

# Communication: Encouraging Liberty and Justice For All

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## Disclosure Statements

- Both presenters received complimentary conference registrations and financial compensation for travel expenses.
- The presenters have no other relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

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## Learning Objectives

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

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Imagine...

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How this all started...

- AAC World (permission granted by Holland-Bloorview Kids' Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto, Canada)
  - First held in 2013
  - Representative from Indiana State Police attended in 2014
  - Representative from Southwest Fire District attended in 2016
- Initial first responder training was held in August 2016

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How We Got the Word Out

- Representative from Southwest Fire District was the catalyst
- FWFD: video in November 2016
- Allen County Sheriff Department: 5 in-services in January 2017
- Fort Wayne Police Department: 10 in-services in August 2017
- Began traveling around Indiana in summer 2018
  - 80+ training sessions have been held in 30+ cities & towns
  - Nearly 2000 first responders have been trained

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### Format of The Presentation

- One hour lecture
- 5-10 minutes of scenarios
- 5 minutes wrap-up
- 5 minutes of Q & A

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### Format of The Presentation

- Within the one hour lecture we cover:
  - What is AAC?
    - No tech/low tech/medium tech/high tech
    - Access methods
  - Populations of individuals who may use AAC (peds and adults)

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### Format of The Presentation

- Within the one hour lecture we cover:
  - Misconceptions
    - If the person can't talk, they probably aren't aware, or smart, or competent or... you fill in the blank. (Prejudice)
    - A talking person can give better information (Prejudice)
    - It isn't worth the time it takes to get the message (Impatience or emergency situation)
    - "It isn't real life to wait so long for someone to say something." (It is for them.)

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### Format of The Presentation

- Within the one hour lecture we cover:
  - Why does it matter?
    - Reports of abuse on school buses
    - Deaf young woman in FW
    - ER nurse with Deaf young man in FW

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### Format of The Presentation

- Within the one hour lecture we cover:
  - Crime statistics
    - "People with developmental disabilities have a 4-10 times higher risk of becoming a crime victim than people without a disability." & "Children with any kind of disability are more than twice as likely as nondisabled children to be physically abused and almost twice as likely to be sexually abused." (Petersilia 2001)
  - Bryen, Carey, & Frantz (2003) found that:
    - 39% reported enduring a physical attack
    - 39% reported experiencing unwanted sexual touch
    - 28% reported being threatened of sexual assault or harm
    - 22% reported being forced to have sex
    - 17% reported being forced to touch someone sexually

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### Video Examples

- Casey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciUMZrfaYjk>
- Bryanna: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ahvfK3JPnk>
- Kevin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B50gUwhRyXc>
- Mike: [https://youtu.be/2kR2dHPY\\_CE](https://youtu.be/2kR2dHPY_CE)

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### What we cover

• Scenario Example:

- RESPONDING OFFICER: You are called for a 911 call with no response when the dispatcher answers. The dispatcher reports hearing sounds coming from the victim's home, but cannot understand anything other than "my my my" from the caller.
- VICTIM: You suffered a stroke five years ago. Your only intelligible word is "my." Your wife fell about 10 minutes ago in the downstairs bathroom and her body is against the door so you cannot get to her to see if she is ok. She has had no other health problems to this point and takes only vitamins.

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### What we cover

• Following the scenarios:

- Q & A about how they solved their scenarios
- Provided additional tips (wheelchair info)
- Invited them to attend other AAC activities on our campus
- Post-training survey

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### Research Study

- Pre-and-post training surveys were used to collect data from over 800 participants to gauge effectiveness and value of the training
- Verbal comments

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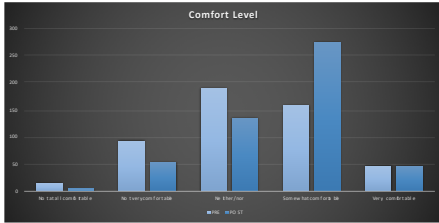
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### RESEARCH DATA: COMFORT LEVEL



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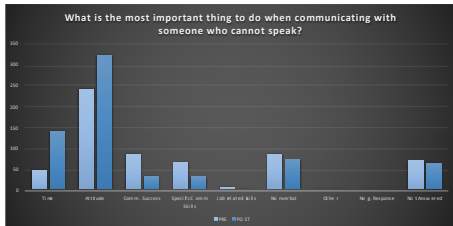
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### RESEARCH DATA: Open Ended Question #3



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### Call To Action!

- We can't do it all ourselves!!!
- New website with all of our training materials: [www.fraac.com](http://www.fraac.com)
  - Materials are free for you to use in your own communities!
  - Please share this with your colleagues!
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