



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Introduces the Medication Assisted Treatment Program

(Charlotte, NC) - The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), in collaboration with our contracted healthcare services provider Wellpath, is pleased to announce the implementation of our Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MAT) that began last Tuesday, September 29th.

Here at the Mecklenburg County Detention Center (MCDC), the care of those in our custody extends beyond their immediate medical needs. It includes an understanding of pre-existing health challenges that plague our residents prior to incarceration and extends to their future successes while they navigate re-entry into our community after departure from our facility. The approach is multifaceted, fluid and largely focuses on the wellness of everyone under our care. By providing our residents with an opportunity to participate in MAT, we are solidifying our ongoing commitment to our resident patients and their health. MCSO fully understands the challenges of addiction and are choosing to support the efforts of our community by investing in this program.

MCDC residents may participate in the MAT Program if they report past opiate use or have an active prescription for methadone or suboxone. Once this information is verified by our healthcare provider there's an assessment, a treatment plan is developed, and the resident can begin treatment under the program. The initial assessment can occur within 24 hours of the resident's arrival at the MCDC. Additionally, each resident that gains acceptance into the MAT program will receive referrals for dental care, mental health services and be assigned a One Care Manager.

Sheriff McFadden says; *"The Mecklenburg County Detention Center is committed to the overall wellness of our residents. The introduction and implementation of our Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MAT) is another step in being part of the community reform and changing the stigma surrounding opioid addiction that members of our community face."*

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