Law Enforcement and the Autism/ID/DD Community

“Learning from each other, navigating together”

Officer Laurie Reyes
Montgomery County Department of Police
Montgomery County, Maryland

1997-Started with Montgomery County Police as a patrol officer in the Wheaton District.

2004- Autism/IDD (Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities Outreach Officer

Project Lifesaver Coordinator
The Montgomery County Police Autism, Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities (ID,DD) Outreach Program

Began in an effort to address the growing calls for those who were the focus of critically missing persons calls due to wandering/elopement but has since grown to provide outreach and support in response to more than just calls for elopement but general calls for service.

Montgomery County Autism/ID/DD Outreach Program.

EDUCATION
OUTREACH
FOLLOW UP
EMPOWERMENT
RESPONSE
Officer Training
Montgomery County Department of Police

All Incoming Recruits
CIT Officers
ESU Officers
Use of Self Advocates

This curriculum is developed and instructed, in house, by officers that have first hand experience in search and rescue as well as the dynamics of having positive/effective interactions with the Autism/ID/DD communities.

Community Events
Education and Understanding
Through Exposure…

Autism/DD Night Out
A Safety Fun for individuals with Autism and their Families/Caretakers

Friday, May 19th, 2017
6:00pm-9:00pm
Montgomery County Police Training Academy

Spectacular Kids Night!
Help us promote autism awareness & support families of children with special needs

Thursday, June 25, 2015
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
IHOP
2000 Century Blvd., Germantown, MD
Media Outreach Builds Awareness

Local
(TV, Radio, Department Media Section)

National
(TV, print, radio)

Social Media
(Facebook, Twitter, Department website)
Caregiver/ Self Advocate Participation

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AS OUTREACH

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (RIDE ON/METRO SYSTEMS)

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

LOCAL HOSPITALS/NATIONAL HOSPITALS

NURSING HOMES/GROUP HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EMPOWERMENT

The program recognizes individuals, community members, caregivers and officers who are making a difference.

EMPOWERMENT!!

Meeting the Vice President as part of the White House Champion’s of Change Awards
Officer “Education” through exposure…

Learning from each other…

Introductions / Interactions
I am pleased and proud to say that we just began a new block of instruction with our graduating students.

The program uses officers experiences as well as the Be Safe curriculum to give the students an extensive overview of how to be safe in the community and have positive interactions with law enforcement.

Wandering/Elopement Concerns...
The Montgomery County Department of Police averages **2-4 searches a week** for critically missing individuals.

Most of those searches are for individuals affected by **Autism/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Alzheimer’s/Dementia**.

We locate many missing persons before caregivers realize they are missing.

**MCPD Wandering Prevention Safety Kit/Safety Shirts**

These shirts are **ONLY** designed for those that **Can Not** Speak for themselves **and** are at immediate risk!
MCPD SUPPORTS AUTISM AWARENESS

An awesome person with Autism might be a passenger in this car.
In the event of an emergency check the glove box for additional information.
Prepare a 911 script

What info may be helpful in the event of an elopement?

Include a Google Map of your area and mark off possible destinations of travel as well as bodies of WATER!

WHY TRACKING TECHNOLOGY IS THE LAST STEP IN SAFETY?

GPS Tracking vs. RF Tracking
Ways To Ensure Positive Interactions with Police and First Responders

“Officer can I show you my ID Bracelet?”
“Can I tell you a little about me?”

ID BRACELETS...
WEIGHING SAFETY VS INDEPENDENCE
Why should I have my child get used to showing an officer their ID bracelet?

There may be “BUMPS” on the road to Independence, our job is to make the bumps navigable.
Make it a habit to introduce your loved one to police officers/ fire rescue personnel, we can all learn from each other.

Ask if it’s ok to take a picture with the officer

KEY SAFETY SKILLS

1. **FOLLOW** the law to be safe
2. **STAY** where you are when you meet the police
3. **KEEP** your hands to yourself (don’t touch their stuff).
4. **WHEN** the police tell you to do something, do it.
5. **TELL** the police about your disability.
6. **TELL** where you are when you call 911
7. **DON’T** run from the police
“Officer can I show you my ID Bracelet?”
“Can I tell you a little about me?”

ID BRACELETS...

ID CARDS

Don’t hesitate to say hello, ask to introduce yourself to officers in the community.

“Self Disclosure”

You can help the Police by explaining a little about yourself as soon as you can after we meet

How it helps the POLICE help YOU

How it may help somebody else?
Autism Legislation
Local/National
ICD-9 House Bill
Coverage for “wandering safety tools”

NIH / IACC
Avante’s Law
Ethan’s Law

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Lifesaver

Questions or concerns?
Please contact:
Officer Laurie Reyes
Officer Tara Wimmer

Laurie.Reyes@montgomerycountymd.gov
Tara.Wimmer@montgomerycountymd.gov