

Disability Awareness & Law Enforcement Training Materials and Resources

The following is a listing of the various resources/materials related to disability awareness for law enforcement & first responders. This Listing was compiled by Florida's Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc. (<http://www.advocacycenter.org/>) and the USF Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (www.flcic.org).

4-30-2008

GENERAL

- **Under Arrest**
 - Curriculum Includes: Video and informational guide (\$25)
 - About: Understanding the Criminal Justice Process in Pennsylvania. A step-by-step review of the criminal justice process--from the arrest, through the preliminary arraignment, preliminary hearing, arraignment, trial, sentencing and possible incarceration--to educate the general public about the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania.
 - Website: <http://disabilities.temple.edu/publications/>
 - Contact Info: Institute on Disabilities / Temple University
1601 N. Broad Street
University Services Bldg. Suite 610
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Voice/TTY: 215-204-1356 Fax: 215-204-6336

- **A Toolkit and Resource Guide for Behavioral Healthcare Communities (2nd Edition): Law Enforcement First Responder Training. & C.A.F.: Calm, Assess, Facilitate: A Model for First Response** (Training Curriculum: 2007)
 - Summary: The Division of Education and Training at the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute has developed the C.A.F. Model for First Response for use in law enforcement training. The purpose of this training is to provide information to assist officers in responding to persons in the community who are experiencing symptoms of a mental illness and are in crisis. The training introduces the C.A.F. Model for First Response, concepts and techniques for prompting de-escalation in first response situations, and techniques for facilitating first response situations to appropriate resolutions. The training also emphasizes the positive aspects of providing law enforcement officers with additional tools to utilize during first response crisis situations.
 - Contact info: website: <http://mhlp.fmhi.usf.edu/web/mhlp/mhlpcontent.cfm?item=136##caf>
Larry Thompson, Ed.D.
Email: thompson@fmhi.usf.edu
Phone: 813-974-9003

- **Police Response to People with Disabilities, Eight-Part Series**
 - Summary: Designed for use in roll-call training, this videotape addresses law enforcement situations involving people who have mobility disabilities, mental illnesses, mental retardation, epilepsy or seizure disorders, speech disabilities, deafness or hard of hearing, and blindness or low vision.
 - Eight segments range from 5 ½ to 10 ½ minutes in length.
 - This video is available for free at the following website (ADA Video Gallery):
<http://www.ada.gov/videogallery.htm#Anchor-Dial-47492>

- **Law Enforcement Awareness of Disabilities (LEAD)**
 - CA Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (<http://post.ca.gov/>)
 - Instructor's Training Manual and Video – includes a training manual: 245 pp.; video: 55 min.
 - Gives extension of Effectively Communicating with Offenders Who Are Handicapped (ECOH) training program, where scenarios are located in jails and prisons.
 - Features scenarios depicting street level interactions between persons with developmental disabilities and law enforcement officers, to extend training potential to police academies and advanced officer training courses. Covers disability awareness and the four major types of developmental disabilities with background information for trainers and activities. Training course for law enforcement includes video on disability awareness in areas of proper questioning of witnesses and victims, recognition of disabilities in giving respect and extra time for individuals to respond, and watching for medical behavior not criminal behavior (e.g. epileptic seizure).
 - Individuals with developmental disabilities suggest that police officers need to recognize disabilities and be gentler and kinder when dealing with these situations.
 - Suggests that a list of resources be available to help police officers.
 - Website: <http://www.edgateway.net/cs/scdd/view/lw/828>
 - Contact info: 1601 Alhambra Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95816-7083
Phone: 916-227-3903

- **The Law Enforcement Awareness Network**
 - Mission of L.E.A.N. On Us to provide first responders with information and resources that will allow them to better serve individuals within their communities affected by hidden disabilities and mental illness.
 - This item is free to other law enforcement agencies.
 - Website: <http://www.leanonus.org/>
 - Contact info: Email: help@leanonus.org

- **Law Enforcement awareness of disabilities VHS**
 - California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST)
 - Lists the four major types of developmental disabilities; describes the general characteristics which identify persons with each disability; discusses strategic communication and safety techniques utilized with each disability
 - Discusses "People First" terminology and the characteristics of persons having a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – TBI is classified as a cognitive disability
 - Free for participating California agencies – otherwise the VHS may be purchased for \$30.00, or an annual subscription fee.
 - Website: http://www.post.ca.gov/Publications/Course_Catalog/MM022.asp

