



Front Left to Right: Veronica Edmonds, Director of Prevention Services (Fairfield Behavioral Health Services); Vernon Kennedy Sr., Executive Director (Fairfield Behavioral Health Services); Harriet Squirewell, Director (Fairfield County Detention Center); Will Montgomery, Sheriff (Fairfield County Sheriff's Office); Donna Clowney, Deputy Coroner (Fairfield County Coroner Office); Jamie Webb, Deputy Chief (Fairfield County Fire Service); Sloan Griffin (Fairfield County Emergency Management)

Samantha Carte

Prevention Assistant
Fairfield Behavioral Health Services

As opioid overdoses steadily rise across the nation, the Fairfield Opioid Response Team continues its fight towards reducing overdose deaths in Fairfield County.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, the Fairfield Opioid Response Team installed a Narcan Vending Machine in the intake room at the Fairfield County Detention Center.

"With the opioid epidemic rising each

Narcan Vending Machine Installed at Fairfield County Detention Center

year within our county, I feel this is great for incarcerated individuals who are being released from jail to have a lifesaving medication in their hands. And it's free," says Dion Artis, Captain at Fairfield County Detention Center.

This Narcan Vending Machine was purchased through a grant from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund. It holds 54 Narcan, which were received through the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) Jail Pilot Program. Coordinated by Fairfield Behavioral Health Services and DAODAS, SCDHEC also trained 17 officers at Fairfield County Detention Center through their LEON Training Program. The Narcan in this machine will be FREE for inmates to access upon their release. Inmates will be shown the Narcan Manufacturers Training Video prior to receiving their free Narcan. If an inmate does not receive their Narcan, they are able to pick up an Opioid Overdose Reversal Kit from Fairfield Behavioral Health Services.

The Need

According to the newly released Drug Overdose Report in 2021 by DHEC, the number of drug overdose deaths by opioids from 2017 -2021 have steadily in-

creased:

- for prescription drugs from 782 in 2017 to 1853 in 2021(137%)
- for opioids from 748 in 2017 to 1733 in 2021 (132%)
- for fentanyl from 362 in 2017 to 1494 in 2021 (313%)

Since the Fairfield Opioid Response Team was established in late 2020, the Team has monitored various data, including the number of opioid overdoses and deaths, as well as opioid/stimulant seizures and arrests:

- opioid overdoses increased from 79 in 2017 to 113 in 2022 (143%)
- opioid overdoses deaths increased from 2 in 2017 to 5 in 2022 (150%)
- opioid/stimulant arrests increased from 24 in 2021 to 122 in 2022 (409%)
- opioid/stimulant drug seizures increased from 179.5 pills (751.87 g) in 2021 to 599.5 pills (784.31 g) in 2022 (234%)
- opioid/stimulant drug seizures (Fentanyl) from 1 pill (1.3 g) in 2021 to 118 pills (152.38 g) in 2022 (117%)
- opioid/stimulant drug seizures (Methamphetamines) from 40 pills in 2021 to 357 pills in 2022 (790%)

Studies show people are at a higher risk of overdose upon release from incarceration due to a decrease in tolerance. According to Just Plain Killers, the percentage of inmates in Fairfield County who indicated opioid use during any screening rose from 6.3% in 2017 to

11.11% in 2021.

"We certainly want to make sure we get Narcan into the hands of people who are at risk for experiencing an opioid overdose, and it's equally important for all of us to refer, bring, and support people for treatment at our facility for an

opioid addiction", says Vernon Kennedy Sr., Executive Director at Fairfield Behavioral Health Services "

If you or someone you know is at risk for an opioid overdose or struggling with an opioid addiction, please call Fairfield Behavioral Health Services for help at 803.635.2335 or email Samantha Carte, Prevention Assistant at scarte@fairfieldbhs.org.



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about Opioids
and Narcan



Scan to Learn
about Opioid
Treatment

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The foundation's goal was to enable school children in South Carolina to see nationally known artists and to promote outstanding performing artists in the state. Mr. Young successfully brought over 25 national performing artists and groups to South Carolina, including Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, The Feld Ballet, A Chorus Line, The Jung Su Song and Dance Troupe of Nanking, China, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. These performances reached tens of thousands of students and the general public. Additionally, the Kitani Foundation encouraged young people's creativity through an annual children's poster contest and calendar featuring drawings and poetry. The foundation also founded Mayfest and the Artist-in-Schools Program for Richland County School District I. Notably, the foundation was recognized for its outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina, receiving the South Carolina Arts Commission's prestigious Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award in 1979.

At a young age, Tommy Scott became a member of Gethsemane Baptist

Church in Blair. During his time in Los Angeles, California, he participated in the choir at Holman Methodist Church. Upon returning to South Carolina, he played a significant role in founding the Christ Unity Church of Columbia.

Tommy Scott's educational journey included attending Gethsemane Elementary School, McCrorey Liston High School, and St. Emma Military Academy in Virginia. After serving in the United States Air Force, he enrolled at Benedict College for two years before transferring to California State University in Los Angeles. There, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Art and Theater. Tommy continued his education by pursuing graduate work in sculpting.

While in Los Angeles, he received training from renowned actors such as Kathleen Freeman and Yaphet Koto. He also collaborated with the Watts Writers Workshop and mentored Roger Mosely. One of his notable works, the play Angela, was written and produced in partnership with Angela Davis, Jane Fonda, and Quincy Jones. In addition, he worked with Jester Hairston, a star of the TV show Amen, to enhance his piano skills. He performed classical,

traditional, and modern storytelling as an artist-in-residence for various arts councils and commissions across the United States, including North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina. He taught at esteemed institutions like the University of Southern California, UCLA, and Benedict College. In 1988, he toured the United Kingdom as a guest of Her Majesty's Eastern Arts Council, performing in numerous hamlets, towns, and cities.

Books written by this gifted author include Tommy Scott Young Spins Magical Tales and Black Blues and Shiny Songs (poetry).

Tommy Scott was very proud of his son, Lee Thompson Young, who pursued a career in storytelling and theater. Lee gained fame through his lead role as Jett Jackson on the Disney Channel's show, "The Famous Jett Jackson," and also appeared in other popular TV shows and movies like "Friday Night Lights," "Akeelah and the Bee," and "Rizzoli and Isles." Tommy Scott believed that by sharing his talents, Lee was able to positively impact the lives of others.

From Fairfield County Delegation

Anyone wishing to meet with Senator Mike Fanning during the summer months can do so by calling the Fairfield County Delegation Office/Roxie S. Woodard at 803.815.4037.

Meetings will be every Wednesday from June 7 - August 9, 2023.

Appointments will be scheduled upon request.