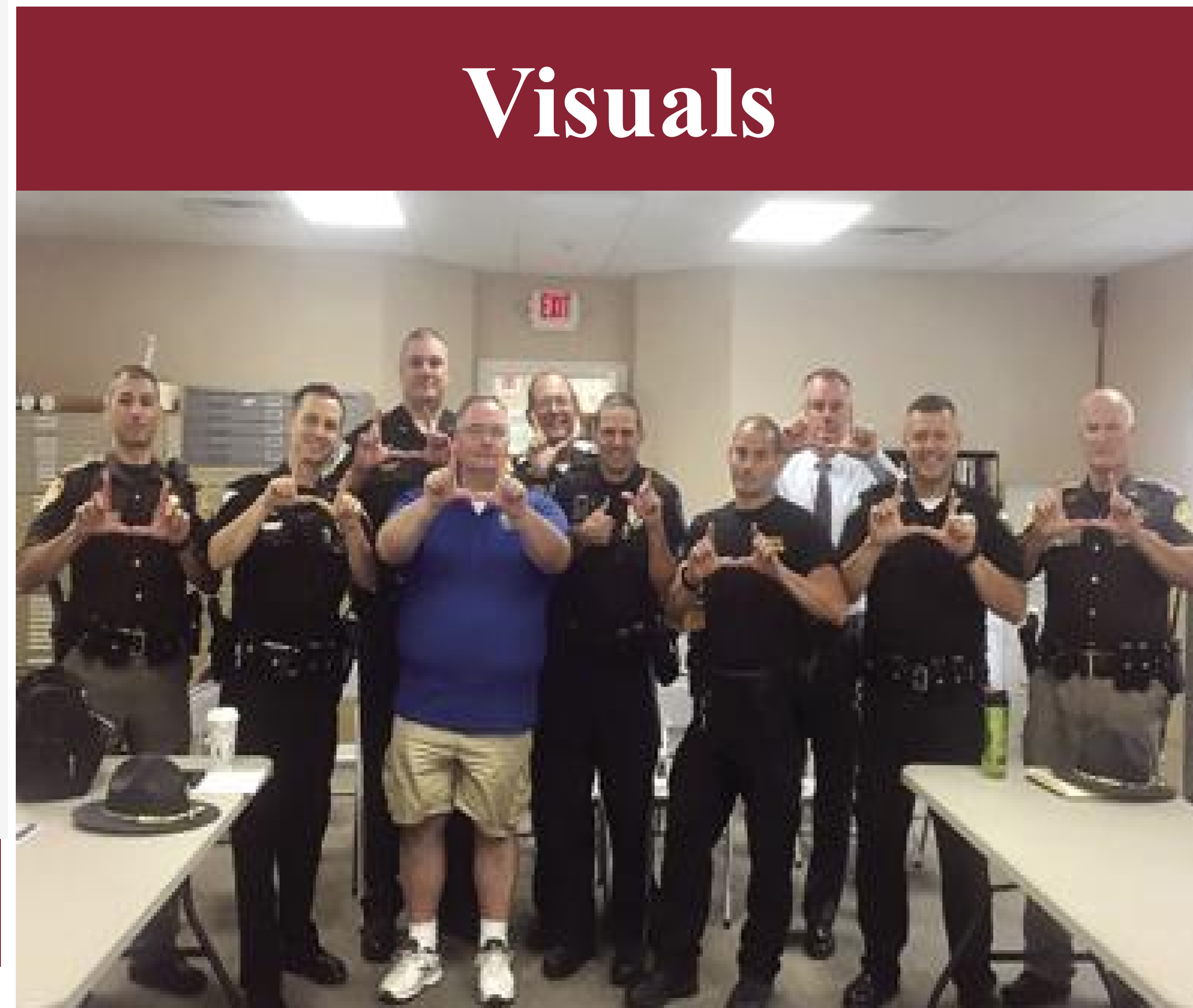


Efficient Deaf-Police Contact

Keyara Watson-Love and Teyara Watson-Love

Visuals



Sources

- <https://www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/directories/07TOC/PolLawEnf.pdf>
- <https://behearddc.org/police-violence/>
- <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/health/Improving-Relations-Between-Police-and-People-With-Special-Needs-Dallas-Fort-Worth-462887113.html>

