

AAC 101 for First Responders

Presented by
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and
Mariesa Rang, MA, CF-SLP

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
7:00-8:00 pm EDT

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SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

The need:

People with disabilities have been documented as individuals who are frequent targets of crime (Petersilia, 2001; Bryen, Carrey, Frantz, 2003; Collier, McGhie-Richmond, Odette, Pyne, 2006). First responders frequently do not receive much training on how to interact with individuals who have disabilities and much less for individuals who use augmentative/alternative communication (AAC).

Meeting the need:

The presenters contacted various first responder groups in Northeast Indiana with an offer to in-service, free of charge, their employees as to what AAC is, how people with disabilities are often victims of crimes, and how first responders should interact with individuals who use AAC. A lecture of basic information was developed with the first responders in mind and presented to them. Following the lecture, scenarios (crimes, family disturbances, and medical need) were distributed with some individuals named as “responding officer” and the others as “victim.” The pairs were then to work together for 5-10 minutes with the information provided to resolve the situation with the “victim” using a communication system. Devices used ranged from low- to high-tech. When the participants came back to the large group setting, the scenarios and the first responders’ reactions to the interaction were discussed. Participants were then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. This format is being used to successfully train first responders in communicating with people who use AAC.

References:

- Bryen, D. N., Carey, A., & Frantz, B. (2003). Ending the silence: Adults who use augmentative communication and their experiences as victims of crimes. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 19(2), 125-134.
- Collier, B., McGhie-Richmond, D., Odette, F., & Pyne, J. (2006). Reducing the risk of sexual abuse for people who use augmentative and alternative communication. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 22(1), 62-75.
- Petersilia, J. (2001). Crime victims with developmental disabilities: A review essay. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 28(6), 655-694.
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PRESENTER BIOS:

Ms. Mankey is the director of the Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne Communication Disorders Clinic and Continuing Lecturer. She teaches the undergraduate course in Computer Applications in Speech/Language Pathology, supervises undergraduates during their first clinical semesters and started the annual IPFW AAC Poss-Abilities Theatre Camp in 2009 for individuals who use AAC for communication. She co-launched community outreach/education for first responders in regards to communication in emergency situations with individuals who use AAC.

Ms. Rang is a Limited Term Lecturer at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne where she teaches an undergraduate course in Introduction to Communicative Disorders. She will finish her certification (C's) in August 2017. She co-launched community outreach/education for first responders in regards to communication.

MODERATED BY BETSY CAPORALE

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- communicate information concerning AAC to individuals who work as first responders.
- reach first responders who need information on communicating with individuals who use AAC.
- describe ways to replicate the training for first responders in their own communities or whom to contact for the training

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

5 Minutes: Introduction of Speaker, USSAAC and topic

5 Minutes: Brief description of what sparked the interest in training first responders and how our program got started

15 Minutes: Description of what is included in power point presentation for first responders

15 Minutes: Description of scenarios used and how often officers practice communication techniques

10 Minutes: Overall reactions from officers to the training

5 Minutes: Wrap up

5 Minutes: Q &A

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ASHA Disclosures: Presenters have no financial or non-financial disclosures to report

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about USSAAC

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is the national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). As the United States' only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the entire AAC community, USSAAC provides an invaluable role, working to ensure that individuals who could benefit from AAC have access to the technology and services they need.

Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to:

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- Discount to 2018 ISAAC Conference – Australia
- SpeakUp publication/Blog
- Information updates on USSAAC website & social platforms
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