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## **News for Immediate Release**

### **COMMANDER PORTIER TO PRESENT “DYING IN BLUE” AT KSU KIVA**

KENT, Ohio (August 18, 2008) – Commander Ralph Portier of the Pickering Police Department will be presenting a free seminar titled *Dying in Blue* at the Kent State University Kiva on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:30pm. He has given his presentation across Ohio, and it is part of the training at the Ohio Peace Officers Academy. The presentation will cover the unique aspects of being a police officer, job stressors, warning signs of depression in police officers, and talking to other police officers about mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Portier is a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership XXV and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He has experience as an eight year-elected Guernsey County Commissioner, former paramedic and volunteer firefighter, former owner and operator of a private ambulance service and as an instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer’s Academy. He is updated in National Incident Management.

According to Commander Portier, “*Dying in Blue* discusses the topic of Suicide within Public Safety Agencies. Law Enforcement Officers and Public Safety Dispatchers are not immune from the emotional and physical trauma commonly associated with the stress of our jobs. *Dying in Blue* is a wake up call for everyone who works in the Public Safety Field.”

There will be 4 hours of CPT’s for law enforcement officers, 2 hours of CEU’s for mental health providers CEU’s and LSW’s available for counselors.

To attend, you must pre-register to the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County at (330) 673-1756. Please provide your name, a contact number, and specify if you are in law enforcement or mental health so that certificates for continuing education can be prepared.

The event is being co-sponsored by the following services available in Portage County: Coleman Professional Services Services, The Mental Health & Recovery Board, The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Kent State Police Department, and The Police Chief’s Association.

Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and

businesses in Northeast Ohio. The company relies on an enterprise business model to diversify its funding. Coleman's foundation and three enterprise companies produce more than 40 percent of the company's funding for its award-winning programs.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County provides a Network of Care for all generations. They fund services that reach: abused and troubled children, teens at risk to prevent suicide and alcohol or drug addiction, families with emotional, alcohol or drug problems, adults and children with serious mental illnesses, and Portage communities needing 24-hour crisis services.

The Portage County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) aims to improve collaborations between law enforcement and mental health providers to better serve the community.

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