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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mecklenburg County Detention Center Launches MAT Program

(CHARLOTTE, N.C.) – Mecklenburg County Detention Center (MCDCC) is confronting the opioid crisis with the launch of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services provided by [VitalCore Health Strategies, LLC](#). Beginning on Aug. 1, 2025, continuing through May 18, 2027, this innovative program is fully funded by Mecklenburg County with the use of the [National Opioid Settlement funds](#).

Drug overdose is a leading cause of death for individuals recently discharged from correctional facilities, with the highest risk occurring within first two weeks post-release. Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in these settings can lower the risk of overdose, recidivism, and disease transmission, according to [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services \(NCDHHS\)](#).

At MCDCC, VitalCore licensed MAT clinicians will utilize evidence-based approaches including cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational enhancement and trauma-informed care.

To qualify for MAT, residents must meet one of the following requirements:

- Maintain current MAT participation or previously participated outside MCDCC
- Screen positive for opioid use
- Request treatment evaluation
- Present a history of opioid use dependency

Care will include FDA-approved medications such as:

- Buprenorphine induction

- Methadone continuation
- Naltrexone
- Methadone induction

Alongside medication management, program staff will provide essential clinical support through individual counseling, group therapy sessions, medical monitoring, and care with community providers.

To effectively integrate this medical treatment with behavioral health support, VitalCore will recruit additional staff to administer MAT services to residents. Furthermore, MCDCC's MAT Team will maintain regular communication with community providers, involve family support when appropriate, and implement thorough discharge planning to establish a stable foundation for continued recovery upon release.

"As I promised to this community when I became Sheriff, I will consistently identify and implement programs and initiatives that will empower our returning citizens to reenter society and their communities better than they left," **says Sheriff Garry L. McFadden.** "MCSO's new MAT program embodies my promise that will also fulfill a dream of a mother whose child is struggling with addiction."

On Monday, Sept. 15, MCSO will provide additional details during the "Breaking Barriers: Compassionate Care and Community Engagement in the Opioid Crisis Conference," hosted by the NC Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC). This summit aims to examine effective care coordination models, identify gaps in comprehensive care, and discuss innovative solutions for seamless integration, according to [NC AHEC's website](#).

Consultants from Vital Strategies will join Major Durrah and Sheriff McFadden at 10:45 a.m. to discuss the Implementation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) at MCDCC. Please note that registration closes at noon on September 10.

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