

Adult Subcommittee Meeting #3  
September 16, 2008

In attendance: Joe Carter, Chairman; Lonnie Williams, ADAP Staff Attorney; Lory Hemby, Dept. of Mental Health-Certification Program; Brooke Stephens, Director of Triumph Services; and Jennifer Muller, Autism Society of Alabama.

Quest: Lieutenant Doyle of the Birmingham Police Department –Southside Precinct

The areas this committee are to address: living (residential services-the range, in- home, companion and respite), officer training, transition (need to coordinate with 6-21), VR/employment. We met at the Birmingham Southside Police Precinct today to begin the discussion around law enforcement training specific to autism.

Jennifer spoke about the project recently related to this completed by West AL Mental Health and our contact with Whitney Meade. Joe would like to get contact info for both.

Things to consider: the times when a person with ASD would encounter law enforcement: reporting a crime, witnessing a crime, meltdown, teaching safety in the community

Lonnie was a police officer before attending law school.

APOST is the set training for officers in Alabama. Certain state standards have to be met. The different departments have different academies. Guest instructors are allowed at APOST and officers are required to do continuing education training.

We talked about the use of local providers, ASA chapters, and community mental health centers in training so the police would have local contacts. We discussed the possibility of these groups surveying law enforcement to see in what circumstances they have encountered individuals with ASD. The training curriculum should include a resource directory.

Joe reported that Indiana has passed a public law regarding law enforcement training specific to autism. Joe will try to get what Indiana has related to this. We talked about a change in the law that would require training every few years.

Dennis Debbault in Florida is recognized as an expert in this area, could we use him as a consultant?

Joe asked if Lory would look into what has been done in California.

We should look at the Community Mental Health model for case advocacy. Right now people have access to these individuals if they have MR/MI and SA. This will leave out our higher functioning people and people with AS.

Awareness is also a critical issue. Look at viewpoint-asking if someone has autism. Get out and be involved in community's message.

We were joined by Lieutenant Doyle from the Birmingham Police Department. Joe briefed her on the creation of the Task Force and the goals of our subcommittee.

The Lieutenant spoke of their disability training and its focus on Mental Health. They have CSOs who are basically social workers. There is at least 1 at each police precinct and they call them in. They would be the contact people.

A captain would be over all shifts, they have field training officers in the field and they would train others. This would a mandatory training for all FTOs and shift managers.

Smaller municipalities would also have FTOs. Most of them would also have at least 1 CSO.

The head CSO is Greg Tucker and he is 254-2793 and he is the supervisor for their other FTOs and he works out of this precinct.

Brooke will try to get the list of CSOs.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20. Joe will try to schedule the next meeting for mid October.