## Ministry of the Solicitor General

Office of the Fire Marshal

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# Ministère du Solliciteur général Bureau du commissaire des incendies

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Ontario Fire Chiefs

FROM: Jon Pegg

Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: May 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel (MHS4PSP)

- Warrior Health portal, Grant program, and Inventory

On November 19th, 2024, the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) <u>announced</u> the establishment of the MHS4PSP program. I am pleased to provide an overview of the MHS4PSP: Warrior Health and the Grant program, in addition to the Inventory of Mental Health Programs.

### 1. MHS4PSP: Warrior Health and the Grant Program

SOLGEN has partnered with Wounded Warriors Canada to provide specialized services through Warrior Health for fire, corrections, emergency health, police personnel, and others who support Ontario's public safety system. The Warrior Health program includes:

- Free services available to all public safety personnel (PSP) through a digital web portal such
  as: internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy (ICBT) and peer-support tools, now
  available from the Warrior Health website: <a href="www.warriorhealth.ca.">www.warriorhealth.ca.</a>
- Fee-for-service programs available for purchase by public safety organizations (PSOs) for their staff. It includes options such as general wellness programs, peer support training, and other trauma-informed mental health programs that employers (e.g., PSOs) across Ontario can purchase.

The MHS4PSP Grant program will subsidize access to Warrior Health fee-for-service programs for eligible Ontario municipal/regional and First Nations PSOs in emergency health, fire and police sectors between May 2025 and March 2026. Eligible PSOs will be able to download the application form, which includes the Grant program guideline, from Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) beginning on May 27, 2025, until June 27, 2025.

All applications and supporting documents must be submitted through TPON <u>and</u> by email to <u>mh.secretariat@ontario.ca</u> by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on June 27, 2025.

To support applicants, SOLGEN will be holding two information sessions to provide an overview of the new program and answer any questions about the application process.

- Monday June 2, 2025, 2PM 3PM.
- Friday June 13, 2025, 12PM 1PM.

To register for an information session, please sign up by clicking <u>here</u>.

### 2. MHS4PSP: Inventory of Mental Health Programs

The Inventory of Mental Health Programs (Inventory) is a centralized platform designed specifically for wellness leads at PSOs across Ontario. It provides a single access point for comprehensive information on mental health services available to fire, corrections, emergency health, and police personnel. Please see Appendix A for further information on the Inventory.

To sign up for the Inventory, please email the Mental Health Secretariat at mh.secretariat@ontario.ca.

On behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, we look forward to working with you and your teams to support MHS4PSP: Warrior Health, the Grant program, and the associated Inventory to provide specialized services to the Ontario fire service.

Questions on the information contained in this memo can be directed to the Mental Health Secretariat at mh.secretariat@ontario.ca.

If you require alternate formats, accessibility accommodations, or communication supports, they can be provided upon request.

Sincerely,

Jon Pegg

Ontario Fire Marshal

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.

Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety, Ministry of the Solicitor General

### Appendix A: Inventory of Mental Health Programs (Inventory)

Based on recommendations from <u>Staying Visible</u>, <u>Staying Connected</u>, <u>For Life</u>, the Inventory addresses three main issues in mental health services for staff: accessibility and coordination of services, limited awareness of services, and mobilizing knowledge. The Inventory:

- Centralizes Access to Services:
  - Simplifies access by consolidating mental health services in one platform, allowing wellness leads to easily find what they need.
- Supports Evidence-Based Decision Making:
  - Once they have found what they need, wellness leads are able to engage directly with other leads to learn more, save time, and better support evidence-based decision making.
- Increase Awareness Across Sectors:
  - The comprehensive, centralized directory increases awareness of services across sectors and delivery methods, empowering wellness leads to better support their teams.
- Provides Real-Time Updates:
  - The announcement bulletin function allows wellness leads to communicate to other users about program updates, new initiatives, and best practices.
- Promotes Cross-Sectoral Knowledge Transfer:
  - Facilitates the sharing of best practices and mental health resources across sectors, supporting collaboration and informed decision-making.
- Insights and Partnerships:
  - Wellness leads can reach out to other PSOs for insights on programs including uptake, satisfaction, and return on investment helping inform future investments. It also allows smaller or remote PSOs to explore partnerships and access additional resources.

#### Why It Matters to Fire Services:

- **Empower Your Team**: By sharing your insights, you ensure that the Inventory reflects the most relevant and effective mental health resources. Your input also helps shape the Inventory to address your team's unique needs.
- **Improve Access**: Help create a comprehensive, centralized resource that makes it easier for all PSOs to find the support they need.
- **Foster Collaboration**: Your feedback will facilitate better communication and resource sharing across different sectors, benefiting everyone involved. Built entirely "for you, by you," reflecting insights and contributions from wellness leads.