

NEWS

DOC DASH

NO.4

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE INDUSTRY LEADERS





A NOTE FROM THE INVENTRESS

September is National Suicide Awareness Month, a time to reflect on the significance of mental health and the collective responsibility to support those in crisis. It's a reminder of how fragile life can be and why we must prioritize mental well-being, especially in high-stress professions and situations. For many, interactions with law enforcement can become a source of heightened anxiety and fear, particularly for those struggling with mental health challenges. The unpredictability of these encounters can result in volatile outcomes that leave lasting trauma, impacting the emotional and psychological health of both civilians and officers.

The toll of these encounters extends beyond the initial interaction. The high-pressure nature of police engagements and emergency response can exacerbate feelings of distress and hopelessness, contributing to the overwhelming rate of suicide in these professions. First responders are consistently exposed to traumatic events, with law enforcement officers and paramedics experiencing some of the highest rates of suicide among all occupations. The emotional burden of facing life-threatening situations, combined with the societal expectations to maintain composure and control, often leads to a culture of silence and unaddressed mental health struggles within these professions.

While these statistics are sobering, there is hope. Initiatives like mental health training for law enforcement, supportive de-escalation programs, and community engagement efforts aim to create safer and more compassionate interactions for all involved. By fostering an environment of understanding and support, we can work towards breaking the stigma surrounding mental health in emergency services and providing resources to those in need. Let this month be a call to action—to listen more, to understand better, and to stand together in creating a world where mental health is treated with the same urgency and importance as physical health.

Kimberly St. Clair
The Inventress



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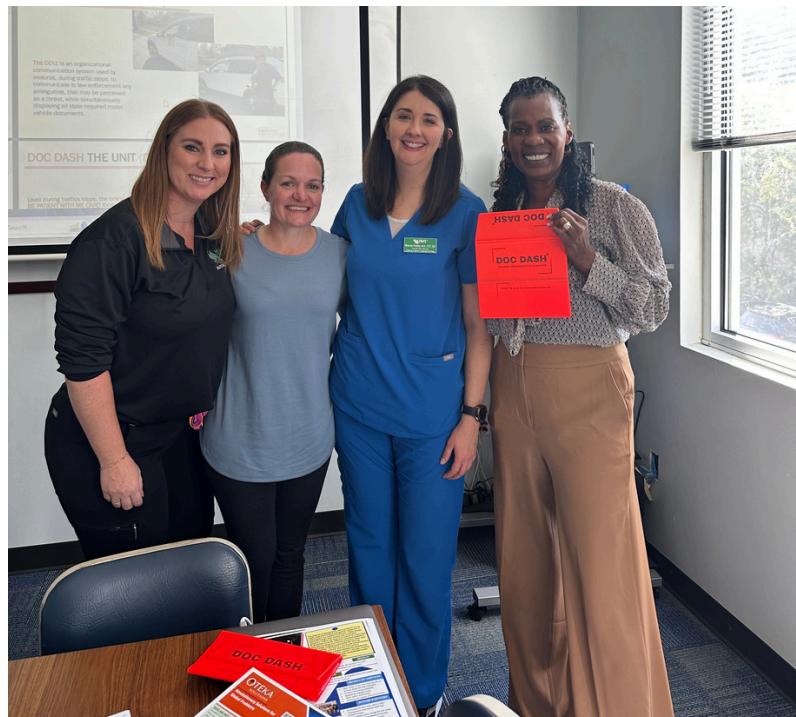
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DOC DASH BRINGS INNOVATIVE SAFETY SOLUTIONS TO THE UNT APHASIA CLINIC IN DALLAS TEXAS



DOC DASH recently presented its groundbreaking communication system to a captivated audience at the UNT Aphasia Clinic in Dallas, Texas. The clinic's staff, renowned for their expertise in speech and language disorders, was thoroughly impressed with the potential of DOC DASH to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with aphasia and other communication disorders. The DOC DASH team demonstrated how their protocols can transform interactions between individuals, law enforcement and first responders, ensuring safety and understanding during critical moments, such as traffic stops or medical emergencies.

The UNT Aphasia Clinic team expressed a strong interest in partnering with DOC DASH to bring this innovative solution to their clients. They acknowledged the system's ability to bridge gaps in communication by offering a clear, standardized method to convey essential information about a person's condition, minimizing the risk of miscommunication or escalation. With a shared commitment to enhancing safety and autonomy for those with communication impairments, UNT sees a future where DOC DASH can be seamlessly integrated into the support they provide.

