



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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January 19, 2022

To: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Brandon T. Nichols, Executive Director *BTN*
Jail Closure Implementation Team

SAFELY REDUCING THE JAIL POPULATION BY EXPANDING COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEM OF CARE FOR CISGENDER WOMEN, TWO SPIRIT, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUESTIONING, AND TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-CONFORMING AND/OR INTERSEX INDIVIDUALS (ITEM NO. 18 AGENDA OF OCTOBER 19, 2021)

On June 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion in support of the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee's (GRAC) vote to expand its mission (Expanding the Scope of the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee) by naming two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, and transgender, gender non-conforming and/or intersex (2S-LGBQ+TGI) individuals as part of its target population and prioritize expanding alternatives to incarceration, such as diversion and community-based prevention programs. In October 2020, the GRAC Executive Steering Committee voted to create five Ad Hoc Committees to develop recommendations to meet the following goals: (1) improve programming and services at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF); (2) enhance reentry initiatives and expand community-based reentry services, to promote successful reintegration in the community; and (3) expand alternatives to incarceration. In response, GRAC formulated recommendations focused on the key areas of Alternatives to Incarceration, LGBTQ+, Data, Health, and Reentry, and finalized its report on October 13, 2021.

Following the release of the GRAC report, on October 19, 2021, the Board directed the Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT) Executive Director to report within 90 days on:

JCIT GRAC 90-DAY REPORT BACK-1.19.2022

- 1) Prioritizing and implementing the GRAC's recommendations, in collaboration with the directors of Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), and Gender Responsive Services with the goal of furthering JCIT's mandate to decrease the jail population and close Men's Central Jail (MCJ) without a replacement and to expand the County's mission to expand the community-based system of care for cisgender women and 2S-LGBQ+TGI persons, including those housed at CRDF and the K6-G units at Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF);
- 2) Developing a scope of work for a consultant from an academic research institution to complete an updated population study of CRDF and the K6-G units at TTCF while utilizing a racial equity lens; and
- 3) Working with the directors of Correctional Health Services and Gender Responsive Services to engage those who are currently incarcerated, through the use of round table discussions, to prioritize and implement the GRAC recommendations that promote gender-responsive, trauma-informed services and programming for those who do not immediately qualify for release.

Recommendations

Since JCIT's inception in September 2021, we have had introductory and ongoing meetings with ATI and ODR to facilitate collaborative programming for the diversion and reentry of incarcerated women. To expand our understanding of the jail population, we have attended and presented at the GRAC, Care First Community Investment Advisory Committee, and Jail Population Review Council public meetings. These connections have contributed to understanding the urgency, importance, and expectation of each recommendation.

To direct our work, we reviewed and categorized the recommendations to align with ATI's Prevention and Reentry Recommendations and their Sequential Intercept Model, which demonstrates how an individual with unmet needs first comes into contact with and subsequently moves through the criminal justice system. Additionally, the recommendations were organized into three sections: recommendations that lead to improving conditions in the jail system; recommendations that lead to reduced jail population; and recommendations that need additional development and/or significant assistance from other stakeholders and County departments. The next level review includes completing a matrix that will pair these recommendations with JCIT's current and proposed initiatives and collaborative partner(s). Review of that matrix and further refinement of categories and prioritization will include input from the Director of the Sheriff's Department's Gender Response Services, Dr. Melissa Kelley, GRAC stakeholders, and individuals housed at CDRF and K6-G units at TTCF.

Scope of Work for Consultant

With technical guidance from the Chief Information Officer, JCIT is developing a scope of work for an academic institution that will conduct a population study on the cisgender women and 2S-LGBQ+TGI populations for those housed at CRDF and in the K6-G units at TTCF, with a focus on racial equity. The academic institution will be expected to produce a final report synthesizing the population study.

The consultant will be required to:

- In conjunction with data provided from the Chief Information Office, conduct a disaggregated analysis of the demography and biostatistical data of the people detained at CRDF and K6-G units at TTCF with a racial equity lens for the purpose of determining, but not limited to, the social, behavioral, and health needs of inmates and how they relate to the GRAC recommendations in coordination with jail programming to address those needs and mitigate unfavorable outcomes.
- Produce a written analysis of all findings in the form of a population study that will inform the needs and address the conditions of those detained, as well as provide another facet in which to view the prioritization of the GRAC recommendations.

Engagement

Pursuant to your motion, the GRAC recommendations are to be prioritized through roundtable discussions with people housed at CRDF and in the K6-G units. In wanting to provide a mechanism for authentic engagement and space that allows for transparency without partiality, the academic institution will also be expected to conduct the roundtable discussions on behalf of JCIT. They will be responsible for developing a research protocol for facilitating focus groups and presenting their findings in a final report that prioritizes the GRAC recommendations.

Also, as directed, JCIT has met with Dr. Kelley, and Director of Correctional Health Services, Dr. Timothy Belavich, to ascertain the programming and services available to those housed at CDRF and K6-G units at TTCF. Additionally, while accompanied by Dr. Belavich and Dr. Kelley, JCIT staff toured the K6-G units in October 2021 and CRDF in January 2022. It was imperative that JCIT had direct perspective of the jail facilities, the staff who assess the needs and provide services, and the work that is already in progress in order to build rapport with the key players to better inform the prioritization of the GRAC recommendations.

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Further, JCIT has established and maintained reoccurring contact with stakeholders, many of which are members of GRAC or who have or advocate for those with lived experience, to solicit their input in this process, including: Dignity and Power Now, La Defensa, Vera Institute of Justice, A New Way of Life, Downtown Women's Center, Health Right 360, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System, Project Return, and the Trans Latina Coalition.

Next Steps

JCIT anticipates the procurement of an academic institution to begin the population study and round table work by the time of the next report. JCIT will continue to work with the Board offices, County departments, Board-established initiatives, and community stakeholders to move forward with the recommendations in the GRAC report and directives contained in your October 19, 2021 motion and provide a status update every 90 days. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 262-7791 or bnichols@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel