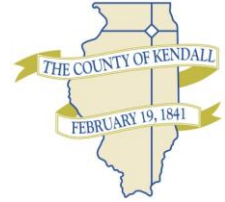




Kendall County

Office of the Sheriff

Dwight A. Baird, Sheriff
1102 Cornell Lane Yorkville Illinois 60560
Phone: 630-553-7500 Fax: 630-553-1972
www.co.kendall.il.us/sheriff



For Immediate Release

Date: September 27, 2019
Contact: Deputy Nancy Velez #24
Phone: (630) 768-2865
Email: nvelez@co.kendall.il.us

Kendall County Sheriff's Office Partners with the Health Dept. to Provide Counseling Office in the Jail

On September 24, 2019, the Kendall County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Kendall County Health Department to provide a counseling office in the Kendall County Jail. Kendall County inmates are now offered a full array of mental health services during their incarceration. The counseling will provide services such as crisis intervention, mental/behavior health treatment and addiction treatment. The health department will develop programs and services to reduce criminality, improve social behaviors, and increase the success for offenders while incarcerated and transitioning back into our community.

Sheriff Dwight Baird said, "Addressing the mental health needs of inmates can decrease incidents of re-offending, help inmates rehabilitate themselves by providing them the treatment they need, reduce the number of people who return to jail, and help divert people with mental disorders away from jail into treatment and rehabilitation."

Executive Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Amaal Tokars added, "Mental illness today is pervasive, with 64% of jail inmate's prisoners reporting mental health concerns. Further, 68% in local jails have substance use disorders. These conditions often co-occur; among people with mental health problems, 76% or persons in local jails also have substance use disordersⁱ. I want to express my gratitude to Sheriff Dwight Baird and his staff for his good will and humanity in requesting our embedded behavioral health counseling services inside Kendall County Jail."

ⁱ*Mental Health America, 2019*