



# ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SANTA RITA JAIL

PRESENTED BY:

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Alameda County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Gregory J. AHERN

September 20, 2015: Contra Costa Times

**Mental health treatment for the Bay Area incarcerated lacking, officials say**

Hundreds of inmates are in Bay Area jails -- and thousands populate jails across the state: They are waiting for a spot at a mental health treatment program.

"The bottom line is the state of mental health care for mentally ill offenders is dismal," said Michael Romano, Stanford University law lecturer and director of the school's Three Strikes Project. "Medication by itself will not solve the problem, particularly when you're dealing with people who are both mentally ill and chemically addicted."



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# Overview of Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

The design process of Santa Rita Jail began in the early 1980's and the facility officially opened in 1989

Programming space for inmates was not even a topic at this time.

Also at that time, the mentally ill were kept in institutions designed to treat them for their illness.

This 25 year old facility needs some remodeling to meet the current needs for those for which we are responsible to provide care, custody, and control.



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

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The most recent daily snapshot shows 1056 inmates at Santa Rita Jail being seen by Criminal Justice Mental Health (CJMH a county entity) at Santa Rita Jail. This number fluctuates daily.

Of this, 865 (82%) are male and 191(18%) are female.

This represents a total of 44% of the current population at SRJ.

Despite the decrease in the jail population, CJMH has not experienced a significant change in the numbers they serve.



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

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- CJMH receives an average of 40 referrals per day from intake alone.
- Another 10-20 come from other sources within the jail.
- CJMH meets with over 1200 inmates per month.
- Since January, the monthly number of referrals have doubled
- Medication is provided to 800-1000 inmates daily
- Clinical staff are scattered about the facility, wherever room can be made. Support staff are in a separate location from clinical staff, again, in a space not originally designed as office space.



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

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- Currently, there are 5.5 FTE psychiatrists on staff to oversee the needs of the mentally ill inmates at SRJ.
- There are 12 mental health clinicians, working day or swing shifts, who are on site 7 days per week from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Santa Rita Jail does not have 24 hour on-site mental health coverage.
- There is one clinician assigned to each intake shift. During that time, an average of 40 mental health referrals are generated.



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

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Due to the limited number of mental health staff, inmates in need of mental health care are seen by mental health staff based upon immediate need. This means they will be seen immediately if they are in crisis or they can wait up to several weeks to be seen, depending on the need. Those in crisis are seen first and all others are prioritized.



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

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Services provided by CJMH include:

Ongoing support, evaluation and assessment of open cases.

Crisis intervention

Suicide prevention

Brief therapy for those in crisis

Assessment and monitoring for developmentally disabled



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# Current Status Of Mentally Ill Inmates at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ)

There are no locations inside SRJ designed for any type of therapy or counseling. For those housed in high security units, the vast majority of these meetings take place in the dining area of the housing unit, providing little to no privacy, in an environment not designed for this type of activity.



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# PREVIOUS FUNDING MEASURES

AB 900 – **Required** the construction of additional bed space.

SB 1022 – Provided funding for construction of additional beds and program space or only program space.

**No funding was sought under these measures by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office**



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# SB 863

Signed by the Governor on June 20, 2014, as part of the 2014-2015 California Budget

Provides funding for county jail construction designed to improve correctional housing, with an emphasis on expanding programming, as well as medical and mental health treatment space.



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# SB 863

Discourages the creation of additional bed space without just cause. Points are deducted in the scoring process for adding bed space.

Requires construction of space for treatment (medical and mental health) as well as inmate programming.

Funding under this measure is being overseen by the BSCC.



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# What is the BSCC?

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspects for compliance of standards (Title 15 and 24) and directs funding for construction of local adult and juvenile detention facilities and ensures that the local jail projects meet recent Legislative mandates to provide program space to rehabilitate offenders.

The BSCC inspects SRJ every two years for compliance with Title 15 standards. The last inspection was in 2014, which SRJ passed.



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# BSCC APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- June 20, 2014, SB 863 was signed by the governor and placed into the 2014-2015 budget
- June 30, 2015, in an open meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved the pursuit of funding and CEQA compliance in a Board Letter. The Resolution was passed 5-0.
- June 30, 2015, in a separate Board Letter, the County agreed to contract with Vanir to assist with the application process. Board of Supervisors approved 5-0.
- SB 863 Request for Proposals (RFP) opened June 10, 2015 and closed August 28, 2015.



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# BSCC APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- August 31-September 11, 2015- Technical Review.
- September 16-October 16, 2015, raters review of all proposals.
- October 22, 2015, Executive Steering Committee will rank all proposals.
- November 12, 2015, Conditional Awards will be announced.



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# ALAMEDA COUNTY APPLICATION

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is seeking \$54,340,000.

Refurbish two existing housing units.

New building between the existing housing units.

**NO NEW BEDS**



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# ALAMEDA COUNTY APPLICATION

Housing Unit 23 will be remodeled to meet the housing needs of the mentally ill male population.

Housing Unit 24 will also be remodeled for our mentally ill female population.

As a result of the remodel of the two housing units, Santa Rita Jail will experience a **reduction of 18 beds.**



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# Mental Health/Program Services Building

New administrative space will consolidate all mental health staff into one location which will allow for better collaboration among therapists.

Treatment areas for mentally ill will be designed specifically for large and small group sessions as well as one on one counseling.

Will provide a central location for all treatment.



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# Mental Health/Program Services Building

Proposed infill will provide easy access for mentally ill inmates to receive treatment, requiring less staff for movement to and from housing location.

Additional medical space will provide a more modern and centralized location for inmates on the east side of the facility. Thus reducing wait times and traffic jams at the current clinic site.

Additional classroom space and interview rooms will provide the opportunity for future expansion of classes and re-entry programs for the SRJ population.



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# Mental Health/Program Services Building

## IN SUMMARY

- Two floors with program, medical and mental health treatment and administrative space.
- Remodel of two housing units to meet the increasing needs of the mentally ill in custody.
- Inmates will not be housed in the new building
- No new beds.



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# QUESTIONS?



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