- **Commonly Asked Questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act and Law Enforcement**
 - Summary: Police officers, sheriff's deputies, and other law enforcement personnel have always interacted with persons with disabilities and, for many officers and deputies, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may mean few changes in the way they respond to the public. To respond to questions that may arise, this document offers common sense suggestions to assist law enforcement agencies in complying with the ADA. The examples presented are drawn from real-life situations as described by police officers or encountered by the Department of Justice in its enforcement of the ADA.
 - This 12-page fact sheet answers frequent questions about the ADA and its effect on law enforcement services involving people with disabilities
 - This item is free and can be downloaded from the website: http://www.ada.gov/q&a_law.htm

- **Sensitivity Training for interacting with persons with disabilities**
 - Power point presentation – defines disability and provides information helpful for persons interactions.
 - This item is free and can be downloaded directly from the website:
<http://www.peoplresources.org/employers/DSTraining.pdf>

- **2008 National Conference: Crime Victims with Disabilities Training**
 - http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_2005NationalConference571
 - Who Should Attend? -- Target participants in the National Conference include victim advocates, counselors, program managers, attorneys, social workers, psychologists, law enforcement, etc.
 - Conference that focuses on crime victims with disabilities – how to interact, how to respond.
 - Detailed fee information can be found here:
http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_Costs168
 - Fees range from \$275 to \$475 to attend

- **Enhancing Your Interactions with People with Disabilities**
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/assist/nvaa2000/academy/O-15-DIS.htm>
 - American Psychological Association (APA) brochure
 - Brochure is available by mail from APA or in an alternative form on its Web site --
www.apa.org/pi/cdip/
 - Contact info: American Psychological Association
750 First Street NE
Washington DC 20002
Phone: 800-374-2721

- **Police Response to People with Mental Illnesses Including Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements and Community Policing Approaches.**
 - (Police Executive Research Forum) 134 pages, 1997.
 - This item is free and can be downloaded in PDF format from this website:
<http://www.ptb.state.il.us/resources/Mpoliceresponse.pdf>
 - Contact info: Website: <http://www.dlrp.org/html/publications/statemunicipalities.html>
Phone: 713-520-0232

- **First Response to Victims of Crime Who Have a Disability (October 2002).**
 - A Handbook for Law Enforcement Officers on How To Approach and Help Crime Victims Who Have Alzheimer's Disease, Mental Illness, Mental Retardation, Or Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
 - Handbook for law enforcement officers (NCJ 195500) describes how to approach and help victims.
 - Designed as a field guide for personnel who respond first to crime victims and includes contacts for assistance.
 - This is available for free – it can be downloaded in PDF format from website:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/infores/firstrep/2002/welcome.html>

- **Disability Awareness for Law Enforcement** (curriculum and video).
 - Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002.
 - Overview of disability laws relevant to law enforcement and recommendations to help police officers interact with greater sensitivity to people with disabilities who are victims, witnesses or suspects in criminal investigations.

- Package includes a video on safety planning and abuse prevention for people with disabilities, a CD version of the instructor's manual, a participants' manual, a power point presentation and a resource list.
- Contact info: The Abuse and Disability Initiative
Institute on Disability and Human Development
University of Illinois at Chicago
1640 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: (312) 413-8833
Website: www.uic.edu/depts/idhd/abuse
- **Victims of Crime With Disabilities Resource Guide**
 - Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/resourceguide/>
 - About website: The U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has released the 2008 Resource Guide for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 13–19, 2008. Developed to help communities promote awareness of victim issues, this online guide includes Tips for working with the media, color camera-ready art files, public awareness posters, the 2008 theme DVD and screensaver, and more.
- **CANdo -- The Abuse and Disability Outreach Forum**
 - About website: CAN Do! - The Child Abuse and Neglect Disability Outreach Project - organizes resources on behalf of professionals concerned about the abuse of children and adults with disabilities. (Must become a member of Can Do! to view material)
 - Website: <http://disability-abuse.com/mailman/listinfo/cando>
- **Safeplace corporation- Fire and Life Safety Certification**
 - Website: <http://www.safeplace.com/corporation.shtml>
 - About website: SafePlace Corporation is a multi-disciplined applied technology firm providing innovative technical, scientific and management solutions through products and services including conformity assessment, risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and strategic advisory services specific to the disciplines of security, fire protection, life safety and emergency management.
- **Safeplace- Envision a future without violence**
 - Includes: Disability Services ASAP (a Safety Awareness Program) Informational Fact Sheets.
 - Includes: Disability Services Materials
 - About: Responding to Violent Crimes against Persons with Disabilities- A manual for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and Court Personnel.
 - Website: <http://www.safeplace.org/site/PageServer>
- **SafePlace- Stop the violence Break the Silence Modules**
 - Includes: website- including 6 modules
 - About: The information is presented in 6 modules. Each module provides the information necessary to provide presentations to diverse audiences and each module builds upon the information presented in the previous module.
 - Website: http://www.safeplace.org/site/PageServer?pagename=train_home
- **Videopress DVD**
 - Includes: Videopress DVD
 - About: previews of Nationally-acclaimed Documentaries on Disability Awareness and Inclusion. – University of Maryland School of Medicine.