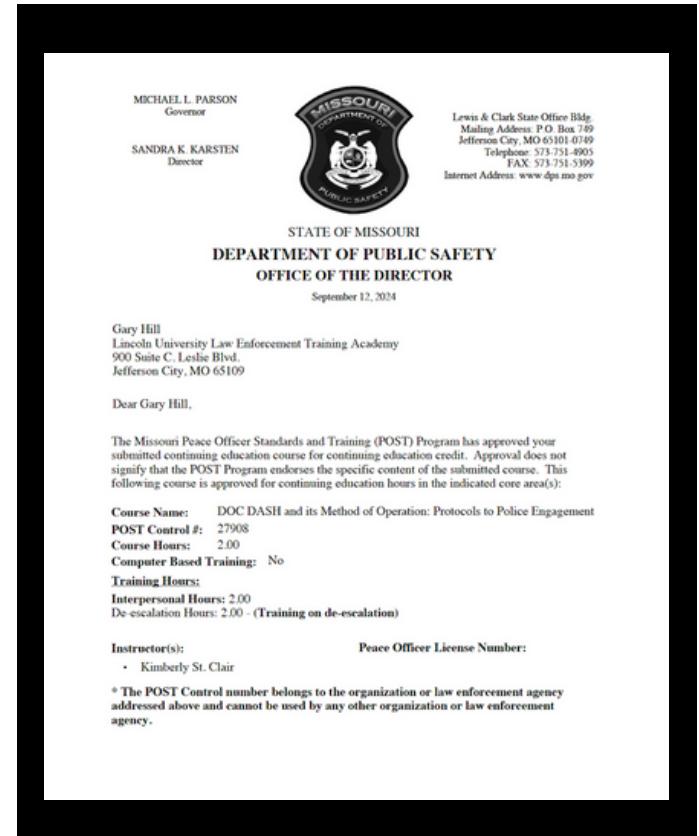
This potential collaboration marks a significant step forward in broadening the reach of DOC DASH. By partnering with a respected institution like the UNT Aphasia Clinic, DOC DASH is poised to impact the lives of countless individuals who face communication barriers every day. Both organizations are eager to explore how they can work together to empower more people with the tools and confidence to navigate challenging interactions, promoting safety, respect, and understanding in all communities.

DOC DASH Achieves Major Milestone as Accredited Training for Missouri Police Officers is Now Available!

In a significant stride towards enhancing public safety and fostering better police-community relations, DOC DASH has officially been recognized as an accredited course for Missouri police officers, granting two hours of continuing education credits under the de-escalation category. Thank you to Dr. Chief Gary Hill, Lincoln University Chief of Police and Director of the Lincoln University Law Enforcement Training Academy, for seeing the value and making this happen. This certification marks a profound achievement for the DOC DASH team, whose curriculum on Protocols to Police Engagement has already started gaining traction with several police departments across the state. By providing officers with a structured framework to navigate interactions more effectively, DOC DASH aims to reduce misunderstandings and promote safer outcomes during critical encounters.

The excitement doesn't end there—DOC DASH is preparing to launch a digital version of its curriculum in the first quarter of 2025. This move will make the program more accessible and scalable, allowing officers from all regions of Missouri to benefit from the training. The digital course will feature interactive modules that simulate real-life scenarios, enabling officers to practice de-escalation techniques and apply the DOC DASH protocols in a controlled, educational environment. The initiative underscores DOC DASH's commitment to equipping law enforcement with the tools they need to better serve and protect their communities while minimizing risks.

This milestone is not just a testament to DOC DASH's innovative approach but also to the strong collaboration with Missouri's law enforcement agencies. By securing accreditation and digitalizing its curriculum, DOC DASH is paving the way for a new era of training that prioritizes communication, empathy, and safety. With departments already engaging in training opportunities, DOC DASH is set to become an indispensable resource for Missouri's law enforcement officers, ultimately contributing to more positive and peaceful interactions on the road and in communities across the state.



SPOTLIGHT

Honoring the Life and Sacrifice of Officer David Lee: A Fallen Hero of St. Louis

Officer David Lee's dedication to his community and his commitment to upholding the values of safety and service will forever be remembered. Tragically killed in the line of duty in St. Louis, Officer Lee's passing is a sobering reminder of the immense risks law enforcement officers take each day to protect and serve their communities. As we reflect on his legacy, we are reminded not only of his courage and valor but also of the family, friends, and fellow officers who have lost a beloved member of their community.

Officer Lee's selflessness and bravery were hallmarks of his service. In moments of danger, he stood strong and resolute, facing challenges with unwavering determination. His presence on the force was not just about enforcing the law but about building bridges and establishing trust within the neighborhoods he served. His loss leaves an irreplaceable void, not just in the department but in the hearts of those who knew him personally and those who had the privilege of witnessing his dedication firsthand.

