



Breakfast Seminar - 2015

BS2 Mental Health Support to Law Enforcement: Practical Issues

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The goal of this presentation is to provide a description of mental health services for law enforcement personnel with guidance on the establishment and maintenance of such services.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing guidance on developing and implementing a mental health program for personnel exposed to exceptionally stressful work environments and content.

Although police work has always had the risk of negatively impacting the mental health of line law enforcement forensic personnel through their exposure to violent crime scenes, officer-involved shootings, line-of-duty deaths, and other critical events, services have been limited. There are multiple combinations and settings in which mental health services can be provided to the law enforcement community. They vary from answering informal questions to formal consulting contracts for service with the mental health professional embedded in an agency for real-time access by law enforcement personnel. Services include pre-employment screening, fitness-for-duty evaluations, training on stress prevention and management, post-critical incident services, responding real-time to crime scenes, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operations, hostage and barricaded person negotiations, threatened suicide-in-progress, officer-involved shootings, and other traumas. This seminar provides an overview of the types of services available, the necessary and suggested credentials to be an effective consultant, a how-to guide for finding and recruiting such a consultant, and potential conflicts with dual-agency relationships, all presented using actual examples from the field.

Stress Management, Mental Health, Critical Incidents