

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

January 25, 2023



### **Okaloosa County Corrections Actively Combats Fentanyl-related issues**

**Okaloosa County, Florida** - In light of the recent national and state increase in fentanyl-related overdoses, officers at Okaloosa County Department of Corrections are taking action to combat this issue within the facility.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, has become a major public health concern in recent years. The drug is often mixed with other substances, such as heroin and cocaine, making it even more dangerous.

To address this problem, several measures have been implemented to prevent the introduction and distribution of fentanyl within the facility. This includes increased body scan screening and searches of inmates and visitors, as well as the use of drug-sniffing dogs. We have also trained our staff on how to recognize and respond to signs of fentanyl overdose, and have made the overdose-reversing drug naloxone available to them. We are also working closely with local and federal law enforcement agencies to identify and disrupt the supply of fentanyl within this facility and our community as a whole.

In addition, we are providing education and resources to inmates on the dangers of fentanyl and other opioids through addiction treatment and support services to those who are struggling with substance abuse.

We understand that the opioid epidemic is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach, and we are committed to doing our part to protect the health and safety of our inmates, staff, and the community.

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