While we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life—a life marked by service, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to making St. Louis a safer place. As we come together to honor his memory, we find hope in the strength and unity of the community he so deeply cared for. Let us keep his family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, and let his legacy inspire us to support one another and pursue a safer, more compassionate future for all. Officer David Lee's sacrifice will never be forgotten, and his spirit of service will continue to shine as a beacon of courage and honor for years to come.



The Valentine Law in Full Effect

Valentine's Law, enacted on August 28, 2024, is a significant legislative measure designed to address dangerous driving behaviors and prevent tragedies on Missouri's roads. Named in honor of Antonio Valentine, a dedicated police officer tragically killed in the line of duty, the law seeks to hold drivers accountable for actions that put lives at risk, such as reckless driving, evading law enforcement, or driving under the influence. Valentine's Law carries stringent penalties for violations, including increased fines and potential felony charges for offenses that involve harm to others. Since its passage, Missouri has already recorded a notable number of felony charges under this law, reflecting the state's commitment to enhancing road safety and preventing further loss of life.



Antonio Valentine was a respected officer in the St. Louis area who was known for his passion for serving his community and promoting safety. His untimely death in a high-speed pursuit left a profound impact on the local law enforcement community and beyond. Valentine's Law was introduced not only to honor his legacy but also to serve as a

preventative measure, discouraging dangerous behaviors on the road and ensuring that drivers think twice before engaging in activities that could lead to tragic outcomes. Since its enactment, Missouri has seen over 50 felony charges under Valentine's Law, showcasing its effectiveness in curbing reckless driving and reinforcing responsible behavior on the road.

DOC DASH has been at the forefront of these preventive efforts even before the punitive aspects of Valentine's Law took effect. With its proactive communication system and Protocols to Police Engagement curriculum, DOC DASH serves as a crucial tool in educating and preparing drivers for safe interactions with law enforcement. By equipping motorists with knowledge and strategies to navigate traffic stops and emergencies, DOC DASH addresses the root causes of many high-risk situations, offering a solution that complements Valentine's Law. While the law imposes necessary consequences, DOC DASH empowers drivers to avoid these outcomes altogether by promoting understanding, compliance, and de-escalation—making it a key ally in Missouri's ongoing mission to improve road safety and honor the memory of Officer Antonio Valentine.

DOC DASH Protocols to Police Engagement Workshops Return to St. Louis Schools



Thanks to a Federal Highway Safety grant awarded by the Missouri Department of Transportation, DOC DASH is thrilled to announce the re-launch of its Protocols to Police Engagement workshops this October. The \$60,000 grant, awarded to the [non-profit OTEKA SOLUTIONS](#), will support these workshops aimed at equipping high school students with the skills and confidence to navigate interactions with law enforcement safely. By engaging young drivers early, DOC DASH promotes a culture of understanding and respect, preparing students to communicate effectively during traffic stops and other high-stress situations. This proactive approach is crucial for reducing misunderstandings and ensuring safer outcomes for both youth and law enforcement.

Looking ahead, DOC DASH is set to expand its impact with the release of a comprehensive digital curriculum in the first quarter of 2025. This innovative platform will provide students and educators with interactive tools to reinforce critical communication and de-escalation techniques. As DOC DASH enters Missouri's high schools, its dedication to improving road safety and strengthening police-community relations is stronger than ever. With this initiative, DOC DASH is poised to shape a safer, more informed generation of drivers equipped to handle complex interactions with confidence and clarity.



We invite you to join us in transforming the landscape of police engagement and road safety.

OTEKA SOLUTIONS is our 501c3 that expands our reach with charitable giving. Your financial support enables DOC DASH to expand our groundbreaking protocols and educational workshops, fostering safer and more respectful interactions between police and communities. Together, we can reduce the risks and volatile outcomes during police engagement, ultimately saving lives and promoting mutual understanding. No donation is too little or too small. Thank you in advance

DONATIONS THROUGH PAYPAL

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/4804880>





WORK LIFE BALANCE

Hanging out with my friends from the Heartland Black Chamber where Black Business is Their Business.



STATISTICS

POLICE & CIVILIAN ENGAGEMENT

ADULTS WITH
COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

43%

SAFETY FIRST
DOC DASH

TRAFFIC STOPS

- Most common reason for police and civilian engagement and the most dangerous.
- 20 million traffic stops per year. **Missouri accounted for over 1 million**
- 239.24 Million people hold driver's licenses in the US

43%

- According to Development Language Disorder (DLD), 43% of adults with communication disorders have a driver's license

38%

- 48 million licensed drivers > 65 in 2020