
Disability Awareness: Crisis Intervention for Police

Dealing with individuals with autism or intellectual disabilities in an informed manner can make a big difference in the outcome of a crisis situation. This training will help police officers and civic volunteers who work with police departments learn how to recognize the symptoms that people with autism may experience when overwhelmed or afraid. These symptoms might easily be misunderstood as appearing 'under the influence,' or the individual may appear to be ignoring or threatening the police officer, or non-compliant to an officer's orders. Recognizing the symptoms of autism and dealing with a person based on those observations can lead to a much better outcome.

We'll also discuss the importance of body language, language used, eye contact, and proxemics when responding to persons with disabilities who are in crisis situations. Participants will gain techniques for communicating with people who have autism, intellectual disability, and those who are 'non-verbal'.

Dean Swartz
Behavior Specialist
Clermont County

T. Dean Swartz graduated from Morehead State University in 1989 with Bachelor's in Psychology. He currently works as a Behavior Specialist for the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. He has had the honor of serving and supporting people with intellectual/developmental disabilities since 1985.

His background includes providing program management, behavior support, and direct service to many individuals, including as a QMRP - a qualified intellectual disability (formerly known as mental retardation) professional. Dean has worked in a variety of settings including residential, school, and sheltered workshop environments. He also provides consultation on a variety of topics in the field.

Dean does trainings in the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky area on a wide range of subjects including Behavior Support, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Structured Environments, Trauma Informed Care, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. His teaching approach is rooted in dignity and respect, but Dean believes we can all benefit from a little laughter and kindness.