

POLICE OFFICER DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

COURSE CONTENT

- Disabilities defined specific to law enforcement
- Victimization/abuse and individuals with disabilities
- Service provision and supports and how to develop 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 and tertiary disabilities
- Durable Medical Equipment, Assistive Technology
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specific to law enforcement
- Interface with CIT
- Incident review, identifying appropriate response
- Community resources and networks
- Department infrastructure
- Current trends and topics

TRAINING OPTIONS

- Full-day in-service
- Half day in-service
- Train the Trainer (two-day course)
- All offered virtual or in-person



Disability Awareness Training is nationally recognized as the nation's leader in First Responder Disability Awareness Training. Our programs address the most prominent disabilities, customized for each discipline.

It is widely recognized that everyone needs disability awareness training, and this could not be more prolific than in first response where confusion and uncertainty cannot exist. Disability Awareness Training takes this seriously, knowing that professionals require, and desire, discipline-specific curriculum. DAT has created its programs with direct input from police officers, Sheriff

deputies and the state offices and associations that represent them. All disability content is created with persons with disabilities who are subject matter experts in the field. In 2016, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services built the program into the Basic Course for Police Officers making it the first state in the nation to recognize the importance of the program. They continue to provide the program in their annual training series. A Police Chief noted "I see a big difference in the officers who have come through the academy relative to their understanding and response to citizens with disabilities".

Police Officer/Sheriff Deputy customized training has videos created with ranking officers, disability-specific police videos, outreach strategies and community resources and agencies to connect with, the Americans with Disabilities Act and specific cases, and law enforcement-related tools and resources that can be utilized on the scene.

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.

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. 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.

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LEARNER OUTCOMES

- Disabilities they will encounter and how to appropriately respond
- Introduction to the Recognition-Identification-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) Model
- 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



THE PROGRAM IS BUILT OFF THE FOLLOWING PREMISES

1. Every disability has unique characteristics and features, and within each are varying ways of how they present. No one will present the exact same way as the next.
2. The Recognize-Identify-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) Model allows for first responders to be confident in response to persons with disabilities.
3. 10% of 9-1-1 calls are true emergencies, meaning that 90% of the time there will be interactions that call for accurate, appropriate response.
4. Communication barriers are a major challenge for first responders. Understanding how these present and best practices in overcoming them are crucial, having an understanding of how to communicate and use of the tools to assist are necessary for a productive response.
5. Proactive education and awareness are imperative in first response. Reactive response jeopardizes persons with disabilities and can put them in peril.
6. When understood, the ADA provides guidance that ensures compliance with federal law through accurate response to matters where it comes to play.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Disability Awareness Training Director/Founder has been in the field of disabilities since 1986. In 2004 he started Disability Awareness Training when he was approached by the Association Development Group who recognized the need for training when disability advocates challenged one of their clients. DAT came together with Niagara University when they collaborated on, and was awarded, a grant from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Council to create First Responders Disability Awareness Training.

GET IN TOUCH

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Disability Awareness Training specializes in customizing disability awareness training for professional needs and interests. Contact us for more information.