

What if...

...we could **break the cycle** between homelessness and jail that traps people with mental health and substance use disorders?

...we could **create** a more effective justice system by making available as-needed community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment, stable housing, and addressing the social determinants of health?

...we could **create** safer communities by shifting our thinking from a frame of punishment to one of public health?

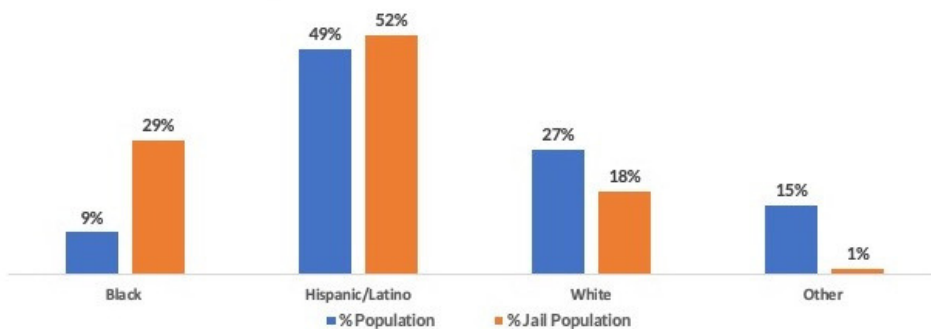
...we could **reshape** our criminal justice system by elevating the voices of the people most impacted by homelessness, crisis and jail?

...we could **dismantle** the legacy of racism that has resulted in locking up Black and Brown people disproportionately?

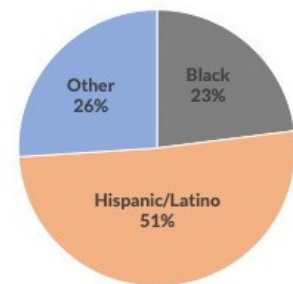
The Problem: racial inequity

A legacy of racism has produced severe disparities in our criminal justice system.

Percent of Jail Population vs General Population by Race/Ethnicity in LAC



Percent of Arrests by Race/Ethnicity in LAC



The Problem: lack of behavioral health supports

Nearly 17,000 people are in custody in the LA County Jail. Over 5,300 people are in jail mental health housing. According to one study, 56% of the jail mental health population could lead stable lives outside of jail if provided supportive housing.

The Goal: Care as first option. Jail as last resort.

How do we get there from here?

move away from

punishment
jail/courts as default
central jail as focal point
disconnected/fragmented
partial & sporadic diversion
inadequate service capacity
exacerbating racial inequality



move towards

prevention & treatment
community-based system of care
decentralized system
integrated, networked, holistic
diversion at all points
human-centered, at full capacity
racial equity lens

The Task

The Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group was formed to provide the Board with a road map to scale alternatives to incarceration and diversion. The interim report previews the Work Group's direction for final recommendations that will be presented in December 2019.

The People/The Values

The Work Group brings together expertise and advocacy from inside and outside County government. It comprises two community stakeholders appointed from each of the five supervisorial districts as well as representatives from 16 individual county departments overseeing matters of health, criminal justice, and social services. More than three hundred community members have helped shape the report over the past 90 days. The process values guiding the group are equity and racial justice, inclusion of many voices, and human first language.

The ATI Interim Report

The interim report contains 14 goals comprising more than 100 recommendations.

They fall into these five broad goals:

Community-Based Systems of Care: Let's build a decentralized system of health campuses and care villages, give clients the support they need to follow mental health plans, and build the capacity of individuals and community-based organizations to supply that care. Let's expand community health worker and peer support models. Let's support the coordination of these resources through the creation of an Alternatives to Incarceration Coordination Initiative. And let's reroute 911 calls about mental health crisis away from law enforcement and towards appropriate mental health services.

Justice System Reform: Let's increase diversion opportunities and improve training for law enforcement while reducing (and improving) law enforcement interactions with people with behavioral health needs. Let's reduce pretrial detention and increase services, connect people in the justice system more easily and quickly to treatment, and expand the use of conservatorships. Let's improve pre-release and reentry practices to ensure that individuals can transition directly from jail into appropriate community-based treatment and services.

Community Engagement: Through community engagement workshops that elevate community recommendations and an advisory collaborative, let's elevate the involvement of people impacted by the justice system in changing it—including currently incarcerated people.

Funding: Let's identify and leverage criminal justice and public health funding streams to make the ATI vision a reality—adopting funding principles, understanding the scope of services that will need to be funded, and generating an effective process for resource distribution.

Data and Research: Let's expand data transparency to make government accountable to the community—and shine a light on the disparate racial impacts of our system

Through each goal, the recommendations return again and again to five **core themes**:

- Expand, scale, and increase community-based, holistic and residential care and services through sustainable and equitable community capacity-building and service coordination
- Avoid law enforcement response to individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health, and/or substance use disorders
- Support pretrial release and diversion into services
- Provide alternative placements into effective treatment and services, instead of jail time
- Provide meaningful engagement and compensation for people directly impacted by the justice system in the pursuit of needed solutions