Mike Quinn, warden of the Citrus County Detention Facility, was placed on administrative leave following the review of an inmate death from November. Ryan Gustin, a spokesman for CoreCivic, the Tennessee-based company managing the county jail in Lecanto, said Friday, Feb. 4, the investigation "indicated that several operational policies and procedures were not followed" while the inmate was at the facility.

"Additional staff may be placed on administrative leave as part of our ongoing review of the matter," Gustin said. Gustin said senior CoreCivic leadership informed Citrus County government officials of the news. "Additional details are pending completion of our review, to preserve the integrity of our investigation and the due process rights of individuals placed on leave," he said. "We will continue to review this situation with our government partner and take all necessary steps to address areas where we fell short." Gustin said jail staff found the inmate unconscious and unresponsive at around 10:26 a.m. Nov. 2. Medical staff from the facility, along with local first responders, treated the person before they were pronounced dead at around 10:42 a.m. "We are deeply saddened by the passing of the individual who was in our care," Gustin said. "We express our deep and heartfelt sympathy to this individual's loved ones." Preliminary investigations showed the person died from natural causes, Gustin said. An autopsy report later listed dehydration as the cause of death, prompting further investigation into the incident. "Those efforts revealed that several operational policies and procedures were not followed during the time this individual was in our care," Gustin said, "As a result, the CCDF warden was placed on administrative leave while we continue to review this matter." According to CoreCivic, the county jail can house up to 760 inmates, who are either in local, federal or U.S. Virgin Island custody. Quinn was named warden of the county jail in June 2017 after coming into the facility as assistant warden in September 2015, according to CoreCivic and prior Chronicle reports. According to the county from January, six inmates died in 2021 at its privately operated jail -- five from natural causes, and one from suicide. In 2020, an inmate died from natural causes while another died from a homicide. Crystal River 34-year-old Demare Tavis Barnes II is due to stand trial the week of Feb. 14 on a second-degree murder charge connected to the Dec. 5, 2020, death of his fellow inmate, Crystal River 53-year-old Wayne Charles Washer. In 2019, according to the county, one inmate died from natural causes. COVID-19 was not responsible for inmate deaths in either 2020 or 2021, according to the county, which received its data from CoreCivic. "We're committed to providing comprehensive, compassionate care for every individual housed in CCDF," Gustin said, "and set high standards that, along with our government partner, we expect to be met at all times."