



# NEWS RELEASE

## **Emergency Care for Individuals with Special Needs Program**

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

With the understanding of the widespread need within the emergency responder community for programs concentrated on emergency response and patients with less obvious disabilities, Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) provided workshops encompassing this topic in 2012. The Emergency Responder Leadership Academy, which is one of Catskill Hudson AHEC's annual flagship programs, was adapted to include personnel of all emergency responder agencies and levels.

The first of two workshops was presented to 53 emergency responders on March 8<sup>th</sup> Albany, NY in collaboration with Hudson-Mohawk AHEC. The second workshop was solely a Catskill Hudson AHEC event presented to 30 emergency responders on April 14<sup>th</sup> in Poughkeepsie, NY. Topics covered a wide range of information, including: identification of core and associated characteristics and differences between the effects of advancing age, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Alzheimer's Disease; communication techniques that help facilitate a positive interaction during an emergency situation; identification of alternate methods of handling/ transferring challenging patients; and interactive exercises to bring to light a different perspective on diversity and disability were also incorporated.

"Pre-hospital, fire and rescue and police personnel are vital to positive outcomes from emergent situations. This was the reason our organization established our annual Emergency Responder Leadership Academy in 2005", states Kathryn Reed, Executive Director. "Training emergency responders in the care of persons with hidden disabilities enhances the communication and successful conclusion of an event when time is of the essence. We are pleased these workshops are so well received".

Catskill Hudson AHEC is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality, geographic distribution and retention of healthcare professionals and stimulating interest in health professions careers through education across its 11-county service area. For more information about their Directors and Programs, please visit their website at [www.chahec.org](http://www.chahec.org) or contact their staff at (845) 883-7260.

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