

Recognition & Response to the IDD Community

Interactive Training Model for Law Enforcement

As part of the ALA Crisis Respite Plan for Bexar County, this program was developed as a pilot program for law enforcement, and is a first-of-its-kind to utilize classroom instruction, as well as and most importantly, interaction with members of our community who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. In recognition of the critical need for appropriate training that emphasized safety of the IDD community and law enforcement, the ALA hired consultants Emily Iland and Thomas Iland to help develop a training model for law enforcement that met the needs of Bexar County.

1. Focus Groups: Many community stakeholders came together to share their vision and goals for how law enforcement should respond when interacting with individuals with IDD during a crisis.
2. Interactive Training Model: This training model is inclusive of individuals with IDD and is an important part of how the message is communicated, thus making the training more personal and authentic.
3. This training model promotes officer safety and community safety.

Training Goals

This training model’s goal is to inspire a shift in thinking, feeling, and action; and, to teach how to know, think, and do during interaction with the IDD community.

- This training is also part of the effort to change misperceptions about persons with disabilities and to provide law enforcement experiences that will help them see people with disabilities as persons, first.
- It is also designed to meet community policing goals as well as to provide equal access for all department services and avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

Content Areas

1. Generating Empathy and Sympathy through first-hand experience with accommodations
2. DOJ guidelines recommends anticipating and preparing for disability related needs of individuals in their community
3. Connecting and building relationships with media and individuals with IDD living in their community
4. Understanding social communication
5. Repetitive patterns, behaviors and activities that promote safety at all times
6. Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions
7. Specific safety issues, risk and vulnerability
8. Appropriate response upon recognition
9. Learn by doing- Be Safe- Interactive Moving Screening

Teach Seven Key Safety Skills

1. Follow the law to be safe
2. Stay where you are when you meet the police
3. Keep your hands to yourself when you meet the police
4. When the police tell you to do something, just do it
5. Tell the police about your disability
6. Remain silent if arrested
7. Tell where you are when you call 911



©2017 AACOG. All rights reserved.

Summary: To Respond Effectively



- **RECOGNIZE** unusual features or unexpected behaviors as red flags for I/DD
- **FOCUS** on safety, control and communication
- **LISTEN** to family members or caregivers (experts)

Next Step:

BE SAFE Interactive Movie Screening



- Promote mutual understanding
- Everyone learns
- Eyes on Training

Contact information: Virginia Charles, vcharles@aacog.com 210-832-5021
Lt. Jose Robledo, jrobledo@aacog.com 210-362-5262

