

**Mark C. Curran Jr., Sheriff**

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Sheriff Curran Commissions Survey on Opioid and Substance Use Disorders among Lake County Jail Inmates**

*Lake County Jail Partners with Lake Forest Graduate School of Management to Better Address Opioid Epidemic*

Sheriff Mark Curran and Lake County Jail Administration are working with Lake Forest Graduate School of Management to better understand and address the initial causes of opioid and substance use disorder.

According to a 2010 report from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, almost 65% of those incarcerated nationwide meet the criteria for substance use disorder. This shows it's likely that substance abuse has a correlation to why a person is incarcerated. The Lake County Sheriff's Office chose to work on this issue with input from jail inmates and expert scholars to help develop best practices which can be used in the Lake County Jail to aid those with substance use disorder and reduce recidivism.

An in-depth eight-page survey was generated by Lake Forest Graduate School of Management Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Doctor Bryan Watkins, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management Assistant Director of Institutional Research, Jeanne Kueter and members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The survey was offered to jail inmates in early February. Of the 540 inmates in custody, 430 volunteered to take the survey. The survey was confidential and intense. It dealt with some deeply personal issues related to the reasons the inmate is incarcerated and possible reasons why the inmate did or didn't abuse substances.

Lake Forest Graduate School of Management is currently in the process of compiling the survey results. The answers will be reviewed to determine which evidence-based programs the Lake County Jail will use to assist inmates with overcoming substance use disorder.

Sheriff Mark Curran said, “This is a groundbreaking opportunity for us to compile validated data to better address the opioid epidemic. I believe in order for us as a society to genuinely understand and address the opioid cycle, we need to determine the root cause of why someone turns to opioids. We have a number of inmates in the Lake County Jail who have struggled with opioid addiction and we are researching innovative ways to better treat those addicted. Partnering with Lake Forest Graduate School of Management is a terrific opportunity for us to better understand the core issues of opioid addiction and substance use disorder.”

**End of Release**