A Community-Partnership Initiative:



PACT: Police Autism Community Training

Abbey Love, Suzannah Williams, & Autism Society of the Bluegrass







Our Roots



Autism Society of the Bluegrass Supporting families in Central Kentucky





Does not always understand social rules

Feels stressed by unpredictable situations

Has limited and restricted interests



Needs a longer processing time

Is graduating high school and will be relying on community supports







"Autistic boy held on ground by officers" – 2017; Arizona

"Florida police officer charged in shooting of autistic man's caregiver"; 2016; Florida (time.com)

"Teen with autism struck, killed by car" – 2017; Cold Spring, Kentucky

"Arrest of Autistic Man Prompts Call for Police Training"; 2015; South Carolina (wyff4.com)

"Shalom Larson, an 8-year-old Louisville boy who loved hugging people he just met, wandered from a relative's home last summer and drowned." 2017; Louisville, KY

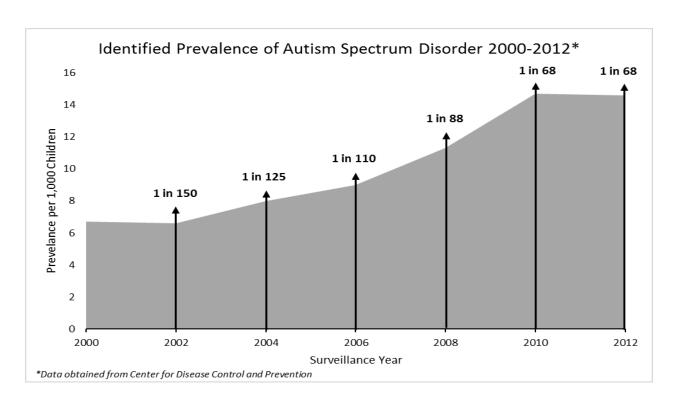


Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Causes differences in the way the brain processes
- Affects understanding and use of language to interact and communicate with people
- Thought to be a "hidden" disability for some has no physical characteristics
- Not a mental illness a developmental disorder
- Knows no bias affects all races, ethnicities, socioeconomic groups



Prevalence & History of Autism Diagnosis



49% of individuals with ASD wander or elope



A conversation

In October 2016, a parent and I started a conversation with Lexington's Police Chief.



A training

Our first training was a 15-minute presentation to Lexington Police Officers



A state-wide initiative

Within one year, we had trained approximately 870 first responders and held 11 community meet and greets.



Partnership and continued service

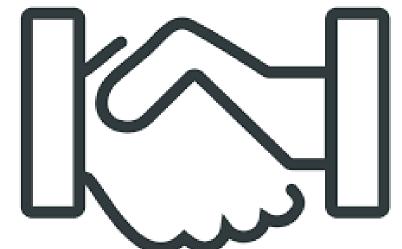
We have established partnership s and supported others completing similar trainings in:

- Louisville
- Ohio
- Kansas
- Florida
- Australia
- United Kingdom



A true PARTNERSHIP

Trainings for first responders



Meet &
Greets for
our
community



Next steps: Lexington as an "Autism friendly community"













For more information or questions, please contact:

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