



PRESS RELEASE

From the office of:
Sheriff James Stuart
Anoka County Sheriff's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2017

Press Conference: Anoka County Sheriff's Office February 23, 2017

A press conference will take place on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office: 13301 Hanson Blvd NW, Andover MN 55304. Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart will be announcing a new program that involves a community partnership to further the fight against opioid addiction and the accidental overdose deaths associated with it.

The new program will be instituted at the Anoka County Jail called the "Vivitrol Fresh Start Program." The program is a partnership between the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, the Vivitrol drug manufacturer, Alkermes, Anoka County Correctional Health and Nystrom & Associates, Inc. The program will be the first in the state that will offer inmates who are battling heroin addiction the chance to voluntarily receive the prescription drug Vivitrol. The drug has been shown to lessen cravings for opioids and acts as an opioid blocker. In this program, Vivitrol is utilized in conjunction with a co-occurring chemical dependency treatment program with the goal of ending the opioid abuse.

Vivitrol's manufacturer, Alkermes, will be providing the first dose at no cost to the individual or the program. From there, the participant will work with Correctional Health and Nystrom & Associates, Inc. to enter a co-occurring chemical dependency treatment program upon their release.

Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart, Bryan Nystrom, President and CEO, Nystrom & Associates, Inc. and Lindsay Sery with Anoka County Correctional Health will be at the press conference with a prepared statement and to answer any questions members of the press may have.