

# Behavior Health Training for EMS Professionals

Presented by Utah FAN Representative  
Jeff Wilson, NREMT-P

In Association with Utah EMSC: Jared  
Wright, Tia Dickson, Mark Herrera, Hilary  
Hewes, and Sarah Becker

Contact information:  
[jeffwilson122615@gmail.com](mailto:jeffwilson122615@gmail.com)



2023 ALL-GRANTEE MEETING

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY GROWING COLLABORATION

# Speaker Disclosure

**“I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose.”**



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# Funding Acknowledgement

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# Pre-Hospital De-escalation Techniques and Suggestions

My history is with autism. My son is a 6 yr-old non-verbal with moderate functioning autism.

My son John has taught me several things. First: Understanding the child, and or situation will prevent behavioral problems. Example: ASL for John.

Second: John introduced me to sensory toys. I took several sensory toys to work to see how children would respond. In a trial and error experience, I learned that sensory popper toys are successful. Currently I am 100%.

Third: Other tools such as phones and tablets can keep children calm and be used to distract during transportation.

Finally: Playing games is key for cooperation.

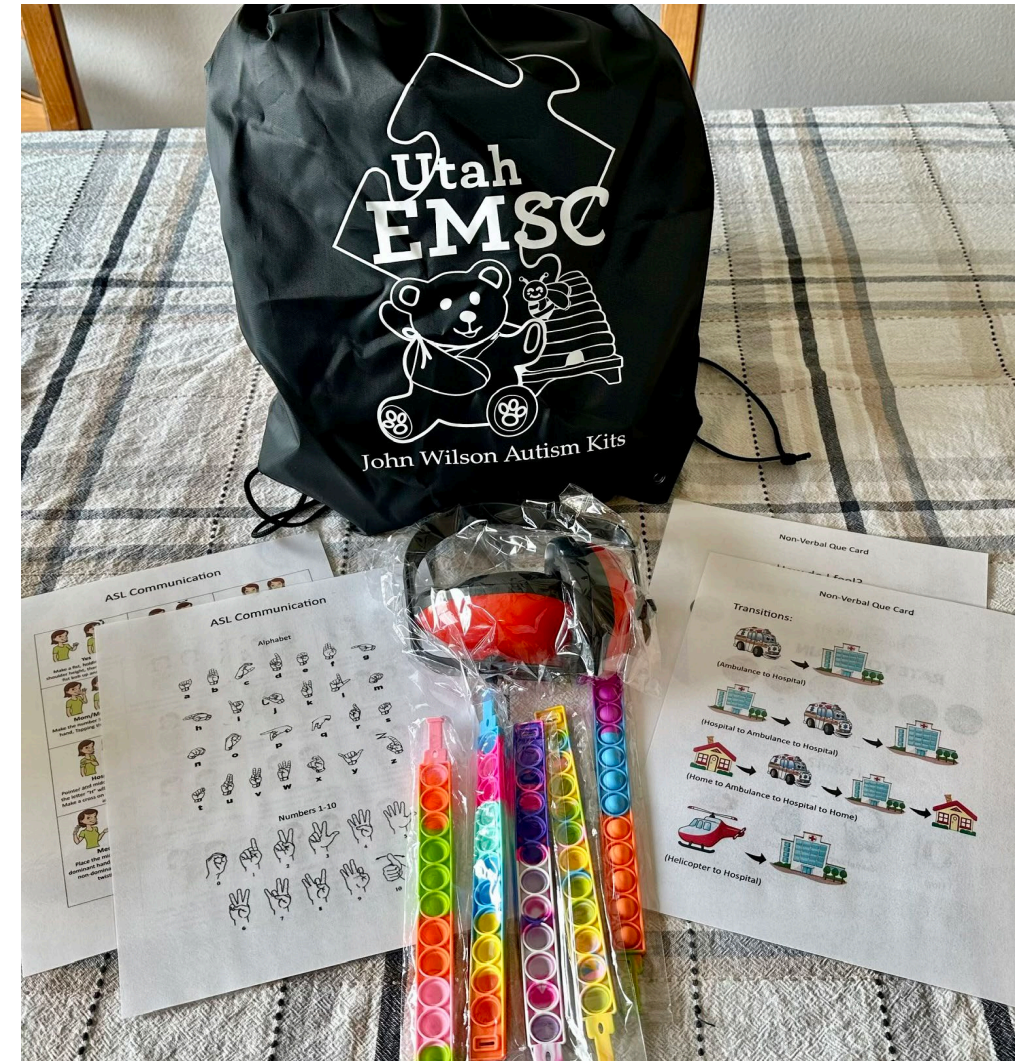


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# John Wilson Autism Mission