- Website: <http://www.videopress.umaryland.edu/index.html>
- **Texas A&M University Center for Disabilities Studies**
 - Website: <http://cdd.tamu.edu/resources/disaster.htm>
 - Documents regarding: TIPS for First responders and Texas Resources for services and supports: Seniors, People with Service animals, People with Mobility Impairments, and People with mental illness, and people with visual impairments, people who are deaf or hard hearing, People with cognitive Disabilities, and People with Autism.
 - Contact info: Center on Disability and Development
Dept. of Educational Psychology
4225 Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4225
- **Assisting Victims and Witnesses with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System**
 - Includes: Curriculum for Law Enforcement Personnel and Trainers Guide
 - Summary: This curriculum designed to provide law enforcement officers with a basic understanding of mental retardation and how it impacts an individual's ability to interact with criminal justice personnel. It is also designed to enhance officers' abilities to respond in an appropriate and nondiscriminatory manner to victims of crime who have mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.
 - Website: <http://disabilities.temple.edu/publications/>
 - Contact Info: Institute on Disabilities / Temple University
1601 N. Broad Street
University Services Bldg. Suite 610
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Voice/TTY: 215-204-1356 Fax: 215-204-6336
- **Serving Crime Victims with Disabilities – The Time Is Now**
 - PDF document - Discussion Guide: Download at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/pdf/txt/188514.pdf
 - About: Provides a starting point for victim assistance providers who want to learn more about serving victims of crime who have disabilities. Includes listings of organizations that can help you find out more about people with disabilities.
 - Contact info: Office for Victims of Crime: Training and Technical Assistance Center
1-866-682-8822
Website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/assist/welcome.html

AUTISM

- **Autism Awareness Video for Law Enforcement/Community Service Personnel (1998)**
 - <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/fvideo.html?mainvideo=DisComInfo.html>
 - Video highlights behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorders, and provides recommendations for how community members and law enforcement agencies should interact with these individuals.
 - Recommended as a disability awareness tool for community members and law enforcement personnel
 - To purchase contact the Autism Society of North Carolina at 1-919-743-0204
 - WEBSITE: http://secure.appcomm.net/Merchant2/merchant.mv?Store_Code=asnc

- **Autism and Law Enforcement: Roll Call Briefing Video** – 2004 (price: \$154)
 - <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/fvideo.html?mainvideo=DisComInfo.html>
 - **Summary:** This video features 15 children and adults at various points on the autism spectrum, an actor who has autism, actual 911 calls, and reflects American diversity. It has the look and feel of TV news, uses real life events to punctuate these issues, and on-the-job officers to deliver the message. The use of state-of-the-art editing and graphics, a creative and informative script, and action makes this video and booklet the perfect autism training tool for law enforcement.
 - Video to be used in training law enforcement personnel on interacting with people on the autism spectrum. Highly recommended for use in training
 - Video may be purchased online at: www.autismriskmanagement.com or <http://www.autismriskmanagement.com/videos.html>
 - Designed for law enforcement – they contain key communication and response information and can be used by children and adults as an on scene handout
 - These can be purchased in quantities of 100 for \$23.95

- **Autism, Advocates and Law Enforcement Professionals, Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders** (2001 - Price: \$20)
 - Author: Dennis Debbaudt
 - <http://www.specialneeds.com/books.asp?id=13074>
 - Summary: This book provides essential information about ASD. Debbaudt explains how typical manifestations of autism spectrum disorders, such as running away, unsteadiness, impulsive behavior or failure to respond, may be misunderstood by law enforcement professionals, with serious consequences. For individuals with ASDs, he offers advice on how to behave in encounters with police and other law enforcement professionals. Aimed at raising awareness and facilitating communication between people with autism and law enforcement professionals, this much-needed book will be a valuable resource for both communities.

