



# NACDD Salt Lake City, Utah Friday, July 14, 2017

David V. Whalen  
Project Director

© Copyright 2013 David V. Whalen  
All rights reserved.

**Newsweek**  
Search Newsweek

**Is Sitting While Autistic a Crime?**  
Law-enforcement officials often arrest people on the autism spectrum, with the hope of changing that.

**Arrested for Epilepsy**  
By JIM AYLVA (@jimaylvam) and LARA SETTERWALL (@laraabcnews) | ABC News Law & Justice Unit  
Nov. 23, 2008

**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 who stayed in a bathroom at a Dollar General store, officers said, disorderly conduct and failure to accept any of those offered.

**BuffaloNews.com**  
CITY & REGION

**The short life and long tortured death of Laura Cummings**  
Updated: April 11, 2015, 8:21 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.

**frdat.niagara.edu**

# Disability Awareness

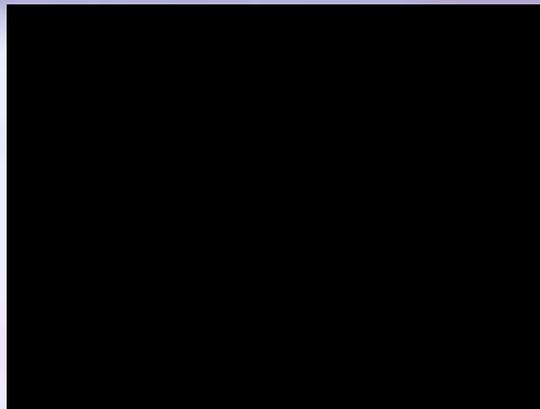
Disability awareness helps “to remove barriers so that responsible, self-sufficient people with disabilities can assume risks, make choices and contribute as they wish... this is a vision in which we all win.”

Source: Canadian Association of Independent Living Centers, [www.caile.ca](http://www.caile.ca)



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# Not Acceptable



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## In The Beginning

- Project Director started Disability Awareness Training in 2004
- Collaborated with Niagara University Criminal Justice Dept in 2007 for a mini-grant to train law enforcement
- Received the NYS DDPC First Responders Disability Awareness Training grant in 2010. Initially three years, two additional years added to execute to its fullest potential



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## Intent of First Responders Disability Awareness (FR DAT) Training

- The obvious is to ensure proactive and proper response to Individuals with Disabilities (IWDs) through training that both sensitizes and educates
- Incidents are on-going across the four disciplines, with Law enforcement being the most challenged
- Lack of confidence and trust leads to uncertainty with every interaction, victimized a second time by the first responder, or simply NOT calling 911 when assistance is needed.



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## How We Overcome the Doubt and Uncertainty

- Establish collaborative relationships within the first response and disability communities.
- Recognition by first responders of the value of an enhanced relationship
- Embraced by State offices and associations



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## 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
- The person with a disability is 7 times more likely to be the victim of a crime

Source: Department of Justice (DOJ)



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# Robert Ethan Saylor



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## Reluctance of IWDs to Report Crimes

- Concern of not being believed
- Appearing to lack credibility in the eyes of the law
- Unable to provide enough evidence
- Complaints defined as “less than criminal”
- Being referred to Adult Protective Services
- Unjustly placed in an institution
- Fear of losing custody of their children

Source: Sobsey & Doe, 1991; Sorenson, 2001. Saxton et al., 2001/2006.



