

## **A Summary of Recent Incidents with the Law Enforcers & People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

By Denise A. Johnson, Wisconsin Statewide Project Coordinator SUD/MH Services for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind

It is sad that there have been some recent events in North Carolina and Kansas City with men who were Deaf were killed by the Law Enforcers because they did not effectively communicate with them. There have been many close incidents with people who are Deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing in various situations with the law enforcement in Wisconsin and all over the United States.

Denise Johnson from IndependenceFirst provided training to over 1,700 Milwaukee Law Enforcers in 2015. But one training to Law Enforcement is not enough to learn how to effectively communication with a person who cannot hear or cannot talk. Every Law Enforcer in every state should be required to receive an in-depth training. This applies to Law Enforcers who are currently on the force, new recruits who will soon graduate and work on the force, and Law Enforcers who are on Crisis Intervention Teams.

It is time that we, the people, become proactive and get Law Enforcers all over the state of Wisconsin to be mandated to get the training NOW.

### **Recent Stories:**

North Carolina man, Daniel Harris who was Deaf was killed by the police officer on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 during the traffic stop.

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/legal-and-compliance/employment-law/pages/shooting-deaf-man-inadequate-police-training.aspx>

Kentucky a man, Darnell Wicker who was hard of hearing (deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other ear) was shot many times by the police officer:

<https://photographyisnotacrime.com/2016/08/12/body-cam-video-contradicts-kentucky-police-narrative-of-shooting-death/>

History of Police Brutality & Discrimination Against the Deaf by HEARD (updated as of 8-21-16):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HZ6YLtXzRNiEsu2RCfEUb1WmsCwM4Pn89ikpAwE4b-Q/edit?pref=2&pli=1#gid=1519942027>