



# Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

## Jail Based Programs

Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid

November 28, 2023



## Brief History:

### Sheriff's Office Recovery-Focused Efforts

- 2016: Diversion First – a countywide initiative to divert people away from the justice system and towards treatment and recovery
- 2018: STAR (Striving to Achieve Recovery) - peer-led recovery-focused program established in the Adult Detention Center
- 2020: MAT (Medication for Addiction Treatment) – launched as the FCSO's primary intervention to combat the opioid epidemic



# Avoiding Stigma, Stereotypes, and Fear

- Stigma is “a strong lack of respect for a person or group of people or a bad opinion of them because they have done something society does not approve of.”

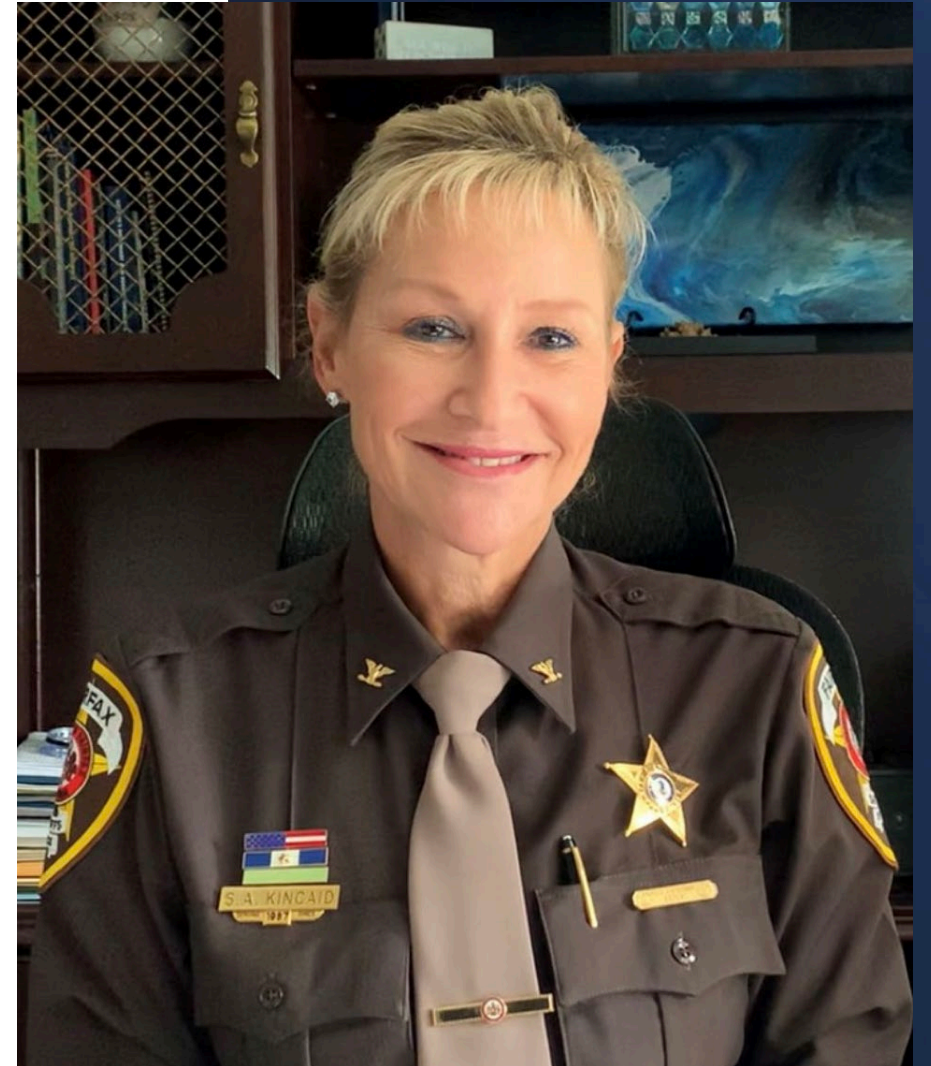
Source: [www.dontlabelus.org](http://www.dontlabelus.org)