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# ADA Compliance

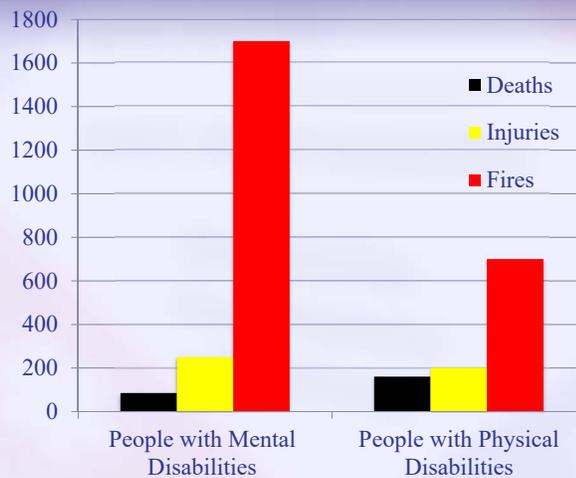
- Receiving citizen complaints
- Interrogating witnesses
- Arresting, booking, and holding suspects
- Operating 911 centers
- Providing emergency medical services
- Enforcing laws

“The ADA affects virtually everything that officers and deputies do.” – US DOJ



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# Fire and Persons with Disabilities



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## Why 911 Telecommunicators Need This Training

- Incidence of encounters with IWDs is more prevalent relative to emergency response
- Lack of recognition of individuals with speech impairments/challenges
- Educated dispatchers can initiate proper response from other first responders
- Lack of training in this field



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

## Disabilities covered

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Dementia
- Hard of Hearing/Deaf
- Intellectual Disability
- Low Vision/Blind
- Tourette Syndrome
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- ADHD
- Learning Disabilities
- Physical Disabilities
- Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder
- Speech disabilities
- Mental Illness \*



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# Topics Covered

- Victimization/Abuse
- Etiquette/Interaction Skills
- Person First Language
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Community Resources
- Outreach
- Assistive Technology
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication
- Durable Medical Equipment



