**To: Public Safety Agency Command Staff**

**From: Daniel F. Ozbolt – Director of Advance Training - OPOTA**

**Subject: OFFICER WELLNESS SEMINAR**

Attorney General Dave Yost is pleased to announce a **FREE** Officer Wellness Seminar for the Command Staff of all public safety agencies in Ohio. This seminar is the first in a series of unique trainings being offered by OPOTA which will spotlight national experts on a variety of current, high-interest topics for law enforcement.

Officer wellness is a rising concern for all public safety agencies. First responders are exposed to traumatic events and other external stressors like no other profession. These stressors are often exacerbated by the day-to-day stresses of the job, family and life, which over time take a toll on our first responders. Rigorous study and open communication are needed to provide them with the specific tools to prevent these stressors from “taking hold” of their lives.

The goal of the Officer Wellness Seminar is to assist agencies in determining the health and wellness needs of Ohio’s front-line personnel through a national survey process developed by the U.S. Marshal Service, the Fairfax County Virginia Police Department and the Nova Southeastern University. When administered locally, the survey results will provide Ohio agencies with information about officers who may be suffering from mental health issues like **anxiety, depression, alcohol abuse, PTSD or considering suicide.**

Participants will learn about the benefits of administering the survey to their staff, receive the background and nationwide results of the survey thus far, and hear from the Ohio State Highway Patrol about its experience and lessons learned from participating in the survey.

The seminar also will include both local and national speakers sharing information about how to assist struggling first responders. The briefing will provide state resources and mental health county resources available to Ohio law enforcement agencies. Due to the importance of this topic, Command Staff are encouraged to attend in person (or send a supervisory designee) to hear the speakers.

**Course Name:** Officer Wellness Seminar

**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 16, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Location:** Columbus State Community College

Workforce Development Building, 4th Floor

315 Cleveland Avenue - Columbus, Ohio

Course Number: 09-051-21-01 Tuition: **FREE**

**Registration:** To register for this training, go through the OPOTA link on OHLEG (the preferred method), or through [OPOTARegistration@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:OPOTARegistration@OhioAGO.gov)

If you do not have an OPOTA account, you can email Mark Porter at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office Directly, [mark.porter@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:mark.porter@ohioattorneygeneral.gov). Only 200 individuals may attend. For questions, call Mark Porter at 614.728.1173

**Presenters:**

* **Maggie DeBoard**, Chief – Herndon, VA Police Department & President of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
* **Dr. Milloy**, Psychologist – Fairfax, VA & Herndon, VA Police Departments
* **Jaysyn Carson**, Lieutenant – Herndon, VA Police Department
* **Neil Gang**, Chief – Pinole, California Police Department
* **Dave Hughes**, Commander of Wellness Bureau – Columbus Police Department
* **Mick Yinger**, Executive Director – First Responders Bridge
* **Molly Harris**,Lieutenant – Ohio State Highway Patrol
* **Steve Click**, Director of First Responder Wellness – Ohio Department of Public Safety/Office of Criminal Justice Services

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