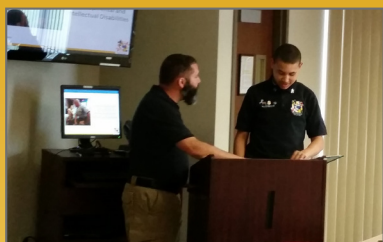




First Responder Training Program

Understanding Autism and Other Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In Maryland, 1 out of every 49 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.

Law Enforcement

2 hr P44952, 3 hr P45690, 4 hr P45689, 6 hr P45688

Corrections

2 hr C17750, 3 hr C18014, 4 hr C18013

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. Brian Woodward, Training Services Supervisor, Frederick Co. Sheriff's Office*

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

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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



Safety Training Program

Understanding Autism and Other Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

PFA offers an array of industry trainings, community-based workshops and initiatives to promote safety practices and safer interactions between professionals, caregivers and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or other Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Each curriculum is designed to address the specific information most critical to a particular job and audience.

Trainings for Professionals

Our professional trainings cover the characteristics of ASD/IDD as they relate to communication strategies, sensory issues, social interaction and behavior; de-escalation techniques; reasonable accommodations; and other job-specific relevant information.

- Law Enforcement (P#s for 2, 3, 4 and 6 hour classes)
- Corrections (C#s for 2, 3 and 4 hour classes)
- Fire/EMS (MIEMSS Certified)
- Child Protective Services (CPS) / Adult Protective Services (APS)
- States Attorney / Public Defenders / Attorneys General
- Judges
- Court Clerks
- State Treasury Agents
- Search and Rescue Dog Handlers
- Dispatchers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

We also have a team of self-advocate co-instructors that are available to supplement any training given by department staff.

Trainings for Self-Advocates

• Community Safety

This training brings local police together with teens and adults with ASD/IDD. The training provides opportunities for law enforcement and self-advocates to engage in activities that promote positive interactions as well as discuss basic community safety. We can offer this training in a variety of settings using various methods, including *Be Safe*.

Trainings for Caregivers

• When They Wander or Run Away

This workshop addresses reasons why individuals might elope and offers safety preventive measures caregivers can put into place. Some parents believe that technology is their only solution, but we explain why parents need to address multiple aspects of elopement. We share our Safety Kits and explain how each tool can benefit families. If their child goes missing, we detail what information will be most beneficial to the responding police.



• Promoting Positive Interactions with Law Enforcement

At Pathfinders for Autism, we have been training law enforcement on how to best interact with individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities since 2012. As a part of PFA's continuing commitment to promoting positive relationships between those with disabilities and the law enforcement community, we feel there is a need for a holistic approach to this critical conversation. We assemble a panel of law enforcement officers and self-advocates to discuss tips to help ensure everyone's safety.

To view PFA's Safety Resources, please visit pathfindersforautism.org/resources/safety/