

Locating Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance (IRAA) – Another Tool for Safety Personnel

Lynne W. Fielding, GISP

GIS Specialist

Town of Westwood, MA

LFielding@townhall.westwood.ma.us



Acknowledgement



Captain William (Bill) Cannata

Westwood Fire Dept

FireRescueAutism@yahoo.com

History

- Began as 'At Risk' list for primarily Autistic children
- Expanded to include mentally and/or physically challenged children
- Expanded to include Seniors
- Expanded to general school outreach
- Census self identification (outreach) for anyone.

Important Considerations

- HIPAA – keep in mind what you're dealing with
- Security – make sure you have a secure location for the data before you start collecting.
- Don't use scanner, copier, or email to transfer information with a name connected to it.
- Plan in advance and limit who does intakes, making sure they're already covered by HIPAA

How does it work?

- Contact intake personnel who fill out form and take picture with smartphone.
- Picture emailed to me with no name (maybe initials if multiples)
- Intake personnel transfer information onto a blank (fillable) pdf intake form (in a secure location) then hand deliver hard copy original to Fire Dept where it is kept locked (it has signature)
- Intake personnel email me that a new form has been completed. I pull (move) to another secure location from where the data is connected to Police and Fire.

- I attach picture to front of pdf and secure with password then link to a passworded atlas for both Police and Fire
- Police and Fire contacts are notified by email that updates have been made, at which time they copy updates to locations, including dispatch.

How do Safety Personnel use it?

- They get a call to a home. Dispatch can check their atlas
- Fire and Police Personnel have a copy in each vehicle that they can check on the way to call.
- They click on location and have the secure pdf in front of them complete with picture and medical information

The Form.....

The 'fillable' Form.....

[The Fire atlas \(demo version\)](#)

[The Police atlas \(demo version\).....](#)

Conclusions

- Easy to use
- Low cost
- Just a tool
- Always room for improvement
- Comments - Suggestions?

To contact Captain Cannata:

FireRescueAutism@yahoo.com