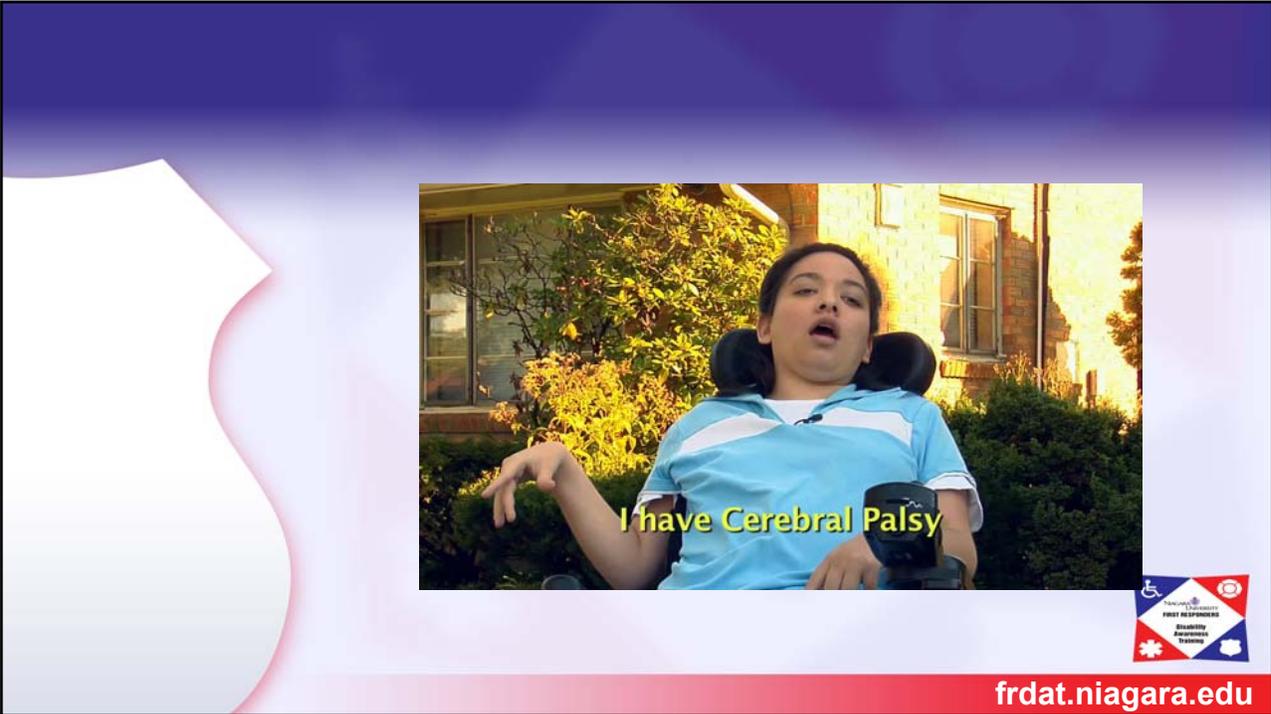
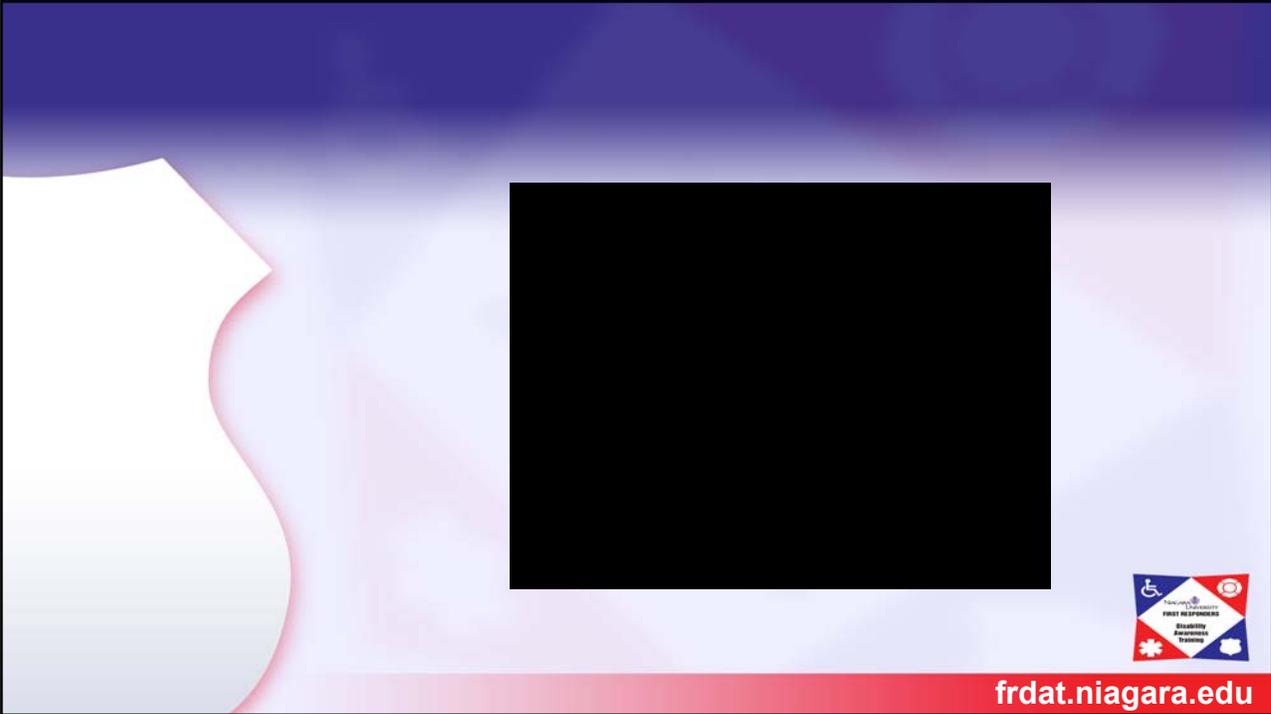
[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

# Dysarthria

A speech/motor disorder in which muscles of the mouth, face, and respiratory system may become weak, move slowly, or not move at all after a stroke or other brain injury. The type and severity of Dysarthria depends on which area of the nervous system is affected.

