TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS

AN ADAPTED SURVEY FOR FLORIDIANS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

EASY READ

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PROJECT: TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can also have mental health issues.

These issues may include symptoms like being depressed or anxious.

If a person has both I/DD and a mental health issue, they have a **dual diagnosis**.

Sometimes people with a dual diagnosis need emergency help.

The people who arrive quickly to help are trained in emergencies. They are called **first responders**.

What is a first responder?

A first responder is someone who is trained how to act in an emergency.

An emergency might be an accident, fire, medical problem, crime, or any situation that puts people in danger.

First responders are usually the first people to arrive when someone needs emergency help.

A first responder might provide medical treatment, rescue, safety, or other needed help.

Examples of first responders are police, firefighters, ambulance teams, and mental health professionals.

Challenges with first responders

People with a dual diagnosis can face problems if they need help during an emergency. There are many reasons why.

- ***A dual diagnosis can make people behave in ways that are difficult for themselves and for first responders.***
- ***A dual diagnosis can lead to challenges in communication during an emergency.***
- ***Sometimes the help given to people with a dual diagnosis during an emergency is more restrictive than needed.***
- ***Sometimes first responders do not know much about how to help people with a dual diagnosis during an emergency.***

What will this project do?

This project will improve how first responders help people with a dual diagnosis in Florida.

The project will answer the following questions:

- ***What are the best ways to help people with a dual diagnosis during an emergency?***
- ***What training can be given to first responders who serve people with a dual diagnosis?***
- ***What are the best ways to improve communication between first responders and people with a dual diagnosis?***
- ***How can first responders help people with a dual diagnosis calm down when upset?***

Why are we interested in what you think?

Your opinion will provide people with a dual diagnosis with better ways to get the help they need during an emergency.

Your opinion can lead to changes in how first responders help people with a dual diagnosis.

What do you think about training first responders in Florida?

The pages that follow will ask you questions. Your answers will help us understand how you feel about how this project will improve emergency first response for dual diagnosis in Florida.

The Council will not share your answers.

Training First Responders Survey

ABOUT YOU

AGE:

- ☐ LESS THAN 18
- ☐ AGE 18 – 24
- ☐ AGE 25-34
- ☐ AGE 35-44
- ☐ AGE 45-54
- ☐ AGE 55-64
- ☐ 65 OR OVER
- ☐ PREFER NOT TO SAY

GENDER:

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER?

- ☐ FEMALE
- ☐ MALE

SELF-IDENTIFY
(PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW)

PLEASE SPECIFY:

_____

_____

- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

Training First Responders Survey

(Continued)

ABOUT YOU

RACE:

- ☐ AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
- ☐ ASIAN
- ☐ BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
- ☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
- ☐ WHITE
- ☐ TWO OR MORE RACES SOME OTHER RACE
- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

ETHNICITY:

- ☐ HISPANIC
- ☐ LATINO
- ☐ NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO
- ☐ DIFFERENT ETHNICITY (PLEASE STATE):

_____

_____

- ☐ I PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

Training First Responders Survey

(Continued)

ABOUT YOU

AFFILIATION/ROLE:

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITY
- ☐ FAMILY MEMBER OR CAREGIVER
- ☐ SERVICE PROVIDER
- ☐ K-12 EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ STATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE
- ☐ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):

_____

_____

COUNTY WHERE YOU LIVE:

_____

_____

Your Opinion

1. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS IN FLORIDA?

A. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT WILL HELP THEM STAY IN THEIR HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES AND OUT OF HOSPITALS, CRISIS UNITS, AND OTHER SEGREGATED/ISOLATED SETTINGS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRAIN FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING POLICE OFFICERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ABOUT DIFFERENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND ABOUT HOW TO BEST SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REVIEW FLORIDA LAWS RELATED TO HOW FIRST RESPONDERS HELP PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS DURING AN EMERGENCY. LAWS MAY NEED TO BE CHANGED OR ADDED.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

Your Opinion (Continued)

2. IS MY WORK ON THE TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS PROJECT MEANINGFUL?

A. PEOPLE LISTEN AND RESPECT WHAT I SAY ABOUT EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE FOR DUAL DIAGNOSIS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. MY WORK ON THIS PROJECT IS A GOOD USE OF MY TIME.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. WE GET A LOT OF WORK DONE AT THESE MEETINGS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

D. THE WORK THAT COMES FROM THIS PROJECT WILL HELP TRAIN FIRST RESPONDERS WHO MAY HELP PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

E. THE TRAINING THAT COMES FROM THIS PROJECT IS A GOOD WAY TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND KEEP PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS OUT OF HOSPITALS, CRISIS UNITS, AND OTHER SEGREGATED/ISOLATED SETTINGS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

Your Opinion (Continued)

3. THE NEXT ITEMS HELP US UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE FOR DUAL DIAGNOSIS PROJECT.

A. THIS PROJECT WILL HELP EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS BETTER SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS IN FLORIDA.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

B. THIS WORK WILL RESULT IN MORE TRAINING IN EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS BECOMING AVAILABLE IN FLORIDA.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

C. THIS WORK WILL IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS TO OFFER THE RIGHT KIND OF HELP TO PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

D. OVER TIME, THIS WORK WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW

E. OVER TIME, THIS WORK WILL RESULT IN CHANGES TO THE WAY PEOPLE WITH A DUAL DIAGNOSIS RECEIVE HELP DURING AN EMERGENCY.

- ☐ AGREE
- ☐ DISAGREE
- ☐ DON'T KNOW