- In Utah we use John to teach first responders techniques and suggestions on how to function in special needs situations.
- This class is organized and ran by Utah EMSC. This is an in-person class. John comes to show how these children react with first responders. And is about one hour long.
- We created an autism kit. This kit is to be a help and guide for first responders in special needs, and behavioral issues.
- John Wilson Autism Kit: ASL sign board, Non-verbal cue card, Sensory popper toys, and Sound-cancelling headphones.
- We use the Utah PECC's to spread the word of these services.



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# Understanding

Keep it simple ..... When you eliminate confusion, you have cooperation.

Tools to understanding:

- Language guides, Example: ASL guide, and non-verbal guide.
- Toys, Example: Sensory poppers.
- Technology, Example: Phones and tablets.
- Playing games, Example: “Floor is Lava.”
- Contact: [jeffwilson122615@gmail.com](mailto:jeffwilson122615@gmail.com)



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# It Take A Village Project Autism Alert

Scott Stoller

South Carolina FAN Representative



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# Funding Acknowledgement

- Currently this project is not grant or federally funded.



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# Who is Scott?

- Husband to Jacki, a nurse and nursing instructor.
- Dad to Kathleen, a 28 year old with autism spectrum disorder, also a dog – Justice and cat – Spencer.
- Police officer, currently the Chief of Police with West Pelzer, SC
- Paramedic & paramedic instructor
- Volunteer firefighter
- Coordinator – Special Olympics SC medical team
- Paramedic – Special Olympics USA Games



# Project Autism Alert

Program started in 2021 to:

- Provide training to our officers on relating with those with ASD
- Alerting to responders of homes with a resident that has ASD
- Providing those with ASD and their families with opportunities to get to know their first responders in a non-emergency environment



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# Beginnings

- Based on several incidents through out the nation with law enforcement and subjects on the autism spectrum.
- Initial program started by a fellow police chief in Wellford, SC



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# Training

- Both David Green and I searched for a training program that would fulfill our needs for a training program at a reasonable cost.
- Florida Institute of Technology – Scott Center for Autism
- <https://thescottcenterforautismtreatment.thinkific.com/courses/LEO-autism-awareness>
  - “In this course, experts from the Scott Center will explain how to recognize common behaviors exhibited by individuals with ASD. They’ll also provide principles and suggestions for successfully communicating with someone with ASD, and how to manage risk during an interaction with someone from this segment of our population.”



# Training

Participants in this course will gain knowledge and awareness in various aspects of Applied Behavior Analysis to include:

- The definition and basics of autism spectrum disorder as a condition
- How to recognize a person who may have autism spectrum disorder, or ASD
- The best approaches for responding to individuals who may have ASD and
- How to best manage risk in situations involving individuals who may have autism



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# Alerting

- How to discretely alert responders to the presence of an individual with ASD.
  - The sticker for the entry doors
  - Only distributed to confirmed residences



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# Inclusion

- How to bring people into the program
  - We posted flyers at local businesses
  - Worked with our schools
  - Worked with local doctors' offices
  - Worked with local special needs programs
    - Special Populations Recreation
    - Special Olympics
  - Posted on our various social media pages
  - Conducted interviews with local media outlets



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# Inclusion

- Meet the first responder opportunities
  - National Night Out
  - Events in our park
  - Open house events



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# Results

- Improved relationships with those on the spectrum as well as their families
- Increased empathy and community involvement from our officers
- Inclusion of EMS and fire services in the program
- Numerous other law enforcement agencies throughout the state have started their own program



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# Questions and contact

- Questions?
- Contact information:
  - Scott Stoller
    - [sstoller@acems.us](mailto:ssoller@acems.us)
    - 864-844-3008



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