- People returning to the community face tremendous barriers getting:
  - Housing and other basic needs
  - Jobs
  - Positive social relationships and activities
  - Access to healthcare
- TIP: Language Matters!
  - Use “people first” language
  - Avoid using a diagnosis as a label
  - Check out [www.recoveryanswers.org](http://www.recoveryanswers.org)

# Sheriff Kincaid's Philosophy on Treating Opioid Use Disorder

## REDUCE OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OVERALL RECIDIVISM

- It's about **culture change**
- We believe in second chances (and third, fourth, etc...)
- The FCSO has prioritized Medication Assisted Treatment as its response to the opioid crisis in our community and across the country.
- Jails are mandated to treat chronic illness. Substance use disorders are chronic illnesses requiring prioritization by our correctional healthcare providers.
- Bottom line: Treatment works. Recovery is possible
- We want to provide enough care and support to not see people return to jail



# Star Program: Overview

- Nationally recognized program that is an authentic, wholistic, peer-led program for individuals with substance-use disorders
- Focus: Underlying trauma, restoring dignity, providing individualized plans for a sober future



# Star Program: Outcomes

- After five years, 60% of past STAR participants have returned to the Fairfax Community and have not recidivated
  - Baseline: A report from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 68% of released inmates were arrested again within three years, 79% within six years, and 83% within nine years
- On the horizon with the CSB: National accreditation as the *first ever* jail-based certified peer-led program

# Common Themes About Incarcerated Individuals

- People who are incarcerated are disproportionately likely to:
  - Have chronic health problems including HBP, HIV, SUD's, HCV, STI's, and mental illness ([www.health.org](http://www.health.org))
  - Have not prioritized personal health and have minimal access to mainstream healthcare ([www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org))
  - Have high rates of trauma and adverse childhood experiences “Linking typologies of childhood adversity to adult incarceration: Findings from a nationally representative sample” – PubMed (nih.gov))
  - Experience multiple disparities based on:
    - Race
    - Criminal record
    - Socio-Economic Status
    - Behavioral health needs
  - Have social, economic, and health implications especially at reentry source: “Returning Home: Incarceration, Reentry, Stigma, and the Perpetuation of Racial and Socioeconomic Health Inequity,” Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

**Transitioning out of a period of incarceration is a time of change and increased risk for poor outcomes**

# Medication for Opioid Use Disorder: MAT Program

- Launched in July 2020, began with 1.9% of the population in MAT.
- Adopted Evidence Based Practices such as validated screening tools, drug screening at booking, standardized withdrawal protocols, and workforce development
- In FY23, we treated nearly 1,500 people with medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD):
  - Over 7000 individuals screened
  - Nearly 21 % of those screened were positive for Opioid Use Disorder
  - Of those who screened positive, 98% participated in MAT
- Today, MOUD treatment is provided to 20% of the jail population
- We were the first jail in VA to include Sublocade injections in our MOUD treatment options
  - This is a great option for individuals with diversion issues



# Challenges and Considerations in Transitioning Post-Incarceration

- A seminal study in Washington State found that in the two weeks following their release, people who had been incarcerated in state prisons were *129% times more likely to die* from overdose compared to the general public
- Untreated substance use disorders and opioid use disorders result in overdoses, deaths, recidivism, and increased legal action against jails
- Opioid use disorder is now protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act

