



Care First, Jails Last Taskforce

UNAPPROVED Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

This meeting was conducted exclusively through videoconference and teleconference

Care First,
Jails Last

Webinar via Zoom: [Care First, Jails Last Task Force \(April 27, 2023\)](#)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tribble at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call & Introductions

Members Present: Abbott; Bloom; Buchanan; Dasheill; Ford; Graves; Lee; Neideffer; Sheehan-Rahman; Romero; Staratt; Syren; Toro; Chair Tribble. New Member Kelsey O’Neill was introduced, representing the District Attorney’s Office.

Excused: Bedrossian; Neff; Souza

Absent: Cespedes; Danao; Dixon; Penn;

A motion was made to allow Peggy Sheehan-Rahman to participate virtually. The motion was seconded and approved pursuant to the amended Brown Act.

Next Month’s Meeting Location

It was announced that next month’s CFJL meeting will be held at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, Conference Room B.

Review and Approve Prior Meeting’s Minutes

Interim MHAB Chair Brian Bloom wanted to clarify that the minutes should read that Judge Syren indicated that he would not be able to participate based on his docket. A motion was made and seconded to approve last month’s meeting as corrected. Motion carried; minutes are approved.

Public Comment Opened and Closed.

John Lindsay-Poland: The online access to the agenda is disabled, and unable to be seen. Also, when people are speaking in the meeting, they cannot be heard. Also, the intercepts placed on the agenda are not developed enough and extensive enough to be voted on. They are posted with minimal information and should be further developed for discussion at a future meeting.

Joy George: Made a recommendation that to avoid having to print the recommendations every week, continue the virtual showing of the recommendations.

John Lindsay-Poland: Please take public comment before voting on the recommendations. Also, the March packet is not online on the website, so all of these recommendations did not have the full hosting. Lastly, regarding Recommendation No. 8, the status of the implementation of the Babu settlement is very important for evaluating how much has been spent. Reviewing these reports is very



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related to how these funds have been spent. Reconsideration of the settlement terms may need to be addressed.

Myrna Schwartz: The dates of the Taskforce meetings are not posted on the website. This is essential for the public's information. It is recommended that all Taskforce members participate in the various subcommittee meetings.

Discussion Items

Data Review and Brainstorming

Dr. Charlene Taylor led the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation regarding Subcommittee Updates, the Review process for recommendation review and finalization, and Review and Finalize Recommendations for Cross-Cutting & Intercept -2. Due to technical difficulties, Jamon Franklin (RDA) stepped in for Dr. Taylor.

Subcommittees

Ad hoc subcommittees were established for flexibility in meeting. Any questions would be collected during this meeting to be addressed during the following meetings. The subcommittees included:

Data: Brian Bloom (Chair), Corrine Lee, Kimberly Graves, Tiffany Danao, Doria Neff and Peggy Sheehan-Rahman. The Data Committee met on April 10, and will continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, time TBD. The Intercept 2 recommendation was discussed, Nos. 14-34, and focused specifically on Nos. 14 and 34, the two recommendations that focus on the need and recommendation for an African American Wellness Hub. No information was provided to disclose how such a hub would be designed to specifically address the gross and unjust racial inequities and incarceration rates at the jail, as well as hospitalization rates at acute and sub-acute hospitals.

Finance: Corrine Lee (Chair), Michelle Starratt, Greg Syren and Kimberly Graves. Dr. Taylor could not be heard. Corrine Lee spoke for the Fiscal Task Force. This committee met on April 14, and will continue to meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 3:30 p.m. It was requested that the meeting information be posted on the website. The committee discussed the budget and Intercept -2, particularly getting clarity on the cost of various operational items and the effect on these budgets. A spreadsheet was also presented to show where the source of monies may come from, including both the funding source and the agency. Specific discussion was around the budget, and Intercept -2, particularly how smaller organizations in the community can be in a better position for grant funding and government funding knowing that they take on a community-rooted approach. They also discussed housing issues. The subcommittee also discussed getting clarity regarding general costs, i.e. the cost of staff vs. the cost of services, the cost of creating a new service vs. adding staff to an



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existing service, etc. Lastly, the subcommittee stated that it is their position that someone from the CAO's office should be in attendance at the meetings since they are discussing finance.

