



For Immediate Release

For more information  
Luana Vaetoe, Becoming Independent  
(707) 524-6607, [lvaetoe@becomingindependent.org](mailto:lvaetoe@becomingindependent.org)

Lieutenant David House, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office  
(707) 565-1699, [David.House@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.House@sonoma-county.org)

## **Becoming Independent and law enforcement partner to enhance safety for people with disabilities**

**Santa Rosa, CA** – September 5, 2017 – Becoming Independent (BI), the region's largest nonprofit serving people with disabilities, is partnering with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office to host "Be Safe" - a nationally recognized training that helps law enforcement and individuals with disabilities understand one another and interact safely together.

This two day training will take place on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. In addition to local educators' attendance, there will be numerous law enforcement officers, service providers, family members and individuals on the Autism Spectrum as well as others with developmental disabilities in attendance.

"We're delighted to host this two day 'Be Safe' training in partnership with local law enforcement and Lieutenant David House, a valued member of our board of directors," says Luana Vaetoe, CEO of Becoming Independent. "We've heard amazing things about this training and are fully supportive of its intention – to reduce risk and improve outcomes between police and the disability community."

"This is an important training that helps us better understand each other's needs, responses and actions when there is a public safety contact in the community. The training does this by bringing us together to learn from each other, those are the lessons you get the most out of." said Lieutenant David House of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, "The response and support from all of the local public safety agencies and educational institutions that have committed to participate in this training has been amazing!"

###