## HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

45 S Main Street PO Box 150 Bel Air, MD 21014

www.harfordsheriff.org

February 9, 2015

Shelly Allred, MBA, MOM Director of Communications Pathfinders for Autism 303 International Circle, Ste. 110 Hunt Valley, MD 21030

The Harford County Sheriff's Office over the last year has been working collaboratively with Pathfinders for Autism to teach at our in-service classes. Pathfinders instructed over 22 classes and reached approximately 500 law enforcement and correctional deputies during this time. Even though this was a required training for the individuals many of those that attended responded that the training was very worthwhile and they now understand how someone lives with autism as well as other development disabilities. The instructors are very knowledgeable and always willing to assist the Sheriff' Office when they have been called upon.

The classes taught were interactive and they even brought in a participant who had a disability and allowed that individual to talk with class so they could see and understand that even though a person has a disability doesn't mean they cannot interact within a group. This helped for our personnel to understand how to approach and talk with someone who has a disability.

We look forward to our continued work with Pathfinders and will be reaching out to them in the near future for other trainings.

Keith Warner

Education and Training manager Harford County Sheriff's Office