

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2011**

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 130, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. Members of the Task Force Subcommittee in attendance were Dr. Cheryl May, Chair, Mr. Bud Gray, and Ms. Dawn Itzkowitz.

Dr. May opened the subcommittee meeting. Dr. May explained the subcommittee's primary focus is on any issues specific to autism spectrum disorder as pertinent to first responders.

**Update on Law School Resource Officer Training**

Ms. Larance Johnson, Division Coordinator, For Safe Schools Initiative, Criminal Justice Institute was recognized to give an update on school resource officer (SRO) training. Ms. Johnson said the SRO program provides education to school resource officers, local law enforcement officers, school personnel and administrators to assist in reducing student violence and student violence-related behaviors. She said CJI offers a two hour block within the SRO program on understanding students with autism. CJI worked with Partners for Inclusive Communities on developing a seven hour course for law enforcement officers that offers introductory to autism spectrum disorder. Ms. Johnson said CJI received positive response from law enforcement officers who took the introductory course. Ms. Johnson said CJI is working on an on-line E-Learning curriculum for SRO's and first responders. It includes a series of refresher courses in the E-Learning curriculum and introductory to autism spectrum disorder. The focus will be SRO's but the information can be accessed by all law enforcement officers and first responders. Ms. Johnson will email the curriculum to the members of the Subcommittee. She feels the curriculum can be adapted for first responders.

**Update on Law Enforcement Training Opportunity**

Mr. Charles Ellis, Arkansas Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission was recognized. Mr. Ellis explained his department conducts six basic law enforcement classes each year and train approximately 350 officers in a 12 week course. He said his department added additional time to the block of instruction to include handouts and a video that covers persons with autism. In addition to the basic training academy, they conduct a number of specialized courses such as the instructor development course and the dispatch training course. The instructor development course allows a qualified law enforcement officer that is certified by the standards office to become an instructor and conduct training for law enforcement officers. The 9-1-1 dispatch training course is currently being developed to identify individuals with special needs. These courses should be on the web-site by the end of 2011.

### **Demonstration of Smart 9-1-1 System**

Mr. Bud Gray, Operations Manager, North Little Rock Emergency Services was recognized to give a PowerPoint presentation on the Smart 9-1-1 System. Mr. Gray explained when 9-1-1 is dialed, dispatchers gets very limited information on who is calling. The Smart 9-1-1 system is able to provide more detailed information when an individual calls for help. With Smart 9-1-1, the person's picture could pop up along with medical history, location of residence, allergies, and details about their home environment. Mr. Gray explained when a call comes in that a child with autism is missing, Smart 9-1-1 will have the child's picture and detailed information to help emergency crews. Smart 9-1-1 would allow a person to input information they choose into a secure database free of charge. Smart 9-1-1 would also provide Next Generation (NG911) mobile device for callers to text message and download videos of a crime or images of a suspect to 9-1-1. With a cellular phone, callers who are hearing impaired or having an asthma attack will be able to text message 9-1-1.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.