



FIRST RESPONSE
MENTAL HEALTH



Placer County Sheriff's Office Launches new Wellness App to Address Mental Health needs of their Members

For Immediate Release - January 2, 2024 - Placer County Sheriff's Office is increasing mental health support for their Members through a new proactive wellness platform.

Recognizing the importance of holding space and encouraging open conversations around Mental Health, Placer County Sheriff's Office made the decision to seek a proactive wellness solution for their members. Placer County Sheriff's Office launched with PeerConnect on January 2, 2024.

First responder behavioral health issues have become a commonly discussed subject, in recent years, as efforts are made to address concerns felt by first responders in discussing mental health issues. A survey conducted by the University of Phoenix suggested that many first responders do not feel that work is a safe place to discuss mental health, however, the survey also found that first responders may be more open to getting help if those around them are willing to discuss mental health. The PeerConnect system represents a step forward in the way that organizations are able to respond and support their employees through well-needed conversations when they need it most.

PeerConnect provides first responders with private, anonymous support when they need it with 24/7 coverage, all from their mobile phones. Any member utilizing the system can create their own trusted peer support team made up of peers who are trained to offer support. PeerConnect users can request contact at any time and will be connected with one of their preferred peer support team members. This selection can make all the difference in the comfort level of a first responder seeking help.

'This proactive platform will ensure that no member is left to fall through the cracks and works to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health and normalize mental health conversations. Talking about the challenges we face is not something to be ashamed of, but rather a proactive measure to better health for all our members.' – Lieutenant Jason Davis

'Trust and stigma is often an issue with any Mental health situation. Our unique process allows Users to create their own personal support team with the choice of who they feel comfortable connecting with well before any trauma occurs. The goal is to ensure that no employee has to face difficult times alone,' said Kevin Kuchta, CEO First Response Mental Health.

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