

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SPECIAL MEETING
&
JOINT HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Supervisor Nate Miley (Chair, Health Committee Public Protection Committee member)
Supervisor Lena Tam (Health Committee member)
Supervisor Elisa Márquez (Chair, Public Protection Committee)

Location: **Board of Supervisors Chambers, Rm 512**
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. ACTION ITEM: Care First Jails Last Implementation Report

[Attachment](#)
[Attachment](#)

Brian Bloom, Chair, Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board, and Mental Health Advisory Board Care First Ad Hoc Committee members: Margot Dashiell Dr. Alice Feller Alison Monroe Kari Malkki, and John Lindsay-Poland presented the Care First Jails Last Implementation Report.

Data on Mental Health in Jail

- All incarcerated individuals are assessed for mental health needs at booking (per the Babu consent decree).
- Jail population decreased by 10% in the last two years, but the number of inmates with mental health needs remains steady (~850 people, ~50% of jail population).
- Roughly 385 people nightly have severe mental health conditions—more than all local psychiatric hospitals and crisis residential centers combined.
- Around 168 people nightly are in acute crisis (levels 3–4), double the capacity of John George Hospital.

Recommendations for nine focus areas

1. Safe Landing Project - supports people leaving jail with behavioral health needs.
 - Served 11,000 people; added transportation services; needs a permanent facility (currently in a trailer).
 - Potential to integrate with CalAIM's justice-involved initiative for reimbursement and expanded services.
2. Subacute & Psychiatric Beds
 - County has made progress with Villa Fairmont expansion and \$130M state grants.
 - Many John George patients (20–30%) stay longer than needed due to lack of step-down beds.
 - A countywide needs assessment of subacute and psychiatric bed capacity is necessary
3. Cares Navigation Center -Point-of-Arrest Diversion - offers an alternative to jail at the moment of arrest
 - Shown to reduce recidivism and received \$6M Prop 47 funding.
 - Underutilized due to limited referrals from law enforcement and restrictive eligibility.
 - Recommend expanding criteria and encourage agency participation

4. Court-Based Diversion Programs

- Includes Behavioral Health Court, Mental Health Diversion Court, and Drug Court.
- Strength: Strong court commitment.
 - Obstacles: lack of centralized outcome data - recidivism, racial disparities
 - Delays in assessments for eligibility; no compliance with Board's directive to expand Pretrial Services.

5. African American Wellness Center

- 49% of incarcerated individuals with mental illness are African American
- The County secured a building and funding
- Psychiatric services, strong family/peer voice, interim services before 2027, sustainable funding is needed

6. First Episode Psychosis (FEP) Programs

- There are over 900 young people in Alameda County using these programs
- Request funding for another FEP program to reach 100 more youth.

7. Board & Care Facilities

- Need for stable funding and inclusion in Measure W housing priorities

8. Deep Rental Subsidies

- Propose County-funded deep subsidies (flex pools) covering rent beyond 30% of income, since Section 8 is largely inaccessible; could be funded via Measure W

9. Transparency & Data

- Publicly report of Care First Jails Last funding and outcomes.
 - There are issues with gaps in data sharing
 - No central tracking of diversion program outcomes.
 - Need to publish assessments on psychiatric beds and full service partnerships.
- Request the Board of Supervisors direct CAO and agencies to implement full transparency

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☒ **Request Joint Health & Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position**
- ☐ Other:

Recommendation from Joint Committee: Joint Committee supports the report and recommends to move to the full Board of Supervisors. Staff will be asked to analyze and report back on the costs, timelines, and implementation of the nine priority areas: the Safe Landing Project, psychiatric treatment beds, Cares Navigation Center, court-based diversion, African American Wellness Center, housing and subsidies, and analysis of serious mental illness and substance use disorder needs. A joint board letter will be drafted to ensure accountability and regular updates.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Alameda County CARE COURT

[Attachment](#)

Dr. Karyn Tribble and Dr. Roberta Chambers presented on Alameda County's Care Court implementation, a state-mandated civil court program for people with severe psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia.

Care Court aims to connect this high-need population to treatment, reducing cycles of hospitalization, homelessness, and incarceration. Planning began in 2023 with strong interagency collaboration among behavioral health, the courts, public defenders, housing, hospitals, first responders, and community providers.

Alameda County launched ahead of the December 2024 deadline and saw high petition activity compared to other counties, reflecting extensive outreach and training across agencies, families, and service providers. Since launch, over 70 petitions have been filed. Many by first responders and justice partners, and not just families. About 18 participants are already engaged in treatment, including bridge housing and psychiatric services, with others in outreach phases.

Early success stories include individuals moving from homelessness into housing, starting psychiatric care, or reconnecting with family. Challenges remain around streamlining housing access, coordinating with diversion courts, and building consistent data reporting. The program has gained statewide recognition for its collaborative model and justice-system integration. The county continues refining engagement strategies, balancing intensive outreach with supportive, person-centered court practices.

Speakers

Jennifer Graham, Mia Cooper Kahn, Tash Ngyuen, Richard Spiegelman, Tesilim Ikharo, Barb Atwell, Katie Dixon, Cathy Rodriguez, Kimberly Graves, David Stern, Eugene Dey, Angus Aranda, Ellie Lafitti, Jennifer Tu, Loni Hancock, Lawrence Abbott and Natasha Baker commented on the Care First Jails Last Report and the Alameda Care Court presentation.

Purpose:

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This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Start times are approximate - Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas are available via Internet at: www.acgov.org