Good afternoon,

   Chester County MH/IDD partners often with West Chester University on projects that help improve our local community.  The most recent project we have been asked to assist with is the dissemination of a survey related to experiences between individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Autism and first responders.

The description below explains the survey and was written by Michele Bratina of the West Chester University Department of Criminal Justice.

“While the inclusion movement has evolved to provide increased awareness of diverse community members and their value, as well as their needs, many community agencies—including some local and state law enforcement—have yet to be adequately trained to respond to encounters and crisis situations with diverse community members in a safe and effective manner. Furthermore, people with exceptionalities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, emotional and behavioral disorders/mental health concerns, and/or intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are often unprepared to navigate encounters with first responders, especially when they are in a crisis situation.

To understand current practices and how teachers, related service providers, and family members of people with exceptionalities are preparing them for encounters with first responders, we have designed a brief survey. You may be eligible for this study if you are (a) a professional working in special education and/or related services, and/or (b) a family member of a person with exceptionalities.

If you are willing and able to participate in this study, the confidentiality and security of your responses are described in the consent form on page one of the survey.

Thank you for your service to our field and your consideration to assist us in further understanding our practices for serving people with exceptionalities.”

**LINK TO SURVEY:**

[**https://tamuc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_cLShCAQ974utGaF**](https://tamuc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cLShCAQ974utGaF)