



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

Neil Cervenka
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

****MEDIA RELEASE****

Fort Bragg Community Task Force on Fentanyl 01/23/2024

In light of the ongoing opioid and fentanyl crisis affecting the nation and Mendocino County, the Fort Bragg Police Department's Project Right Now will be forming a Community Task Force on Fentanyl. The initial mission of the Fort Bragg Community Task Force on Fentanyl is to bring together community representatives and those impacted by fentanyl to collaborate on potential solutions tailored to our local community. This Task Force will be led by the Fort Bragg Police Department's Project Right Now team with the initial goals of:

1. Compiling potential solutions and approaches to the fentanyl crisis from different perspectives, which can be implemented, by the police department, local organizations and the community.
2. Explore the potential effectiveness of combating the fentanyl crisis through quarterly task force meetings.
3. Reducing the stigma associated with opioid substance abuse disorder through education and increasing community awareness.

A tentative outline for the first four months of the Task Force on Fentanyl includes:

February: Initial Task Force meeting to begin compiling information.

March: Project Right Now reports the results of the Task Force meeting back to the community and potential partner organizations.

May: Second Task Force meeting where Project Right Now reports on progress from previous meeting.

Individuals interested in participating in the Task Force will need to submit an application no later than February 9, 2023. Applications may be obtained by emailing Captain Thomas O'Neal at toneal@fortbragg.com. All submitted applications will go through a selection process and those selected will be notified by February 13, 2024. Applicants must agree to attend the February and May meetings. The February meeting will be a luncheon to be held sometime between February 19, 2024 and March 1, 2024.

Ideal applicants for this task force include:

- School staff at the Middle School or High School level
- Business owners and community leaders
- Individuals in the medical field (i.e. EMT's, nurses, physicians etc.)
- High School students impacted by the fentanyl crisis
- Parents of children impacted by the fentanyl crisis
- Elected officials with the ability to make policy decisions related to the fentanyl crisis

The Task Force will be limited to fifteen individuals.

Questions regarding the Task Force may be sent to Capt. O'Neal of the Fort Bragg Police Department at (707) 961-2800 Ext 204.

This information is being released by Chief Neil Cervenka. All media inquiries should contact him at ncervenka@fortbragg.com.

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