Disability Awareness Training: A Train the Trainer Program for First Responders

David V. Whalen
Chief John Askey
Captain Patrick Mann
Welcome!

• First time using webex?
  – You can communicate with other attendees or the host in the Chat Box and seek technical assistance if needed.
  – You can type questions about the material presented in the Q&A section.

• Today’s webinar will be recorded and archived on the NCCJD website. Please keep this in mind when sharing information and experiences during the webinar.
Polling Question

What factors are most challenging for law enforcement when it comes to incorporating new training into their department?
Police officers take an oath to serve and protect. This would be especially true for those that are most vulnerable in society. As defined by some states (i.e. New York), most vulnerable is defined as (check all that apply)
Polling Question

As recognized by the US Attorney General’s Office, the most discriminated population in America is (select one):

The Arc
National Center on Criminal Justice & Disability
Achieve with us.
Polling Question

Disability Awareness Training is significant because it (check all that apply):

[Image]

The Arc
National Center on Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.
Is Sitting While Autistic a Crime?

Law-enforcement officials often stop people on the autism spectrum, with the goal to change that.

Arrested for Epilepsy

By JUHL AVILÁ (Jeffrey Kohman) and LARA SETRAKIAN (LaraABCNews), ABC News Law & Justice Unit

Deaf man tased, pepper sprayed by Mobile officers for staying in bathroom too long

Published: Monday, July 27, 2009, 9:51 PM  Updated: Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 7:15 AM

Mobile, Ala. -- Mobile police used pepper spray and a Taser on a deaf and mentally disabled man in a bathroom at a Dollar General store, police said.

City & Region

The short life and long tortured death of Laura Cummings

Updated: April 11, 2011, 8:29 PM

A good night for Laura Cummings meant being allowed to sleep on the kitchen floor in her family's North Collins home.

Usually in the weeks leading up to her death, she was forced to sleep shackled to a metal chair with a sack over her face.

Days were even more nightmarish for the 23-year-old mentally disabled woman, who was held captive and brutalized, allegedly by her own mother and half brother, according to an Erie County Grand Jury indictment returned Friday.

Cummings's short life ended Jan. 21 with a long, torturous death and a trail of missed chances to get her to safety.

A grand jury indicted Cummings' mother, Eva M. Cummings, 51, and her half brother, Luke J. Wright, 31, on charges related to the homicide, but authorities continued to be confounded by the apparent lack of community concern for the defenseless woman's welfare.
Why Law Enforcement Needs This Training

• 50-80% of an officer’s encounters are with a person with a disability

• Officer’s lack of awareness has lead to department’s being sued, bad public relations, and unwarranted arrest or even death of an individual

• A person with a disability is 7 times more likely to be the victim of a crime
**Encounters**

- Victim of a crime
- Offender
- Runaway from residence
- “Confused citizen”
- Medical emergency
- Witness
- Domestic violence/abused
- Caregiver request for assistance
- Group homes, service provider agencies
- Public transportation
**Definitions**

**Statistics**

- 18.6% of the U.S. population 16-64 years
- 41.9% of the U.S. population 65 years and over

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Chapters

- Autism
- ADHD
- Blind/Low vision
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Dementia
- Intellectual Disability
- Learning Disability
- Physical Disabilities
Chapters

• Tourette Syndrome
• Discrimination and Inclusion
• Abuse/Victimization
• Person First Language
• Speech Impairments
• Outreach
• Mental Health
ADHD

Antisocial Activities: Criminality

Presence of a Comorbid Antisocial Disorder in Late Adolescence Accounts For Risk of Criminality in ADHD Probands

Adolescent Reported Antisocial Acts at 8-Year Outcome (%)

- ADHD (n=103)
- Control (n=100)

Skills most often affected: reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning and doing math

Impact of LD without supports or services:

- 35% of students with LD drop out of High School
- Up to 6% of adolescents in treatment for substance abuse have LD
- 31% of adolescents with LD will be arrested 3-5 years out of High School
Individuals will likely experience difficulty at each stage of the judicial process.

Often do not understand their legal rights, including Miranda and the right to legal counsel.

In attempt to please authority may quickly confess even if not guilty or say what the officer wants to hear.

May choose to appear “bad” to hide disability.
Encounters/Response-Intellectual Disability

- Often times a victim
- Offenders
- Mild intellectual disability most prevalent (IQ 55-69)
- May also have domestic issues
- Many individuals will be connected to a service provider, may reside in a group home
Autism-Encounters/Response

- Elopement
- Water attraction
- Overstimulation; sirens, shiny objects, crowd
- Echolalia; repeats what was said
- Lack of recognition of first responder
- Avoidance of touch
- No real fear of dangers
- High pain threshold
- Restraint
Victimization and the Disabled

- 4-10 times higher than typical population
- 72% of psychiatric in-patients report history of physical and/or sexual abuse
- Often victimized repeatedly by the same individual
- Officer usually the first to interact
- Never assume that IWDs suffer less emotional trauma and psychological injury than other crime victims
- Communication by officer often key to defusing anxiety and getting accurate responses
ADA Compliance

- receiving citizen complaints
- interrogating witnesses
- arresting, booking, and holding suspects
- operating 911 centers
- providing emergency medical services
- enforcing laws
Objective

To sensitize and educate as many officers as possible to the disabilities they will encounter, specific to their line of work. Impact and ‘staying power’ are essential.

Provide resources to ensure ongoing education and awareness.
Law Enforcement Training

- Academy/Basic Course
- Sworn officers
- Required on-going training
- State/Federal laws that dictate mandatory training
- Overtime/budgets
- Hot topics
How to train Law Enforcement

- Meet with Police Chief/Sheriff
- Don’t rush training, this is a process
- Connect with community resources
- Trainer Network
- Be eclectic
- Respect law enforcement’s time
- Train the Trainer
Niagara University First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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Next Webinar

• Attend the next webinar on **August 28th**
  **Alternatives to Incarceration for Criminal Offenders with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities**

• Sign up to receive email alerts
• Use I&R/TA service, and refer others
• Share your story and raise awareness

**Contact us at:**

NCCJDinfo@thearc.org
Questions?

Survey:

Next Webinar:
August 28th: Alternatives to Incarceration for Criminal Offenders with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

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