Jamon continued with the CFJL Taskforce System Recommendation Grid and Template Review. Each process will be reviewed and discussed, followed by three options:

- 1) Confirm as is
- 2) Confirm with changes
- 3) Decline

For each recommendation that is confirmed, we will identify:

- 1) Problem it addresses/Data that supports it
- 2) Agency and community partners
- 3) Remaining data questions
- 4) Budget requests

Each agency will keep track of their own relevant recommendations.

Cross Cutting Recommendations by Intercept

1. Identify and recommend ongoing county agency practices that measure unmet needs and service gaps.
2. Fund dedicated Alameda County Behavioral Health staff time and/or a consultant to conduct gap analysis. Concretely measure unmet mental health needs, including those named above. Estimated cost \$200,000 and reserves.
3. Assess and evaluate the causes of staff shortages and outcomes of efforts to recruit and retain behavioral health line staff in Alameda. Should include identifying housing options, workforce development training and funding to increase compensation that addresses workforce needs.
4. Create transparency around the County's reserves and fund balances. Continue to implement Taskforce recommendations and support County and community discussions on how to meet the Care First policy goals.
5. Increase and maintain Alameda County advocacy to the California and federal governments for legislation that expands funds. Expand funds to provide flexible funds that can be used for serve multiple populations for both capital and program costs, and types of housing that have been difficult to fund.
6. Create transparency of Alameda County's unspent state realignment funds designated for Medi-Cal services.
7. Intercept 3: Create a public accounting of unspent funds in Santa Rita Jail. The funds allocated for the jail that remain unspent because of unfilled staff positions, as well as overtime, should be transparent and subject to proposals for re-investment. This accounting should include a) an accounting of how much is being spent on overtime in the jail; and b) a regular periodic accounting of funded vacant positions in Santa Rita Jail of ACSO, ACBH and contractor (e.g. Telecare) staff.



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8. Intercept 3: Create a budget report on how the funds mandated by the Babu settlement have been allocated and spent, and the status of implementation of the settlement's terms.
9. [\$43M Budget Investment] Fully fund the Alameda County Behavioral Health Department's countywide Forensic Plan, which includes funds for CATT, 24-hour dispatch service, expanding voluntary residential treatment beds countywide, new board and care facilities, facility for co-occurring mental illness substance treatment, hospital beds for acute facilities, and others, satellite urgent care clinic services, re-entry support teams and peer respite for person from Santa Rita Jail on probation and at risk.
10. Policy Change. Ensure that families with formerly incarcerated/criminalized family members are not restricted from accessing affordable supportive housing in Alameda County. Create alternative to Section 8 housing that support system-impacted families.
11. [\$6M Budget Investment + Policy] To maintain existing programs and services run by community behavioral health service providers, behavioral health community-based organization line staff should receive compensation equal to County staff in comparable positions. Begin with completing a 5% increase in compensation to stop the bleeding of staff in CBOs contracted with the County.

Michelle Staratt stated (related to No. 5) that she believes one of the critical issues around advocacy for more money is an expansion of the lobbyists telling us what they are doing. The agency department's staff needs to know what is happening in a timely manner to be as effective as possible.

It was requested that more factual information for each recommendation be revealed, including funding. Jamon stated that some of the recommendations have this information available, and portions were provided during the meeting.

Q: Chair Bloom asked if the funding would be exhausted on the listed agencies only, or if others would possibly be included.

A: This is still in the development stages, so nothing is final yet.

Q: Kelsey O'Neal asked who are the organizations that are facilitating the coordinated re-entry programs and the restorative justice circles?

A: There are no vendors yet, but RFPs are being prepared for submission. However, there has been money dedicated for the project from the Board of Supervisors.

There was a question submitted regarding AB109 money determination and reallocation. It was determined that this should be addressed at a later time.

Summary: There is a recommendation and motion on the floor to accept and adopt the cross-cutting recommendations with the proviso that they will be revisited when the work of the Finance committee



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comes. Also, the remaining recommendations will be examined and acted upon at the next meeting. There will be a need to establish a measurable outcome and timeline for each of the recommendations. The motion was properly moved and seconded, and the motion passed.

Recap, Close & Next Steps:

1. Review recommendations to the data
2. Integrate public comments and agency/non-agency suggestions
3. Remove or add data

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Next meeting, May 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Agenda, Minutes and Meeting Recordings are available online

Visit us at: www.AlamedaCountyCFJLTaskForce.org

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