In Maryland, 1 out of every 52 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.

“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

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 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.

We have different curricula specific for each audience:
- Patrol Officers
- Corrections Officers
- Fire/EMS
- Investigators/Detectives
- Interrogators
- Hostage Negotiators
- Child Advocacy Centers
- SROs
- Parole & Probation Officers
- Dispatchers
- State’s Attorneys/Public Defenders

“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

235 Schilling Circle, Suite 103 Hunt Valley, MD 21031
Help Line 443.330.5341 • Office 443.330.5370
www.pathfindersforautism.org

For more information, contact: Shelly McLaughlin, Program Director
smclaughlin@pfamd.org