way.

NU FRDAT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF MONTANA



The **Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)**, recognizing that officers may be challenged due to the closing of a developmental center that housed individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health disorders, has proactively responded by initiating Disability Awareness Training in their state.

The agreement will include Law Enforcement, Firefighter/EMS, and 911 Dispatch Train the Trainer sessions to be held in October 2016 in Helena. The contract calls for only one session per discipline, however, there has been discussion to expand the relationship so as to embed the curriculum as it is in New York and will be done in Missouri.

PROJECT DIRECTOR PRESENTS AT NYSACP CONFERENCE, FLORIDA INCIDENT EMPHASIZES NEED FOR TRAINING

On July 12 in Buffalo, NY, Project Director Dave Whalen presented at the **New York State Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference**. While New York is the first state to completely embrace Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training, many strides still need to occur to ensure officers fully comprehend proper response to individuals with disabilities. While our records indicate [110 NY departments](#) have a trainer, few have actually conducted the training for their personnel.



On July 18, North Miami (FL) police shot a behavior therapist who was attempting to de-escalate a young man with autism who was displaying some challenging behaviors. This incident, like many others, highlights the lack of awareness of first responders. The therapist was doing his job and complying with officers and the man with autism had a toy truck, not a gun as suspected. The officers refused to listen to a trained professional and did not recognize the disability for what it was.

This incident, like many others, highlights the lack of awareness of first responders. While this particular confrontation has gone viral, it is by no means an isolated occurrence, as you can see in our [Incident Map](#). Properly trained officers can make a world of difference.

[LEARN MORE](#)

PROJECT DIRECTOR TO PRESENT WEBINAR ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR BUSINESSES

Antea Group USA, an international environmental, health and safety (EHS) company recognizes that there is a lack of understanding and knowledge on how to prepare and react for the emergencies when there is an employee with a disability, especially in large buildings and manufacturing facilities. Antea assists in the development of Emergency Response Teams and plans, but find that this focus area is one that companies struggle with.



Project Director Dave Whalen will be conducting a webinar on August 3rd to inform their clients on proper response and promising practices in emergency preparedness related to the workplace.

DAS AWARDED ASSISTIVE DEVICES GRANT

Deaf Access Services (DAS) has been awarded a James Cumming Foundation Grant to purchase Assistive Devices for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing citizens of Western New York. This grant is for all eight (8) WNY counties; Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany. **If you live outside of those eight (8) counties, you're not eligible.**



The product may include Smoke Detectors, CO2 Detectors, Doorbell Flashers, Alarm Clocks, Phone/Video Flash Signals, and Baby Monitors (Cry Flashers), to name a few.

DAS has selected Harris Communication as their vendor for Assistive

Devices. Please check out their website, www.harris.com, pick the product(s) that you need and call DAS to make an appointment to come in to place the order. **Please Note: ALL orders must be placed by DAS or Harris Communication will bill you directly for the equipment ordered.**

To take advantage of this opportunity to receive **FREE** Assistive Devices through James Cumming Foundation Grant, please contact Andrea Russell, Community Advocate, at arussell@wnydas.org or call (716) 335-9180 VP. She will assist you in filling out the application and order the specific assistive device(s) you need for your personal and/or home use.

TRAINING & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

[Online Mental Health Awareness for Law Enforcement](#)

Sept 26-27 - [Westchester Co. \(NY\) Law Enforcement Train the Trainer](#)

Sept 29-30 - [Suffolk County \(NY\) Law Enforcement Train the Trainer](#)

October 12 - [NENA Education Summit - Columbus, OH](#)

October 17-20 - Montana First Responder Train the Trainers (TBD)

Nov 1-2 - Broome County (NY) Law Enforcement Train the Trainer (TBD)

STAY CONNECTED:



[Request Training](#) | [Incidents Map](#) | [Report an Occurrence](#)

[Join Our Trainer Network](#) | [Become a FRDAT Ambassador](#)

[Phone 716-286-7355](#) | [Email](#) | [Website](#) | [Donate](#)