



Anne Arundel County Police Department  
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[www.aacounty.org/police](http://www.aacounty.org/police)



**Timothy J. Altomare**  
Chief of Police

May 22, 2017

Ms. Rebecca Rienzi,  
Executive Director, Pathfinders for Autism  
303 International Circle, #110  
Cockeysville, MD 21020

Ms. Rienzi,

Thank you for Pathways for Autism assisting with our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training which, Shelly & Drew are an intricate part. Shelly and Drew's team-work in teaching Autism Awareness is unbelievable. I am happy to know that they are always there to work with us and are always a part of our training program.

Their curriculum teaches all aspects of our 40-hour program in 2 hours. They communicate the empathy that we expect from officers. They bring a family and consumer aspect that cannot be duplicated and further the de-escalation skills and techniques they explain are invaluable. Their Autism Awareness class is the cornerstone of our 40-hour CIT training. As a parent of a child with hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy I personally relate to their passion to help all children and families.

I cannot say enough good things and how valuable Shelly & Drew are to our program. However, more importantly this is what the students said in their evaluations of their class:

"This was excellent. Very powerful and eye opening. I was so glad that you explained that random words might just be them verbally sorting through each thought."

"Awesome instructors very detailed. Made it more interesting because they both have children with autism."

"Good instructors worked well together and feed off of one another to keep topic interesting."

"The two instructors work and present well together."

"Heavy topic dealt with humor, well done, great team work."

"Great Instructors/Presentation"

"Very good presentation"

"Energetic presenters, personal experiences"

"Instructors very insightful!"

"Great presenters and very detailed information on autism, very well received"

"Great information, well crafted-presented with energy and first-hand knowledge!"

"A well-rehearsed and coordinated team. Tag teamed presentation with humor, passion and actual relationships with disabled. Super Job."

The Anne Arundel County CIT Unit and Anne Arundel County Police Department thank Pathfinders for Autism and Shelly & Drew, for their service. You are always there for us.

Thanks Again,

Lieutenant Steven Thomas  
Crisis Intervention Team  
Anne Arundel County Police