

Disability Awareness: From First Responders to Emergency Preparedness

How It All Began

- Arose out of NYS DDPC council member discussions
- Recognized the need to train First Responders to recognize the specialized needs of those with disabilities
- Competitive RFP process

 NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY. | **Developmental
Disabilities
Planning Council**



First Responder Disability Awareness Training

- Train the Trainer format
- Stakeholders voiced the profound need for these trainings
- Resulted in the establishment of meaningful relationships between partner entities



The Evolution to Emergency Preparedness

- Recognized there were other, related needs
- Inclusive planning and active engagement from the Advisory Council
- Currently underway





NACDD-Plenary Salt Lake City, Utah Friday, July 14, 2017

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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



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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.



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How We Overcome the Doubt and Uncertainty

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



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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)



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Robert Ethan Saylor



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Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2009

Criminalizes acts of violence when motivated by the actual or perceived gender, **disability**, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person.

Persons with disabilities experienced about 1.3 million violent victimizations in 2013. Rates of serious violent victimization—rape, sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated assault—were more than three times higher for persons with disabilities.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics



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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.



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ADA Compliance

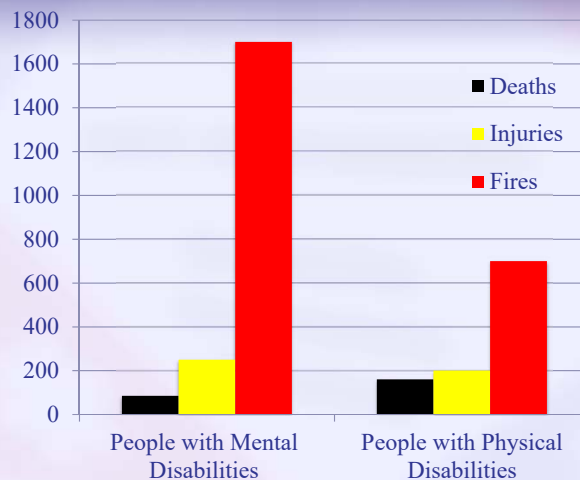
- Receiving citizen complaints
- Interrogating witnesses
- Arresting, booking, and holding suspects
- Operating 911 centers
- Providing emergency medical services
- Enforcing laws

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



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Fire and Persons with Disabilities



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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



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It's a Process

Training is one component, albeit the main piece

A. Establish relationships with (1) State offices/governing bodies including training academies per discipline (2) State associations including Sheriff's; Chiefs of Police; Fire Chiefs; Training directors of LE, FF, EMS; EMS council; NENA, APCO (3) Disability Advocacy organizations; (4) Developmental Disability Service Providers; (5) Parent groups (6) Other.

B. Accreditation per discipline; National Emergency Numbers Association, International Assn of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST), Center for Healthcare Education, state-specific

C. Develop an advisory council : Establish to consist of individuals from (A) above and the disability community; receive direction and input, utilize for outreach, and meet triennially to identify and discuss success, challenges, and opportunities.

D. Curriculum Modification: Utilize when appropriate already developed content; solicit input from state offices, assns., advocacy groups; Customize per state when necessary for all three disciplines including state specific video production



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It's a Process - continued

E. Produce Train The Trainer manuals

F. Establish training dates/locations and conduct training in conjunction with state offices, associations, and conferences

G. Tracking and technical assistance including Department attendance and intra-departmental delivery of the curriculum; Technical assistance/Trainer support; state-specific website link

H. Sustainability per discipline: Establish within basic training courses, make mandatory per discipline (Note: while an ultimate objective is mandatory training, this approach can be a deterrent to a working relationship, so the word is used cautiously here); Ownership per discipline; Funding per discipline from within state office.



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Why Train the Trainer (TTT)

- Most acceptable form of presenter-style training
- Shifts/budgets can accommodate TTT, can not accommodate presenter-style
- First responders tend to be more comfortable with their own *
- Customize for the discipline
- Overcoming monotony; Videos
- Training Network; co-presenter



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Train the Trainer Results

- NY-Law enforcement; 22 sessions-292 trainers resulting in 13, 253 officers trained
- NY-Firefighter/EMS; 23 sessions-228 trainers resulting in 17, 255 firefighters and EMTS trained
- NY-9-1-1 Telecommunicator; 2 sessions-33 trainers
- MO-Law enforcement; 1 session-21 trainers
- MO-FF/EMS; 1 session-8 trainers



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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 *



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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



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Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training

- Website: 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



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Emergency Preparedness, Planning, Response, Recovery for individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs

- NYS DDPC awarded three year grant
- NYC lawsuit
- Four components:
 - Disability Awareness Training
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Emergency Plan
 - Inclusive Planning and Active Participation



