

Train Law Enforcement departments and first responders to develop Department Models, Values, and Principles

- Starting a partnership between Law Enforcement and the disability community.
- Building a bridge between the black and brown communities and first responders; and
- Providing information and tools for the entire community to collaborate and effectively address these life-or-death matters.

Law Enforcement and first responders will be trained by experiencing very sensory activities including virtual reality.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable in Law Enforcement encounters and emergencies due to features of their disorder.

The training is a hands-on training that helps law enforcement professionals recognize the signs of I/DD and respond to the needs of this population, to improve outcomes for everyone involved.

This training includes more than autism; it focuses on features shared in most intellectual or developmental disabilities. We also compare and contrast autism and mental illness.

Experience Autism® Training Event

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable in Law Enforcement encounters and emergencies due to features of their disorder. Experience Autism® is an engaging hands-on training that helps law enforcement professionals recognize the signs of I/DD and respond to the needs of this population, to improve outcomes for everyone involved. This training includes more than autism; it focuses on features shared in most intellectual or developmental disabilities. Autism and mental illness is compared and contrasted. Experience Autism® prepares law enforcement, including school Law Enforcement, for real-life contact with individuals with disabilities. An independent study of effectiveness by Dr. Lilian Medina del Rio of Biola University found that Experience Autism® improves knowledge and helps officers feel better prepared to interact with individuals on the autism spectrum. This makes Experience Autism® the only independently validated, evidence-based Law Enforcement training in America. The training also prepares officers to meet, teach, and learn from youth and adults with I/DD at a BE SAFE Interactive Movie Screening. Hands-on Training for Law Enforcement Professionals The Experience Autism® training is active and empathy-based. Event activities are coordinated and facilitated by Experience Autism® creator Emily Iland and her son Tom Iland, a self-advocate, with the assistance of one or more local officers. • The Experience Autism® training is for up to 25 officers (from one agency or multiple agencies).

- officers will engage in four learning experiences that simulate what it is like to have features of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Down Syndrome, and related conditions.
- This training may be eligible for education/training credits arranged by one of the participating law enforcement agencies.

Experience Autism® Learning Objectives

Officers will:

1. Recognize and understand the social-communication, behavioral and sensory features of Autism Spectrum Disorders (and other IDD).
2. Understand the point of view of people with I/DD in different emergency situations.
3. Explore the use of specific techniques and responses that may be helpful for interacting with individuals with I/DD.
4. Discover how to improve outcomes and reduce risk during contact with individuals with I/DD.

For more information about the training program please contact Anita Tillman at atillman@greatervalley.org.