- **The Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC)**
 - Website: <http://www.sncarc.org/alec.htm>
 - About Website: ALEC is designed to help foster a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum disorders among public safety and law enforcement personnel. Training is available for police officers, emergency room personnel and fire fighters. There is a curriculum specific to the needs of each group.
 - Contact info: South Norfolk County Arc
789 Clapboardtree St.
Westwood, MA 02090
Email: DWOOD@SNCARC.ORG
Phone: 781-762-4001 Fax: 781-461-5950

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY/MENTAL RETARDATION

- **Crime Victims with Disabilities: What the Prosecutor Needs to Know About Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Traumatic Brain Injury** (2006)
 - <http://www.leanonus.org/>
 - Although the title says this is directed at Prosecutors – the video’s target audience also includes “professionals responsible for investigation.”
 - 2 ½ hour DVD program features experts from across the United States, in the fields of prosecution, law enforcement -- present techniques for accommodating individuals, conducting interviews, and presenting cases in court.
 - DVD is free to Law Enforcement agencies.

- Contact info: Phone: 916-443-2017
- **Understanding Mental Retardation: Training for Law Enforcement**
 - 2000 National Victim Assistance Academy – program w/ multiple chapters (see binder) Chapter 15 focuses on Victimization of Individuals with Disabilities
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/assist/nvaa2000/academy/O-15-DIS.htm>
 - Three-hour training curriculum, *Understanding Mental Retardation: Training for Law Enforcement*
 - Provides police officers with information about victim and offender issues involving people with this disability. The training includes a fifteen-minute video, program materials, hand-outs, and references for background reading.
 - Contact info: ARC of the United States
500 E. Border Street, Suite 300
Arlington, TX 76010
Phone: 817-261-6003
- **First Response to Crime Victims**
 - <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/133/over7.html>
 - The National Sheriff's Association is in the process of developing a handbook for law enforcement to assist them in responding to crime victims with mental retardation, as well as crime victims with other disabilities
 - Available free of charge from the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center
 - Contact info: Phone: 800-851-3420.
- **A Police Officer's Guide When in Contact with People Who Have Mental Retardation (brochure).**
 - The Arc, 1996.
 - Concise, practical set of guidelines is designed to help police officers, sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement personnel interact fairly and appropriately with people with mental retardation who are either victims or perpetrators of crimes.
 - Available in print format from The Arc in bulk from The Arc web site store:
www.thearcpub.com/merchant.
 - Copies can be downloaded for free from URL: <http://209.183.228.233/download/30-25.pdf>
 - Contact info: The Arc
500 E. Border Street, Suite 300
Arlington, TX 76010.
Phone: (817) 261-6003. TDD: (817) 277-0553.
- **Equal Justice for People with Mental Retardation** (Texas Appleseed: 1st Edition, 2005)
 - Includes: Training Guide About: Individuals with Mental Retardation and the Criminal Justice System: A Training Guide for Law Enforcement Officers. Designed to provide law enforcement officers with basic knowledge of mental retardation, the impact of mental retardation on an individual's ability to interact with criminal justice system personnel, and the skills law enforcement officers should have to ensure equal treatment under the law to citizens with mental retardation.
 - Free PDF document: www.texasappleseed.net/pdf/hbook_MR_family_FindingPath.pdf
 - Contact info: **Texas Appleseed**
1609 Shoal Creek, Suite #201
Austin, TX 78701
Email: info@texasappleseed.net
Phone: 512-473-2800 x 107
Fax: 512-473-2813

COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

- **Victims with Disabilities: The Forensic Interview—Techniques for Interviewing Victims with Communication and/or Cognitive Disabilities** (April 2007)
 - A 57-minute DVD (NCJ 212894) provides a specific set of guidelines for law enforcement officers for interviewing adults and children with communication and/or cognitive disabilities.
 - Interactive companion discussion guide including a complete transcript of the DVD and a glossary of terms and concepts used in the film is also available.
 - DVD is free <http://www.leanonus.org/>

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

- **Model policy for Law Enforcement on communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing**
 - Includes an overview and a sample policy that instructs officers and employees on how to act towards people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
 - PDF document can be viewed for free at website: <http://www.ada.gov/lawenfmodpolicy.htm>
- **U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division -- Disability Rights Section**
 - Used in conjunction with the above sample policy. This is found on the DOJ website, and it is the ADA's publication of the guide for law enforcement officers on communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
 - This is available for free at the website: <http://www.ada.gov/lawenfcomm.htm>

MENTAL ILLNESS

- **Crisis Intervention**
 - College of the Redwoods – may be available in multimedia format (DVD)
 - Provides law enforcement officers with the ability to deal more effectively with mentally ill persons and crisis conditions.
 - Also includes behavior indicators, practical aspects of disability awareness.
 - Website: http://www.post.ca.gov/Publications/Course_Catalog/2524.asp
- **Mental Illness and Law Enforcement Training**
 - Power point presentation addressing the goals of law enforcement training.
 - Available for free download at the website: <http://www.mhcbc.org/Colorado%20Section%201.ppt>
- **NAMI New Jersey Programs: Law Enforcement Education Program**
 - Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) is a NAMI NJ program dedicated to ensuring that law enforcement officers and recruits receive mental illness education
 - This website provides the links to a power point presentation, class handout, true stories, as well as other components to the training program.
 - Materials are developed and copyrighted by NAMI New Jersey -- and are available free of charge to any individual or agency.
 - Website: <http://www.naminj.org/programs/lee/lee.html>
 - Contact info: Kathleen Considine
NAMI NJ
Director of Affiliate and Professional Training
Email: kconsidine@naminj.org
Phone: 800-706-0316