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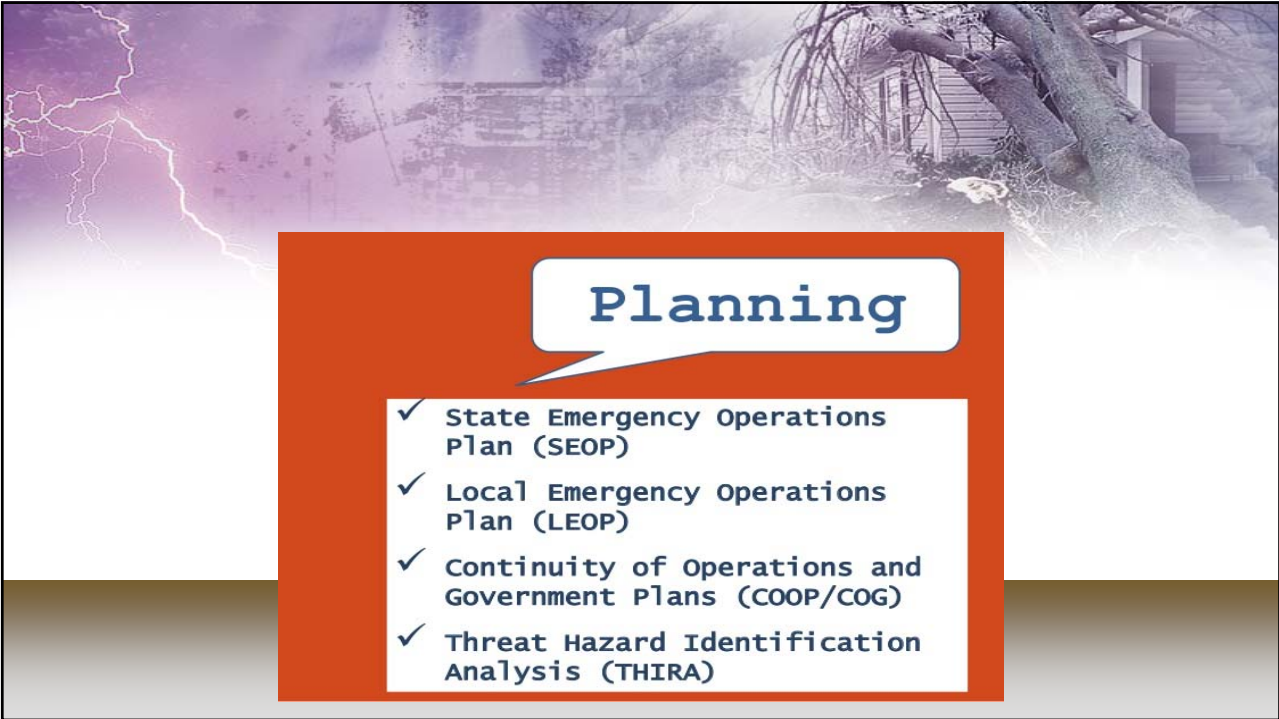




- Inclusion of people with disabilities must occur at ALL phases of emergency management.
- Planning saves lives - it is too late to bring people to the table to start planning when you are in the midst of a disaster.



- Governor's Faith-Based & Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery
- State's Access and Functional Needs Committee
- Curriculum Development and Delivery
 - **Functional Assessment Support Teams**
 - **Functional Needs Support Services**
 - **Mass Care**
- Community Resiliency
- FEMA/HUD



Planning

- ✓ State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP)
- ✓ Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)
- ✓ Continuity of Operations and Government Plans (COOP/COG)
- ✓ Threat Hazard Identification Analysis (THIRA)



1% of the population are individuals (e.g. firefighters, EMTs, first responders, police, etc.) who will respond to 99% of the population.



Preparedness Planning



Your Very Personal Preparedness Inventory:
Assessing the important additional resources you will need before, during and after a disaster.



GET A KIT!



Exercise Plans



Training

- Exercise Plans
- Hot Wash
- Commitment of Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (MOVOAD) to train 500 volunteers
- Train
- Exercise Plans with updates



Federal Update Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)
 - HHS is preparing for reauthorization in 2019
 - Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is required to prioritize children, pregnant women, elderly and other special populations; disabilities is considered in the other population category versus Stafford Act at FEMA that specifically created a disability office



Federal Update Emergency Preparedness & Response

- AoD Programs/Grantees with MoUs with FEMA
 - NDRN
 - NCIL
 - AUCD
- FEMA Update of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS)
 - The Administration for Community Living is working in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at HHS
 - Federal and Stakeholders



Federal Update Emergency Preparedness & Response

- What can DD Councils do?
 - **Identify Emergency Preparedness and Response activities in your State Plan**
 - **Work with your State Emergency Management Office to find a role for the Council**
 - Oklahoma & Missouri
 - **Collaborate with the P&A, SILC/CILs, UCEDD, and other disability groups that work on Emergency Preparedness and Response**



Federal Update Emergency Preparedness & Response

- FEMA Grants to States
 - **\$1.6 Billion in grants to State and Local Governments for FY 2017 for preparedness**
 - **<https://www.fema.gov/preparedness-non-disaster-grants>**



Federal Update Emergency Preparedness & Response

Discussion Question:

If there is a disasters in XX state, what can a Council(s) in TT or VV states do to help the Council in XX state?



Questions?

