

**CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD
POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

**PROVIDE INMATE ACCESS TO NALOXONE (NARCAN) TO INMATES AT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DETENTION FACILITIES**

BACKGROUND:

From 2006 through 2020, 185 people died in San Diego County's jails. The rate of deaths in San Diego County's jails raised concerns about underlying systemic issues within the San Diego Sheriff's Department's (SDSD) policies, procedures, and practices.

The California State Auditor (CSA) conducted an audit of the SDSD to determine the reasons for in-custody deaths; concluded that the SDSD failed to adequately prevent and respond to deaths of individuals in its custody; and made several recommendations pertaining to intake screenings, medical and mental health care, safety checks, and responses to medical emergencies.

A CLERB-commissioned study by Analytica Consulting in which overdose/accidental death rates of San Diego County Adult Detention Facilities inmates were compared to those from 11 other California counties revealed that San Diego County inmates have the highest overdose/accidental death rates. An inmate in San Diego is two times more likely to die in this manner than what is expected based on county mortality rates. San Diego County was the only county with a statistically significant excess number of overdose/accidental deaths. A review of drug-related causes of death for inmates over the past two years indicated that fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, contributed to most of those deaths.



Naloxone is a medication used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, to include a known or suspected fentanyl overdose. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) supports increased access to naloxone in correctional facilities, and promotion of naloxone use in said facilities. The NCCHC recommends that naloxone be "readily available" to all people in a facility, to include inmates. The NCCHC further recommends that inmates receive education on "opioid overdose and its signs, correct technique for administration of naloxone and, essential procedures, including performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation."

CLERB believes that all efforts to reduce the likelihood of in-custody deaths must be taken, to include those that would appear fiscally cost prohibitive or delay facility operations. CLERB believes the value of human life outweighs any cost and is greater than any resulting operational delays.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pursuant to Section 340.9(g) of the San Diego County Administrative Code, the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) shall have the authority to review and make recommendations on policies and procedures of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and San Diego County Probation Department. As such, CLERB makes the following policy recommendations to the SDSD:

1. Make naloxone "readily available" to San Diego County Detention Facility inmates.
2. Educate inmates on opioid overdose and its signs, correct technique for administration of naloxone and, essential procedures, including performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Submitted by:  Paul R. Parker III, Executive Officer	Date: 05-05-22	Reviewed by:  Lynn Setzler, Supervising Special Investigator	Date: 05-05-22
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