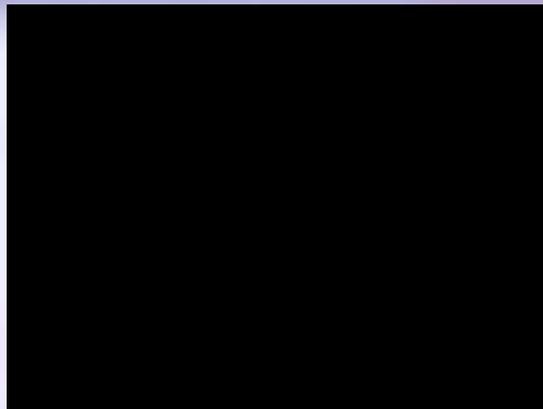


[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

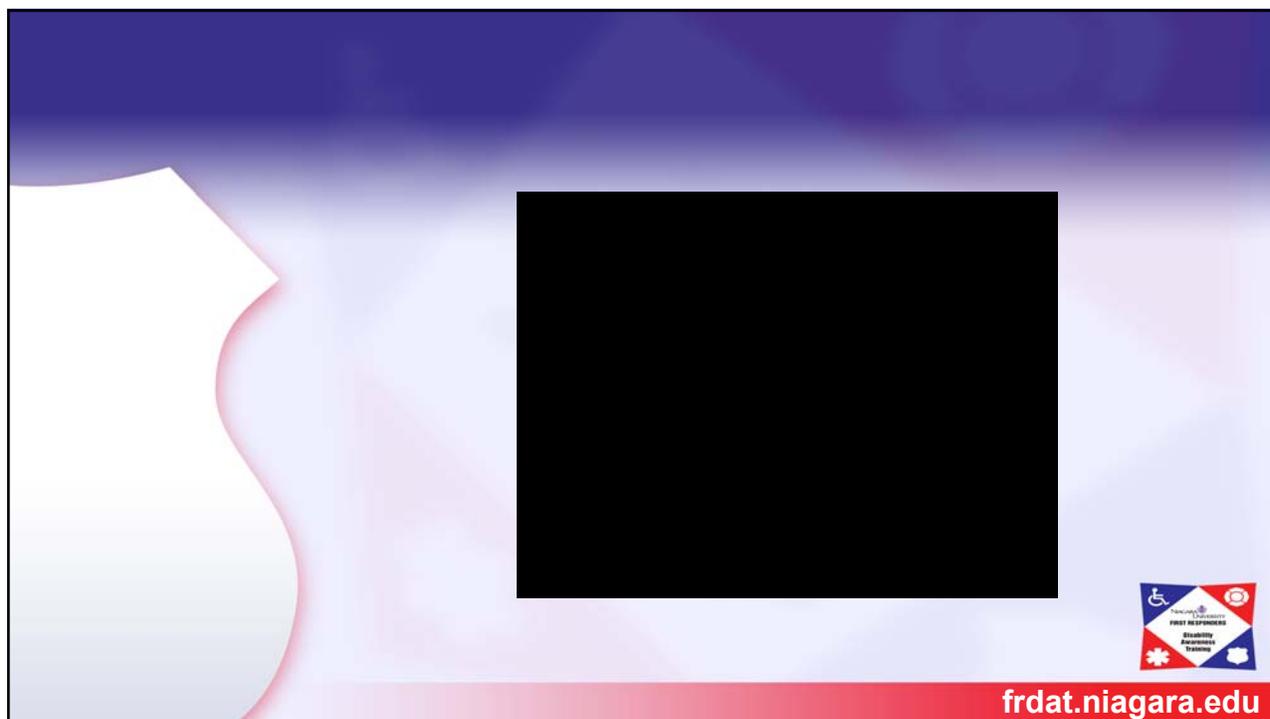




[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)



## Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training

- Website: [frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu), links, community resources, training information, online training, podcasts
- Office phone: 716-286-7355
- One-stop disability information center
- Future planning: additional online training, apps, disability specific training



[frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)