



DAY TWO – TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022– 2:00 PM

We Need to Talk

Session Description:

Using a tested delivery of authenticity, vulnerability, humor, and inspiration – the presenter will share his personal journey of how he turned his trauma into hope for others. With a 9 score rating on the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) test score, combat trauma, law enforcement trauma, and personal discovery – the presenter will provide a talk on how it is more vital right now, than it has even been, to self-advocate for our own mental wellness.

BIO:

Joe Smarro is a decorated combat veteran from the United States Marine Corps. He honorably served two tours to Afghanistan and Iraq with the 1st Battalion 4th Marines. Once Joe Smarro's Marine Corps enlistment ended, he moved to south Texas where he joined the San Antonio Police Department, in 2005. He was one of the original members of the Mental Health Unit of the San Antonio Police Department. Officer Smarro helped grow the mental health unit into a nationally recognized best practices policing unit.

Officer Smarro has been featured in multiple media outlets. Namely, he provided a TEDx talk in 2018, titled: *I See You*, and was one of the main subjects in an Emmy award-winning HBO Documentary titled: *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops*. Officer Smarro earned the Hector Garza award for being the top criminal justice graduate at Wayland Baptist University when he earned his bachelor's degree.

Following college, Officer Smarro went to Texas A&M University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and earned certificates in veteran's entrepreneurship. He is the founder and CEO of SolutionPoint+, which is a national training and consulting firm that focuses on cultivating mental wellness to maximize human capital and promote safety within organizations.

Officer Smarro likes to let everyone know that his audacious goal in life is to eradicate first responder suicides.