



# Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

700 East Fourth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

T (704) 336-2543 • F (704) 336-6118

[www.mecksheriff.com](http://www.mecksheriff.com)

GARRY L. MCFADDEN  
SHERIFF

TELISA E. WHITE  
CHIEF OF DETENTION

KEVIN D. CANTY  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

## MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2024

**CONTACT:** Bradley Smith  
MCSO Public Information Manager  
[Bradley.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Bradley.Smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov)  
O: (980) 314-5008

### Sheriff Garry McFadden Responds to Inquiries Regarding VitalCore Health Strategies

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – Since announcing VitalCore Health Strategies as the medical and mental health provider for the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), I have received questions about the company, and I would like to address those concerns.

During the process of selecting a medical provider, vendors were required to indicate all legal claims against them which have been adjudicated in favor of the plaintiff (i.e., against the vendor) or otherwise settled in the past five years, as well as to indicate whether the vendor has been named in any lawsuits currently pending. VitalCore Health Strategies did list a lawsuit involving the ACLU, which was filed in the United States District Court in Delaware on October 11, 2023. The lawsuit – naming eight (8) different individual, government, and corporate defendants including VitalCore Health Strategies – alleges delayed and denied treatment for serious medical conditions suffered by persons incarcerated in the Delaware State Prison System since April of 2020, but acknowledges that VitalCore Health Strategies only assumed responsibility for the prison system's resident healthcare system in July of 2023 (just three months prior to the lawsuit's filing, and more than three years after the allegations of mistreatment began). Without speaking to the merits of the claims against VitalCore Health Strategies in Delaware, or any other lawsuits against VitalCore Health Strategies, or any of the other vendors who submitted proposals, it is an unfortunate reality that any correctional healthcare provider with the experience necessary to staff Detention Center-Central will have been sued on multiple occasions.

I have spoken with VitalCore's CEO, Viola Riggan and their President of Operations, Shannon Meyer, on several occasions and my confidence in our partnership has only grown. Ms. Riggan's leadership and VitalCore's experience in correctional healthcare make them a perfect fit for MCSO. Their commitment to quality care aligns perfectly with my vision for improving the well-being of those in our custody and the overall culture of the facility. I'm confident that together, we can make MCSO a model for excellence in correctional healthcare.

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