Purpose/Abstract

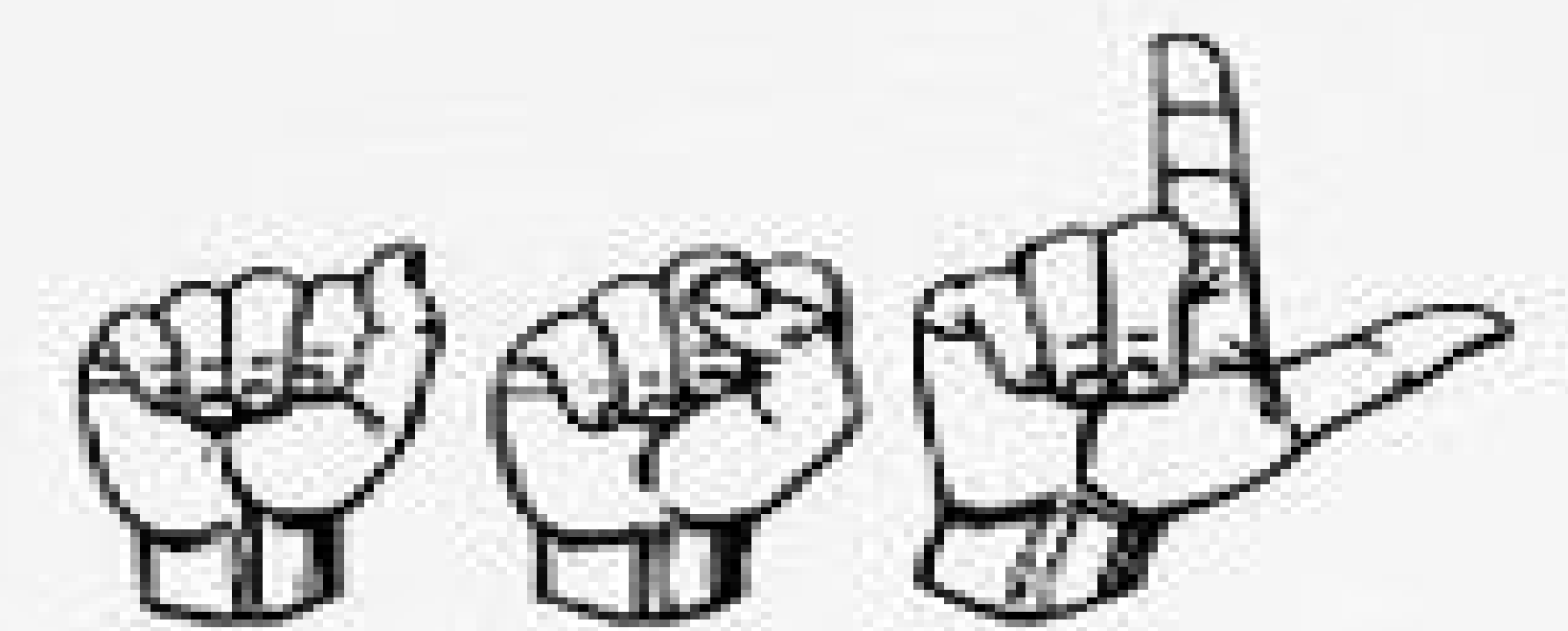
Police officers should be equipped & resourced on how to engage effectively with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Problem: Individuals with hearing differences have communication challenges that make them vulnerable in situations such as a police stop. Multiple cases have been documented in which injuries or even fatalities have occurred, due largely to a lack of police training. Police encounters are often charged with anxiety and uncertainty, with potential for an officer to react hastily. We examined evolving police policies, reviewed existing training for officers on the topic of deafness, & considered strategies to raise awareness and understanding for both the Deaf community and police officers.



Potential Solutions

- Under the ADA and the U.S. Department of Justice and their regulations, the state and local law enforcement agencies are required to provide accommodations to ensure that deaf/hard of hearing individuals have effective communication with police officers.
- HEARD, ACLU, and Marlee Matlin have also teamed up to create a signed-captioned video to inform deaf individuals of their rights when interacting with law enforcement officials.
- A junior at UNT went on a mission to help improve the contact between the police and people with special needs and any other disabilities. She did this by designing a card for people with special needs or any other disability to inform police officers whenever they are stopped by one to let them know that they have a disability.



I talk with my hands

