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Spring 2023

Training Program for First Responders on Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Giles, Danielle, "Training Program for First Responders on Autism Spectrum Disorder" (2023).
Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student Capstone Posters. 14.
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Training Program for First Responders on Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Background and proposal process



- ★ Children with developmental disabilities are 7x more likely to encounter a first responder (Railey et al., 2020)
- ★ It is essential to ensure that first responders are equipped with the knowledge and tools to promote positive interactions with individuals with autism to reduce the risk of negative outcomes
- ★ OTs are qualified to support and advocate for meaningful and productive participation within the community to enhance quality of life for individuals with autism (Crabtree & Demchick, 2018)
- ★ I partnered with the Cuyahoga Board of DD to improve upon the police training program on autism spectrum disorder

Brief Bio

I have experience working with a variety of ages and diagnoses throughout my fieldwork and capstone experiences. I am passionate about working with children with developmental disabilities in the school, home and clinical settings. I strive to make therapy fun, engaging, and personalized to each individual to maximize motivation to learn new skills. I want to continue to advocate for occupational justice.

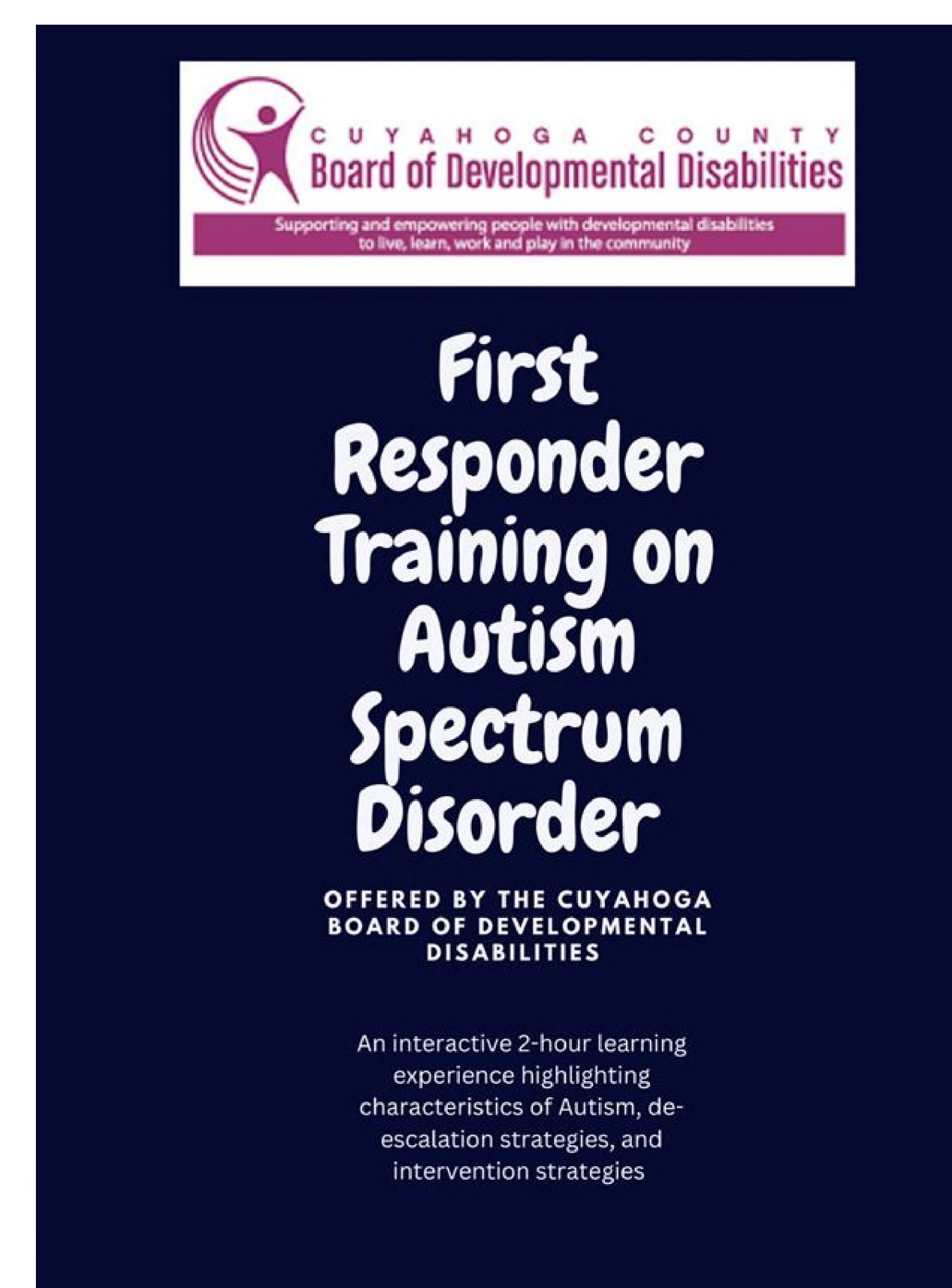


Capstone Video Presentation



Capstone activities

- ★ Enhanced and expanded the training program at Cuyahoga Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) for Cleveland Police Department on ASD to encompass information for all first responders
 - Researched best practices from a variety of sources and applied to the training program
 - Collaborated with key stakeholders to gain expertise and organized meetings with various professionals who have experience in developing autism training programs to help guide my program development
 - Observed and interviewed various professionals at CCBDD (OT's, Speech Therapists, Behavior Specialists, Psychologists, and Forensic Liaisons) to learn about their role working with individuals with autism and apply critical thinking skills for comprehensive program development
 - Interviewed parents/caregivers of individuals with autism to gain insight on what was essential to address in the program
 - Completed a De-escalation and Crisis Intervention Training with the ADAMHS board with various community partners



Final Outcomes

- ★ Created a variety of resources (handouts, communication boards, online documents with links) to help aid parents and first responders in creating positive interactions
 - Communication Log
 - Tips/Strategies for Creating Relationships with First Responders
 - Communication Board
 - De-escalation Strategies for First Responders
- ★ Researched and developed a list of items for sensory kits to create for future participants
 - Focused on items that are soothing as well as items to decrease overwhelming stimuli
- ★ Presented program to OT/PT professionals at CCBDD
- ★ Scheduled pilot of program with various local departments



Key references

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Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following people for assisting me throughout my experience: Lauren Baxter, Kate Movius, BCIS staff at CCBDD, Alisa Jones, and parents/caregivers that were willing to be interviewed.