

Care First, Jails Last Resolution Implementation Update

Alameda County Board of Supervisors' (BOS) Presentation

Joint Health & Public Protection Committee
Monday, September 27, 2021

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Alameda County Care First, Jails Last Resolution Implementation Update

Presentation Goals:

- 1) Summarize BOS Action relative to the Care First, Jails Last Taskforce Membership;**
- 2) Provide Process Recommendations regarding Taskforce Activities; and**
- 3) Recommend Next Steps for BOS Consideration & Potential Action.**



Background:

- On **May 25, 2021**, Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS) unanimously approved a “Care First, Jails Last” Policy Resolution.
- The Care First, Jails Last policy affirmed that Alameda County values a comprehensive continuum of care for individuals with mental illness, substance use, and co-occurring disorders rather than incarceration.
- The Care First, Jails Last policy also called for a just and equitable transformation of criminal justice, behavioral health, and wraparound services that reduces the number of people with mental illness, substance use, and co-occurring disorders in Santa Rita Jail.



County-Wide Stakeholder Participation:

- Justice Involved Mental Health (JIMH) Taskforce;
- Peers & Family Members; Peer & Family Organizations;
- Faith-Based Institutions, Coalitions & Advocacy Groups;
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
- Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB);
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); and
- County Departments *(Including; Health Care Services Agency, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation, & Law Enforcement)*



Results:

Justice Involved Mental Health Taskforce (JIMHT)

- With Alameda County BOS Approval, the Taskforce was launched by HCSA & ACBH in early 2018 to:
 - Examine how to make systematic changes needed to improve services for justice-involved people with mental illness;
 - Develop recommendations for policy makers to improve system-wide responses to these persons; and
 - Create an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Taskforce.
- By June 30, 2021, the JIMHT had completed its work and submitted its final set of recommendations to ACBH regarding the county system.

ACBH Services & Forensic System Redesign Planning

- On May 12, 2020, Alameda County BOS directed Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services to develop a plan to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals with behavioral health conditions within the jail. Planning involved:
 - Stakeholder planning & engagement;
 - Departmental analysis, planning, and consultation; and
 - Strategic engagement with the JIMHT.
- On October 27, 2020, the BOS provided its support for the plan which incorporated results from the department's planning efforts and JIMHT BH recommendations.



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Overview

- The “**Care First, Jails Last Task Force**” shall be a twenty-five (25) member body charged with developing a countywide implementation plan, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors, informed by what was proposed by the Justice Involved Mental Health Task Force for the next two years.
- The Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board will take over the monitoring of the countywide plan, thereafter. This two-year process will be financed by each of the seven participating County departments. (BOS Budget Hearing, June 24, 2021)
- Brown Act covered body.



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

**BOS Approved
25-Member Taskforce**

- **Five (5) Community Representatives:** Each Supervisor will appoint a representative from their District. The preference is that it will include people with lived experience, or family of people with lived experience, either criminal justice involved or mental health experiences.
 - **Nine (9) Alameda County Officials:** The Agency/Office Director (or designee) will serve on the committee.
 - Alameda County Behavioral Health (Committee Chair)
 - Alameda County District Attorney's Office
 - Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department
 - Alameda County Sheriff's Office
 - Alameda County Social Services Agency
 - Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination
 - Alameda County Public Defender
 - Alameda County Probation Department
 - Alameda County Superior Court (Presiding Judge or designee)
- *The following representatives will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors Health Committee:*
- **Three (3) Community Based Service Providers** *(must provide services to formerly incarcerated individuals, mental health care services, and/or substance use treatment services), one from each of the following regions:*
 - North County
 - South County
 - Tri-Valley
 - **Two (2) City Program Directors:** *(should be from cities that are the two most impacted cities, and Program Directors must provide services that aim to divert people with mental illness, substance use or co-occurring disorders from jail).*
 - **Two (2) Representatives** *from any of the following:*
 - Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board
 - Alameda County Mental Health Collaborative
 - Alameda Health System
 - East Bay Supportive Housing Collaborative
 - **Four (4) Representatives from Police Agencies** *selected one from each of the following regions of Alameda County:*
 - Central Region
 - North County
 - South County
 - Tri-Valley



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

BOS Approved
25-Member Taskforce

Recommendations for BOS Consideration:

An Inclusive Structure & Model for Success



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration

- **Membership**
- **Process & Outcomes**
- **Financing Design**



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration:
MEMBERSHIP

- Consider complete experience of representative/nominee
 - Organizational representation
 - Member lived experience
 - Representation of multiple sectors or perspectives



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration:
LAUNCH

• Process & Outcomes:

- Full Taskforce Membership Selected by end of calendar year (December 2021)
- Care First, Jails Last Taskforce Membership Finalized by January 2022
- Taskforce Launch by January 2022



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration:
PROCESS

• **Process & Outcomes:**

- **Phase 1**: January 2022 (Year 1)
 - ❖ Taskforce Orientation & Meeting Schedule Initiated
- **Phase 2**: JIMHT Recommendations & ACBH Forensic Plan Review
- **Phase 3**: Prioritization & County-Wide Implementation Plan Developed and BOS Approved
- **Phase 4**: County Departmental/Agency Plans Developed and Approved (Non ACBH)
- **Phase 5**: Quarterly Updates to BOS (Years 1 & 2)



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration:
OUTCOMES

• Process & Outcomes:

- **Two (2) Year Process** (January 2022 – January 2024)
- **County-Wide Implementation Plan:**
 - ❖ To **Reduce** incarceration of individuals with mental health and/or substance conditions;
 - ❖ To **Ensure** transparent accountability and county-wide investment;
 - ❖ To **Promote** the development of critical county departmental/ agency implementation plans; and
 - ❖ To **Improve** the overall health & wellness of the broader Alameda County community.
- **County Mental Health Advisory Board Plan Monitoring & BOS Updates** (Effective February 2024+)



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Areas for BOS
Consideration:
FINANCING

Task Force Financing Design

➤ This two-year process will be financed by each of the **seven** participating County agencies/departments:

1. Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
 - Alameda County Behavioral Health (Committee Chair)
 - Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination
2. Alameda County District Attorney's Office
3. Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department
4. Alameda County Sheriff's Office
5. Alameda County Social Services Agency
6. Alameda County Public Defender
7. Alameda County Probation Department



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

For BOS Consideration:

- Approve proposed Care First, Jails Last Taskforce framework, timeline and financing plan;
- Authorize ACBH Department Director to initiate Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

Questions? Comments?



Alameda County
Health Care Services Agency

Alameda County ^{ac}  ^{bh}
Behavioral Health Care Services

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES