

TO: Sheriff Kevin Coppinger  
FR: ECCOA Executive Board  
RE: Emergency Procedures for Response Where Unidentified Substance is Present and Protection From Exposure is Required  
DT: 11/29/17

This email serves as the Executive Board's urgent and immediate demand for the adoption of and training for procedures at the ESCD to deal with response by officers where an unidentified substance is discovered. As you are aware, a recent incident occurred at the Middleton Facility wherein at least two officers and other ESCD personnel were unnecessarily exposed to what was likely an opioid substance. One officer suffered from an accidental exposure overdose and was administered NARCAN and hospitalized. If this officer had not been in a situation where NARCAN could be instantly administered, the officer could have suffered an even more serious reaction to exposure up to and including death.

The first purpose of this email is to demand that you issue immediate directions to all officers and management personnel instructing all ECSD personnel from this day forward to not handle or move any unidentified substance nor to enter any cell or other area in which an unidentified substance has been discovered until or unless a safe working protocol is adopted by the ECSD and until or unless proper training and safety equipment is provided. The Executive Board has reviewed the copy of the ECSD Rules and Regulations that was provided to the ECCOA after an information request was filed for such documents, and we are unable to find any existing policies or procedures to deal with exposure to and handling of unidentified substances.

Secondly, the ECCOA would like to begin meeting with you or your designee immediately to review the serious and immediate dangers that are apparent in the ECSD from accidental exposure to opioid and other dangerous substances in order to develop appropriate policies and procedures to protect our members from unreasonable risks. As you know, Article 15 of our collective bargaining agreement provides for the establishment of a health and safety committee. Moreover, Article 15, Section 2 provides that "The Employer shall undertake reasonable efforts to provide efficient and safe equipment, materials and conditions to protect the health and safety of the employees." Without proper protocols, equipment and training in place, individual officers will be forced to make the very difficult decision if a response would place that officer in immediate risk of bodily injury or harm. No officer should be forced to make this unfortunate and difficult decision to refuse an assignment or direct order to deal with or handle a situation where an unidentified substance is observed, without proper protocols, equipment and training.

Article 15 aside, this recent incident of accidental exposure highlights the very real and immediate dangers that our members face each and every day when responding to incidents at the ESCD facilities. Our members understand that there are inherent risks in serving as a correctional officer, but these risks can be minimized where and when the ESCD adopts proper policies and procedures and provides proper equipment and training. At this point, the Executive Board is deeply and immediately concerned that this recent incident points out a glaring hole in safety procedures, equipment and training and the ECCOA demands that these problems be addressed without delay.

We have attached a copy of a recent DEA publication, "A Briefing Guide for First Responders" that contains recommendations for "best practices" for first responders who may encounter fentanyl-related substances. It is a briefing document only, but outlines the major issues of accidental exposure and highlights recommendations for helping to avoid accidental

exposure. We view this document as a starting point for developing and implementing a safe protocol at the ESCD to avoid the real and present danger of accidental exposure.

Please get back to Keith Repucci, Vice-President of the ECCOA with your response.