

COURSE CONTENT:

- Disabilities defined specific to law enforcement
- Victimization/abuse and the disabled
- Service provision and supports and how to develop a collaborative relationships
- Challenging behaviors and responsiveness
- Municipality role and responsibility
- Progressive approaches to addressing challenging situations
- Proper etiquette and interactions skills
- Alternative forms of communication (i.e. Speech-Generating devices, ASL)
- Comorbid/secondary & tertiary disabilities
- Durable Medical Equipment, Assistive Technology
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specific to law enforcement
- Myths and misperceptions
- Incident review, identifying appropriate response
- Community resources and networks
- Current trends and topics

Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training



PURPOSE: Disability awareness training has tailored a presentation for law enforcement. It brings together education on disabilities while enhancing sensitivity. The presentation includes the history of disabilities, definitions, etiquette and interaction skills, the disabled perspective, challenging behaviors, and current trends and topics, all relevant to police officers.

TEACHING STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES: Disability awareness incorporates sensitivity training so the audience can empathize with the injustices individuals with disabilities face. Videos, extensive materials and resources, federal guidelines, and current best practices will highlight the content and allow for attendees to best respond and interact with all citizens in their community.

Fee for service:
Consultation
Half day presentation
Full day presentation
Train the Trainer
Contact us for pricing

RELATION AND IMPACT TO LAW

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS: The ability to respond appropriately to situations, whatever the magnitude, is essential in the initial interaction involving individuals. 50-80% of interactions by an officer involve an individual with a disability and they are most often the first to respond. High profile events have exposed the lack of training and preparedness in responding to this population. This training addresses every area of response and specific interaction skills in encountering individuals with disabilities, challenges faced and how to overcome them, federal/state guidelines and supports provided, victimization, identifying and working with service providers, and the latest initiatives and programs. Attendees will also be provided with an in-depth explanation of why society discriminates against individuals with disabilities and the injustices that occur.

NOTABLE RELATIONSHIPS:

- U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Services
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (Buffalo)
- New York State (NYS) Justice Center
- NYS Association of Chiefs of Police
- NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
- Buffalo (NY) Police Department
- Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute
- Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training Program

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

- Disabilities they will encounter and how to appropriately respond
- Will be able to better understand the challenges they face and how to address them effectively
- Ensure proactive response that is sensitive but appropriate to challenging situations
- The ability to understand characteristics of individuals across all disability spectrums will be provided throughout the session

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Video presentations specific to disabilities most frequently encountered with a breakdown and open discussion allow for all questions to be answered

For more information, please visit us on the Web at frdat.niagara.edu

Project Director Biography



David Whalen founded Disability Awareness Training in 2004. He specializes in training law enforcement, emergency responders, human service providers, public/private/ school transportation, corporations and businesses, places of worship and educators.

Mr. Whalen worked for 17 years serving adults with developmental disabilities before working with low-income, medically frail seniors in a Managed Long Term Care program. He served as President of the NYS Association of Day Service Providers. He also sat on the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day committee for 18 years.

Dave is currently the Chair of the Town of Amherst's Committee on Disabilities, President of Williamsville CSD Special Education Parent Teacher Students Association (SEPTSA) and is a CSE Parent representative for Williamsville CSD and the State of New York. He is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Parent Network of WNY and an active member of the Diocese of Buffalo's Disability Action Team. In 2010, he was appointed by the Board of Regents to serve on the NYS Independent Living Council (NYSILC) and recently co-founded Access Buffalo. In September 2010, he received, in collaboration with Niagara University, a NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council grant to develop disability awareness training for First Responders. In November 2014, the state of Arkansas funded the same program. He currently sits on the NYS Office of Emergency Management human services committee and chairs NYSILC's emergency preparedness committee. He was appointed to the Erie County Disability Advisory Board and has served on it since 2010. Also, he accepted an invitation to join the International Association of Chiefs of Police focus group—*Mental Health of Arrestees and How Impacts Our Officers* and sat on their Civil Rights Committee at the October 2015 conference.

He has a BA in Psychology and a MS in Education in Community Counseling from St. Bonaventure University, where he serves as the Buffalo Alumni chapter President.

Dave and his wife Sandy live in Williamsville and are proud parents of their twins David and Rachel. David and Rachel were born 11 weeks premature, from that David has cerebral palsy and seizure disorder. He is currently a senior at Williamsville South while Rachel is a freshman at Cornell University.

Program Background

Beginning in September 2010, the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council funded a five-year \$750,000 grant to Niagara University to develop curriculum for the training of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, 911 dispatchers, and other first responders in the state of New York. Although some states have some versions of this program, no state has developed a fully comprehensive program.

NU initially developed training in collaboration with New York State law enforcement associations and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, whereby they have revised and upgraded the Basic Course for Police Officers. The program has been accredited by the Missouri POST, was contacted by the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a program, and has created enhanced curriculum for Arkansas.



P.O. Box 1941, Timon Hall
Niagara University, NY 14109-1941
Phone 716.286.7355
Fax 716.286.8079
frdat@niagara.edu