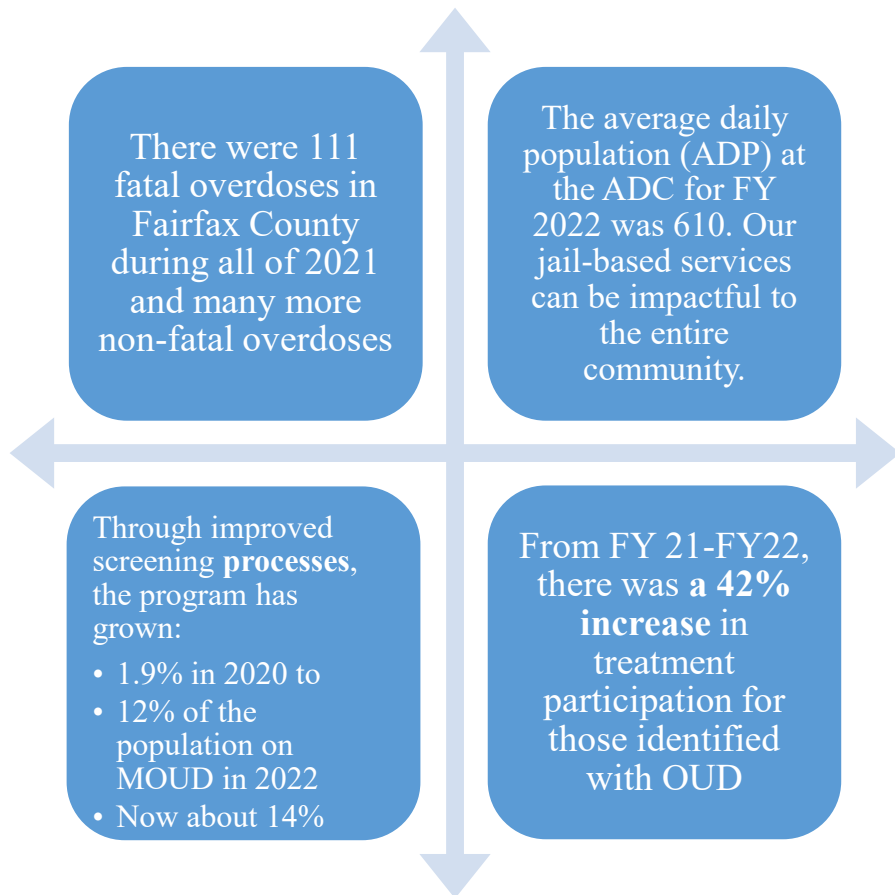
# Recovery Reentry Services

- Peer Support Services
- Recovery Housing
- Uber and Bus
- Telephones and Lobby Phone Chargers
- Medicaid sign-up assistance
- Connections to community treatment
- Bridge Medications and RX's
- Backpacks
- Harm reduction approaches: Narcan and Fentanyl test strips
- Assistance obtaining government ID

Recognize the signs of  
an opioid overdose.



# By the Numbers:



## In FY22 at the Adult Detention Center:

- 805 individuals received Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- 221 Narcan kits and fentanyl test strips were provided to individuals at release.
- Now all MAT participants receive Narcan
- 75 recovery housing scholarships
- 159 phones provided at release



## **Building Upon A Sheriff's Model Health Care Program in Fairfax County, Virginia**

---

In Fairfax County, Virginia, the Sheriff's Office has already established a program to provide high-quality health care, screening, and reentry services without federal funding. In 2022, the office recorded more than 700,000 healthcare contacts—of that number, roughly 80 percent of the jail population received medications, and nearly 40 percent were given medicine specifically for mental and/or substance use disorders (SUDs). The department's Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) program has treated more than 1,500 people with buprenorphine and other FDA-approved SUD medications. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) also runs an intensive addiction treatment program led by peer recovery specialists called Striving to Achieve Recovery (STAR). More than half of past STAR participants have successfully reentered the community without returning to jail or prison.

FCSO likewise works to provide reentering people with direct links to outpatient clinics, residential treatment centers, and community resources; bridge medications for opioid use disorder and tools including Narcan and fentanyl test strips; recovery housing scholarships; transportation assistance to access care; cell phones; and backpacks with essential transitional items. FCSO medical and reentry staff work to make connections early on with external healthcare providers and clinics to ensure a continuum of care and ease people's transition back to the community. Lastly, they assist eligible individuals nearing release with applying for Medicaid or getting coverage reinstated.

Ahead of the  
Curve

Thank you