

## **BIO – PAUL M. SMITH, MSW, LCSW**

Paul M. Smith, MSW, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He previously worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and as a Police Officer with the Madison, WI Police Department, where he also served as a firearms instructor and was awarded the Medal of Valor from Cops Helping Cops. He has worked as a mental health counselor for military and combat Veterans at the VA and is also the owner of CODE-3 COUNSELING & CONSULTING, LLC, where he specializes in providing counseling services to law enforcement officers and their families, as well as providing mental health and wellness training to law enforcement agencies.

Paul's unique background, as both a law enforcement officer and as a mental health clinician, has provided him with a knowledgeable and credible level of insight into the interplay of the law enforcement culture and the utilization of mental health services. During his career in law



enforcement and as a volunteer Firefighter/EMT, he was exposed to a wide array of critical incidents and traumatic events, including his involvement in two fatal officer-involved shootings. His experiences as a law enforcement officer taught him, first-hand, about the difficulties of coping with the numerous traumatic events that come with a job in law enforcement, as well as the inherent day-to-day stressors that the job creates. These professional experiences, combined with his journey of personal struggles to overcome their

impact, have worked together to lay the path which has led him to his current profession. His uniqueness as a trained mental health professional, together with his personal knowledge of "survival" within the profession of law enforcement and EMS services, make him a powerfully credible and respected trainer and therapist among these occupational populations.

Paul received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Graduate School, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

He has served as a mental health trainer/consultant and POST Team consultant for the Green Bay Police Department, Appleton Police Department, Outagamie County Sheriff's Department, and Brown County Sheriff's Department, and has also been a mental health clinician on the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Death Response (LEDR) Team. Paul has presented at numerous conferences and is also an adjunct instructor at FVTC.