

POAC Autism Shield Training

Location: Department of Law & Public Safety Technology Complex
1200 Negron Drive, Hamilton, N.J. 08691

Dates: May 15, 2018

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Course Information:

Research shows that persons with autism and other developmental disabilities are approximately seven times more likely to come in contact with law enforcement than the general population. The actions or non-responsiveness of people with autism are almost always misinterpreted by untrained individuals. Inappropriate social responses and non-contextual emotional outbursts, commonly seen in people with autism, can cause confusion at best and spark conflict in worst case scenarios. The inability to follow complex or even simple directions during an emergency or crisis situation can lead to serious injury or worse. Without training and awareness of this condition, tragic consequences often ensue when effected individuals come in contact with first responders. However, these contacts can often be easily resolved when the officers and professionals involved have the information they need to navigate what can be a complex situation. The primary goal of this project is to enhance officer and citizen safety. Specifically this project will:

- Make law enforcement officers and first response professionals aware of the condition of autism, its symptoms, and the characteristics commonly seen in individuals who are affected.
- Provide information to enhance better recognition of a person with autism and response methods for officers in field situations.
- Identify public safety risks for people who have autism, predictable contacts, and 911 dispatches.
- Explain the problems that a higher functioning person with autism may have in criminal justice situations.
- Provide methods for law enforcement agencies to proactively work with individuals with autism, their families, and advocacy organizations and apply tolerance and public relations skills when doing so.

Target Audience

Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Law Enforcement, Health Care, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, Citizen/Community Volunteer, Security and Safety.

Registration is required: http://ready.nj.gov/training/pdf/20170811_training_application.pdf

Email completed registration forms to Kelly Boyd: lpboydk@gw.njsp.org or fax to: 609-671-0160

THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

Contact: Kelly Boyd, NJOEM, Access & Functional Needs Planner, for more information at office number 609-963-6900, ext. 6971.