- **Police Contact with the Mentally Ill. St. Petersburg, Florida. St. Petersburg Police Department**
 - Training video provided by the St. Petersburg Police Department.
 - Training regarding strategies for contacts with mentally ill persons presented to the St. Petersburg Police Department.
 - Course summary includes: The Interface between Law Enforcement and the Behavioral Healthcare System; Characteristics of Mental Illnesses, Emotional Disturbances and Mental Retardation; Methods of Interaction; The Effects of Medications; The Baker Act; Assessment Techniques; Intervention Techniques; and Referral.
 - The course pack is available to download at website:
<http://www.ptb.state.il.us/resources/general1.pdf>
 - Contact info: Website: <http://www.stpete.org/police/>
Training division Phone: 727- 893-7661

- **Violence and Mental Illness: A Community Solution.**
 - National Crime Prevention Council, the National Sheriff's Association, and Radio Shack
 - Video exploring answers to common misconceptions and providing clear suggestions for positive resolutions to volatile situations as law enforcement officers and members of the community are responding to more and more situations involving mental illness.
 - PDF Document can be downloaded: www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/Uploadfile/pdfs/CIT_Training.pdf
 - Contact info: 800-858-8557

- **IMPROVING POLICE RESPONSE TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: A Progressive Approach** (Price \$38)
 - By Thomas J. Jurkanin, Larry T. Hoover, Vladimir A. Sergevnin, Published 2007.
 - Written specifically for the book, each chapter addresses a given critical component, including social policy, police response alternatives, training, legal constraints, and cooperative agreements with mental health service providers.
 - Designed for police practitioners, mental health professionals, and scholars of social policy.
 - Available for purchase at the website:
http://www.ccthomas.com/details.cfm?P_ISBN13=9780398077785

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- **Police Training to People With Mental Illness or Developmental Disability, POST Training Instructor's Guide** - 2002 (includes Video and CD)
 - Training handbook
 - Information on purchasing can be found at the following website – the prices vary depending on what is purchased. This website includes a brochure and ordering form:
<http://www.ntis.gov/pdf/pr1000.pdf>
 - Website: <http://disability-abuse.com/cando/documents/MaterialsList0607.doc>

JOURNAL ARTICLES /SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING MATERIALS

The Memphis Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is an innovative police based first responder program that has become nationally known as the “Memphis Model” of pre-arrest jail diversion for those in a mental illness crisis. This program provides law enforcement based crisis intervention training for helping those individuals with mental illness. Involvement in CIT is voluntary and based in the patrol division of the police department. In addition, CIT works in partnership with those in mental health care to provide a system of services that is friendly to the individuals with mental illness, family members, and the police officers.

- This website has several references and links to relevant articles:
<http://cit.memphis.edu/Publications.htm>
- Other relevant references may be found at the following website:
<http://mhlp.fmhi.usf.edu/web/mhlp/mhlpcontent.cfm?item=136>

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Deputies dump paralyzed man from wheelchair**
 - About YouTube Video: The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said that one of their own deputies is in trouble after she was caught on tape dumping a quadriplegic man out of his wheelchair while he was being booked into jail. Investigators say Deputy Charlotte Marshall Jones is suspended without pay after the January 29, 2008 incident, which involved 32-year-old Brian Sterner, who is a quadriplegic. Video shows Deputy Jones dumping Sterner out of his wheelchair and onto the floor while she is booking him into the Hillsborough County Jail. The tape also shows the deputy then searching Sterner as he lay on the floor.
 - Website: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAGb7_g4Aso
- **Rhode Island Torch Run**
 - About Website: The Torch Run is not a road race, it is a series of torch relays in which police, fire and correctional officers will carry the "Flame of Hope" to the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics Rhode Island State Summer Games. The Rhode Island Torch Run Committee promotes greater opportunities for persons with mental retardation and shows the community at large the true meaning of sport and pure joy in life. The Torch Run Committee raises funds and promotes awareness of the Special Olympics movement statewide.
 - Website: http://www.specialolympicsri.org/torch_run.html

*This list was compiled by:
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