



First Responder Training Program

Understanding Autism and Other Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In Maryland, 1 out of every 50 children is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and 1 out of 6 are diagnosed with some type of developmental disability. It's not a question of IF you're going to have interactions with individuals with disabilities – it's really WHEN, and HOW FREQUENTLY.



MPCTC Certified

This class meets the MPCTC mandate for Intellectual/Developmental Disability (IDD) training, both entry-level and in-service

Police In-Service P27716
Police Entry-Level P25083

Corrections

Corrections Entry-Level C14044
Corrections In-Service C14371

MIEMSS Certified Training

Miemss/EMS Continuing Education
Credit Hours 1610480
ALS and BLS Hours 2

Training Objectives

- Recognize characteristics of unusual behavior to determine if someone has ASD/IDD and discuss behaviors that can easily be misinterpreted as threatening or aggressive
- Learn strategies for communication/language processing and de-escalation
- Understand the impact of sensory issues
- Identify wandering and elopement risks and learn search strategies
- Review reasonable accommodations

Our Training Team

Our lead team includes certified police training instructors who are also parents to individuals with developmental disabilities. Our team is also comprised of instructors who have ASD/IDD themselves as their perspective and experiences are a critical element to the class.

Our Curriculum

You can't arrive on a scene and make a diagnosis, and we will never expect you to. So, our curriculum focuses on functional ability (rather than specific diagnosis) that incorporates the most prominent developmental disabilities law enforcement and first responders may encounter.



We present different cases such as an elopement case, domestic disturbance, driving incident, misinterpreted behaviors, and crime victim. We also include experiential exercises to simulate characteristics such as language processing disorder and sensory overload.

*"I received nothing but positive comments from our personnel regarding your training both on the substance of the material and on the way it was presented. The attendees enjoyed that **it was interactive, informative, and kept their attention.** They felt the information was very relevant and beneficial to them as it was **specifically tailored to help them in their jobs as law enforcement** and not presented as a broad, generic presentation with general information. The attendees **now feel more confident responding to and handling calls for service that involve people with ASD/IDD.**" - Sgt. Troy Angel, Training Services Supervisor, Frederick County Sheriff's Office*



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Our Training Team

Shelly McLaughlin, parent of a son with autism, certified police instructor through MSP, CIT certified through Montgomery County Police and Mental Health First Aid certified through Harford County Sheriff's Office

Janelle Myers, parent of a young adult with an I/DD, Deputy FC with Harford County Sheriff's Office, certified police instructor and CIT certified through Harford County Sheriff's Office

Drew Myers, parent of a young adult with an I/DD, former fire/EMS personnel, certified police instructor

Glenn Myers, self-advocate, active community volunteer

Jake Edwards, teenage self-advocate, White House Champion of Change award recipient for his work teaching police

Josh Smith, self-advocate, longtime Martin's Food Store employee and leadership program participant, Special Olympian



*"I would first like to take a moment to say thank you for the outstanding class you both put on There at the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company. I would also like to say an extra special thank you to Glenn for allowing all of us the opportunity to meet and share some great times with him. I have received nothing but outstanding compliments from all the members about **how excellent your program was**. I have to say that I myself did not know what to expect from your class, and I feel that same uncertainty was on the minds of most members. That is what made your program so incredible, **after the class we all felt so much more confident as first responders, that now we would all be able to perform to the highest level when dealing with these emergencies**. All the members have stated how much your class has improved their confidence, and left them with such a better understanding of individuals with IDD. Your class had **just the right amount of presentation mixed with practical interaction and kept the environment both fun, professional and extremely educational**. Also, the members can't stop talking about how great it was to meet Glenn and get to interact with him throughout the presentation. I would personally like to say thank you again for the incredible program and I cannot wait until the next time we all get to be part of your amazing learning experience."* Michael E. Walker Jr., Deputy Fire Chief, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company