



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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*For Immediate Release*

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## Leon County Detention Facility and Partners Team Up to Fight Opioid Abuse

The Leon County Detention Facility has established a new partnership with Disc Village, Inc. and Corizion Health to provide help for inmates dealing with opioid addiction. Governor Rick Scott declared an opioid epidemic in Florida back in May, 2017. The new agreement is to coordinate Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services to appropriate clients re-entering the community. DISC Village is a community based substance abuse agency located in Leon County and Corizion Health is a medical services provider for the detention facility. The new program is part of the Leon County Sheriff's Office's ALLin initiative, partnering with community groups to make Leon County safer.

MAT is a method of treatment for a substance use disorder, utilizing medications, individualized counseling and behavioral therapies. The comprehensive treatment plan has the ultimate goal of patient recovery with full social function. This form of treatment has been shown to:

- Improve survival
- Increase retention in treatment
- Decrease illicit opiate use
- Decrease hepatitis and HIV seroconversion
- Decrease criminal activities
- Increase employment
- Improve birth outcomes with perinatal addicts

The agreement between the Leon County Sheriff's Office and its partners has identified the use of VIVITROL®, an extended-release injectable naltrexone, for individuals seeking treatment for both opioid dependence and/or alcohol dependence. To be eligible to receive VIVITROL® injections, a client must be willing to receive monthly injections of VIVITROL® and participate in the required counseling portion of treatment.

The objective of this partnership is to expedite the delivery of VIVITROL® medication to persons with opioid or alcohol use disorders who are re-entering the community from incarceration. By identifying and screening the client prior to release, and providing the first VIVITROL® injection before release, we can more effectively prevent further opioid use and retain the client in treatment.

The provision of VIVITROL® injections and MAT services is funded through grants by Big Bend Community Based Care, the Department of Children and Families and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

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