PRESS RELEASE

Fentvic Meetup #10 Johnston County & Adjacent NC Counties

When: Saturday, March 9, 2024, 2:00-4:00 pm

- Where: Sarah Yard Community Center, Smith-Collins Park, 909 Lee Street, Smithfield NC
- Who: Fentanyl Victim Families (bring 18x20 poster of your loved one). Non-partisan. Open to the public, press, law enforcement, elected officials, public health advocates.

CONTACTS

Barb Walsh, Executive Director, 919-614-3830, <u>barb@fentvic.org</u>, <u>www.fentvic.org</u> Fentanyl Victims Network of NC (fentvic.org), 501(c)(3) EIN 88-3921380 Local Coordinators: Missy Duff 919-464-5970 & Kamaya Duff 919-464-6855 It's Bigger Than Me Michiko's Voice. Email: <u>itsbiggerthanmemichikovoice@gmail.com</u>

<u>PURPOSE</u>

- 1. NC Fentanyl Victim Families educational networking and advocacy event
- 2. Spark public safety conversations within communities about the dangers of illicit fentanyl, particularly counterfeit pressed pills (Adderall, Xanax, Percocet), and access to life-saving naloxone in schools and the community

FACTS

- 16,228 NC residents killed by fentanyl in 9.5 years, 2013-Sept 2023 (NC OCME Dec 2023)
- 7 out of 10 'street' pressed copy-cat pills contain lethal fentanyl additives (DEA 2023)
- 8 NC residents die each day (NC OCME)
- This means 8 more NC families implode each day.
- NC is #4 in nation in fentanyl fatalities (CDC 2023) yet #10 in population.
- Fentanyl is leading cause of death in NC for 18–25-year-olds (CDC 2022)
- 1,764 fentanyl fatalities combined occurred 2013-Sept 2023 in the Counties of Johnston (206), Harnett (227), Nash (137), Sampson (64), Wake (867), Wayne (146) and Wilson (117) source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Death Certificate Data
- Links to fentanyl fatality data. Go to fentvic.org website, select <u>RESOURCES</u> tab, select <u>NC</u> <u>COUNTY REPORTS</u>, select <u>COUNTY NAME</u> you are interested in.
 - **JOHNSTON:** https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wpcontent/uploads/reports/Johnston_County.pdf
 - o HARNETT: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Harnett_County.pdf
 - NASH: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Nash_County.pdf
 - SAMPSON: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Sampson_County.pdf
 - WAKE: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Wake_County.pdf
 - WAYNE: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Wayne_County.pdf
 - WILSON: https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/Wilson_County.pdf

<u>ABOUT</u>: Fentvic.org is a charitable nonprofit located in Wake County NC. Fentvic.org is an action-oriented grassroots nonprofit that promotes Public Safety, Education, Justice, Advocacy, and Support of NC fentanyl victim families in all 100 NC Counties.

<u>**RULES**</u>: Non-partisan public event. Treat victim families with dignity and respect. Avoid trigger word 'overdose.' Prohibited: political statements/ranting, helium balloons, firearms, and alcohol. No food service, just hugs.