



Today, policing in America has become so much more nuanced and incendiary than in generations past, and as a result our law enforcers face an ever increasing amount of stress, both cumulative and traumatic. With the recent revelations of increased occurrences of PTSD among our Nation's Military Warriors, who have fought mostly in battlefields overseas, it is

becoming increasingly apparent that these very same outcomes are also prevalent among our Nation's Law Enforcers who serve in the domestic battlefield – mostly in urban settings each and every day. The unchecked effects of both traumatic and cumulative stressors on an individual officer can have far reaching and permanent results.

These results can affect officers' personal and professional life. Many times these will affect the officer personally before they do professionally and the officers usually cope with them as best as they can. Too often however, these coping mechanisms are inadequate and their unresolved issues begin to bleed into their professional life, adversely affecting their job performance. It is at this point that agencies begin to document discipline, and careers are negatively impacted while the underlying issues never get addressed let alone resolved.



The WOI BlueLine Support™ Program will help an individual officer address these unresolved issues. The BlueLine Support™ model is a volunteer peer officer based program. The program will utilize a network of trained police oriented Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) and operate within a regional geographic area that will serve all officers in that area regardless of status (wounded/active/retired), rank, or agency. WOI will provide intervention, prevention, resiliency, and self-care services in a safe and confidential setting.

Access to BlueLine Support™ will be through a 24 hour hotline which will connect the calling client officer with a carefully selected and trained peer officer. The peer officer will explore the client officer's issues to determine the appropriateness of a referral to one of our trained MHPs. Many times simply speaking to a peer officer gives the client officer the perspective and relief needed to address the issues without the need for a referral.

For those times in which a referral might be warranted, the WOI peer officer will provide a referral to the client officer based upon their geographical location, health insurance, and issue.

The MHPs utilized by WOI will be carefully selected to include only those who have demonstrated an understanding in police culture and what an officer experiences daily. Most often this will be achieved by the MHP having dealt previously with law enforcement officers in their private practices. Each selected MHP will also be trained by WOI prior to any officer being referred to them for further assistance.

Because the MHP will bill for their services through the client officer's private health insurance, HIPPA laws will apply and 100% confidentiality can be afforded and maintained. Any co-pays or other deductibles due the MHP will be covered by WOI so that there is no out of pocket cost to the client officer seeking assistance. WOI, through the peer officer, will follow up with the MHP and the client officer to ensure that adequate services are provided and proper treatment received.

Where appropriate and possible, WOI will seek to work with individual agencies in establishing a protocol or policy addressing the needs of WOI client officers that will enable officers who need it, to be granted extended periods of absence in order to effectively and properly deal with the issues facing them. WOI recognizes that it will be in the best interest of not only the individual client officer seeking assistance to get back to full duty, but also for the agency itself. As with any resource, personnel being the largest and costliest, there is a quantifiable cost to an agency any time it loses the personnel in which it has invested so much in hiring, training, developing them, as well as the pay and benefits involved. These factors can be staggering, especially to smaller agencies with limited resources.

By partnering with WOI, individual agencies will not only help limit their turnover and the associated costs, they will also promote the health and welfare of their members, lower discipline rates, increase morale, salvage careers, and save lives. Some of the key areas which WOI seeks to address among our Law Enforcers are alcohol and substance abuse, stress, and suicide. This unique and special partnership is vital to erasing the stigma of reaching out for help with these and other issues.