

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:18 AM

Subject: Re: Steps to advance work of Care First Jails Last Task Force

Dear ACBH Director Dr. Tribble and RDA Amalia Egri Freedman,

We write to urge you to take several immediate steps to open the Care First Jails Last Task Force process to facilitate effective community and Task Force member participation to advance our work.

We appreciate the openness you have shown to the ideas of Task Force members to date. We also believe the Task Force can and should be more inclusive and efficient. To that end, we ask that you undertake the following:

1. Include on the next agenda a proposal to commit to the goals and racial equity commitments of the Justice Involved Mental Health Task Force.
2. Elect a community co-chair of the Task Force to help with agenda design. This will not only distribute some of the labor of creating agendas, but increase investment and accountability to the community, many members of which have worked for years and have deep knowledge on these issues.
3. Improve communication.
 - a. Establish a listserv for members of the public to get Task Force notices, including notifications of meetings. (The link on the web site for subscribing appears to be broken.)
 - b. Include contact emails of each Task Force member in the Roster on the webpage.
 - c. Create a way for people to work and communicate with each other in between meetings, including the activation of subcommittees to advance work.
4. Several Task Force members sent a letter on April 25 regarding forming subcommittees focused on budget and data issues. We ask that this letter be forwarded to the full task force and posted on task force website, and that the subcommittees be appointed during the May 26 meeting of the Task Force.
5. Coordinate with the Sheriff's Office to open a line that allows anyone at Santa Rita Jail to listen to the Task Force meetings and, if possible, participate in the public comment period.

We hope that RDA and the Department will demonstrate agility and responsiveness in addressing these suggestions, so that the Task Force will be fully able to carry out its mandate to end the incarceration in Alameda County of people experiencing mental illness.

Sincerely,

Bob Britton and Myrna Schwartz (Faith in Action East Bay/ Interfaith Committee for Justice in our Jails), John Lindsay-Poland (American Friends Service Committee), Tash Nguyen

(Restore Oakland), Jon Simon (Congregation Beth El), Natasha Baker, David Stern, Ronnie Boyd, Olivia Donnini, Alex Ludington
On behalf of the Care First Community Coalition

Cc: Care First Jails Last Task Force members

Attachment: Letter regarding subcommittees