

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

David V. Whalen

Chief John Askey

Captain Patrick Mann



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®

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?



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®

Polling Question

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)



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®

Polling Question

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



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®

Polling Question

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



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®



Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training

Is Sitting While Autistic a Crime?

Law-enforcement officials often n **Arrested for Epilepsy**
people on the autism spectrum, wi
to change that.



Staffordsheriff.com
Latson is currently in a state-run psychi
arrested for assault.

handcuffed and bleeding with
information they'd been missi

Three days later, and several l
Virginia had its own disturbin
male, possibly in possession of
officers confronted Reginald l
Latson wound up being charg
assault the deputy," according
incident are complex and still
attention from members of th
the words of one mother, this



By JIM AVILA (@JeffreyKofman) and LARA SETRAKIAN (@LaraABCNews) , ABC News Law &
Justice Unit
Nov. 23, 2006

Recommend 9



+ Share

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
room at a Dollar General store,

BuffaloNews.com

CITY & REGION

The short life and long tortured death of Laura Cummings

By JAY TOKASZ AND
GENE WARNER
NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

Published:
February 27, 2010, 10:08
AM

0 Comments

Font Size:
A A A A A

E-mail Share Print

Recommend 17

Tweet 0

Updated: April 11, 2011, 8:25 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.

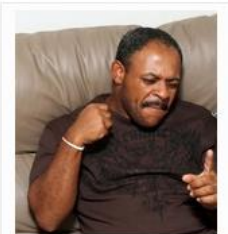
Days were even more nightmarish for the 23-year-old mentally disabled
woman, who was held captive and brutalized, allegedly by her own mother
and half brother, according to an Erie County Grand Jury indictment
returned Friday.

Cummings' short life ended Jan. 21 with a long, tortuous 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.

Azalea Road store, officers
est, disorderly conduct and failure
refused to accept any of those

ring the
ed his
what



(Press-
Register/John
David Mercer)

icers



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 led 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

Area 13	People 5 years and over					
	Number	Percentage with selected disabilities				
		Any Disability	Sensory Disability	Physical Disability	Mental Disability	Self-care Disability
United States	307,167,527	19.3%	3.6 %	8.2 %	4.8 %	2.6 %
New York	19,464,264	20.6 %	3.2 %	8.0	4.7	2.8 %



Chapters

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



Chapters

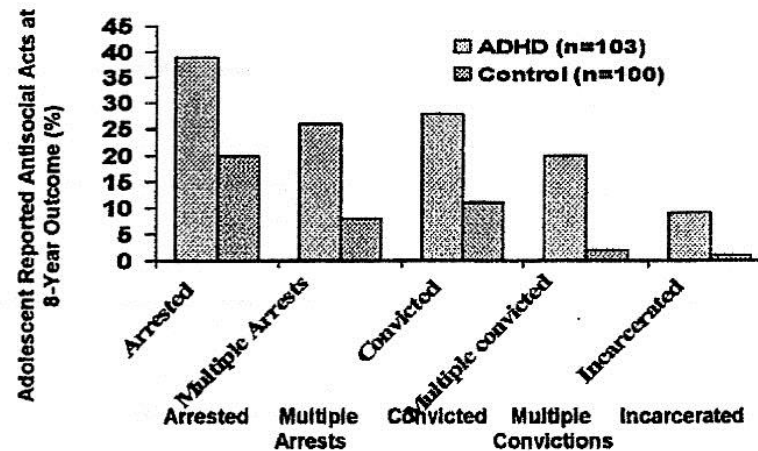
- Tourette Syndrome
- Discrimination and Inclusion
- Abuse/Victimization
- Person First Language
- Speech Impairments
- Outreach
- Mental Health



ADHD

Antisocial Activities: Criminality

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



Mannuzza S et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1989;46:1073-1079. Mannuzza S and Klein RG. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America* 2000;9(3):711-726



Learning Disability - Definitions

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



ID and the Law

- 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 on-going 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

David V. Whalen

Project Director

716-286-7355

Firstresponders.niagara.edu



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:

- <http://fs8.formsite.com/thearcwebinar/form57/index.html>

Next Webinar:

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

Contact us at:

- NCCJDInfo@thearc.org



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

Achieve with us.®