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Background

- De-escalation trainings have been implemented in response to controversial police use-of-force incidents¹ • 64 trainings spanning 4 decades
- Trainings are different in length, dosage, and evaluation of effectiveness²
- Few (n 4) incorporated situations involving individuals with disabilities
- Increasing events involving individuals with disabilities and first responders calls for the need to examine materials designed to prevent escalation and are focused on this group.

• The purpose of this study was to re-examine and modify, if needed, materials that could be incorporated into deescalation efforts.

Methods or Description of Program

- Collaborative reviewed existing materials including:
- Visor card for individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing to communicate with a first responder;
- Communication board that could be used by a first responder to communicate with an individual with a disability; and
- Additional materials that could be made available in trainings and/or with website access
- Drafts were reviewed by additional disability network partners with modifications made if identified
- Pilot trainings utilized the modified materials
- Materials were disseminated to individuals, first responders, schools, and other sectors during 2020-2021.



Updating First Responder Materials and Trainings to Prevent Escalation Events



DISABILITY OR I NEED TO SEE YOUR: **HAVE TROUBLE** UNDERSTANDING INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION This card will help you communicate with me. AND REGISTRATION QUICK COMMUNICATION TIPS: VIOLATIONS: · Get my attention first Make eve contact when you speak Speak clearly at a normal pace and to Do not shine a flashlight in my eyes. I may I may have memory problems and it may ake me longer to process what you are e best way to communicate with me is: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? A 🛺 🛒 🖧 🔝

The funding for this publication is provided, at taxpayer expense, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL); U.S. DHHS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); U.S. Department of Education (DOE), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). These contents are solely the responsibility of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of the funders. The Protection and Advocacy System for the state of WV.

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Many of the modifications made to the EMS communication card and visor card were cosmetic; however, some critical updates were incorporated through partner discussions and the review process including:

- **Other content changes:** may be experiencing

Dissemination Approach

- information.
- visitors, and others.

¹ Engel, R.S., McManus, H.D. and Herold, T.D., 2020. Does de-escalation training work? A systematic review and call for evidence in police use-of-force reform. Criminology & Public Policy, 19(3), pp.721-759.

² Engel, R.S., McManus, H.D. and Herold, T.D., 2019. The deafening demand for de-escalation training: a systematic review and call for evidence in police use of force reform. Unpublished manuscript. https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/IACP_UC_De-escalation% 20Systematic% 20Review.pdf. Accessed December, 4, p.2019.

Modifications

• **Cosmetic changes** included updated dates, broadened audience of first responder groups, adding partners

Adding other medical conditions that individuals with disabilities

• Ensuring disability groups were represented on the card

• Adding different scenarios that may be experienced by police, EMS, teachers in those respective settings

• Batching materials with information through a website was thought to be the most efficient and effective way to disseminate materials.

• Trainings conducted throughout the state to the various first responder groups began to include the new materials.

• To date, more than 14,878 communication boards and 8,200 visor cards have been disseminated to first responder groups through trainings or by email or other methods to provide the updated

• Overall, we have realized that our audience for these materials is broader than we originally anticipated. We have also disseminated these materials to pediatricians, special education teachers, home

• We recommend sharing the materials broadly with those audiences and then following up with information such as: How to use the materials effectively, how to expand your reach, and how to ensure you have the materials with you in the time of need.

References