



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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July 25, 2022

To: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair
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From: Lesley Blacher, Acting Executive Director *LB*
Jail Closure Implementation Team

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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 (2S-LGBTQ+TGI) (ITEM NO. 18, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 19, 2021)

On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT) Executive Director to report back every 90 days on JCIT's efforts to prioritize and implement the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee's (GRAC) recommendations on:

- 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 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 (CHS) 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.

The Board also directed JCIT to report back every 90 days on progress. This report will serve as the third quarterly report to provide updates on the status of the directives from the October 19, 2021, motion.

GRAC Report Recommendations

Since the last report, JCIT has continued to meet regularly with the ATI and ODR to inform our efforts to develop programming for the diversion and reentry of incarcerated cisgender women and the 2S-LGBQ+TGI populations. Additionally, JCIT has remained invested in understanding the jail population through engagement at the GRAC and Jail Population Review Council public meetings and has regularly presented on jail depopulation efforts.

To advance the GRAC recommendations, JCIT completed a matrix that pairs them with ATI's Prevention and Reentry Recommendations as aligned with the Sequential Intercept Model and JCIT's current and proposed initiatives, and recommendations from collaborative partners. The matrix includes input from the Sheriff's Department and CHS. The next review will be conducted by the consultant, an academic/research institution, whose research will focus on illuminating patterns and trends that speak to the recommendations; specifically, to improve data about the jail population; examine issues related to inmates' time in the jails, including their conditions of confinement, programming, and health and well-being; and evaluate demographic and other differences across the populations of interest. Additionally, the consultant will conduct an analysis of administrative, survey, and roundtable discussion data to assess factors known to be associated with successful community reentry.

Scope of Work for Consultant

After developing the scope of work for an academic/research institution to 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 MCJ, JCIT explored the Master Agreement lists from the Chief Executive Office, Chief Information Office, Department of Mental Health, and Internal Services Department and reviewed the recent GRAC-related studies of the Los Angeles County jail system and their respective authors. It was clear that an academic institution that met the Board's requirement was not identified on any of the lists.

Due to proximity and respective fields of research that could be a good fit for this project, JCIT contacted the University of California, Los Angeles' California Policy Lab and the University of California, Irvine's Center for Evidence-Based Corrections. The California Policy Lab declined due to a lack of capacity, however, the Center for Evidence-Based Corrections referred an affiliate. JCIT anticipates executing a contract and beginning work with them in August 2022.

The potential contractor's research has focused on prostitution, hate crime, and prison violence and grievances to explore the links between deviance and social control, the politics of crime control, social movements and social change, and corrections and public policy. Drawing on multiple theoretical perspectives, from social constructionism to new institutionalism, they have employed a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods to contribute to understanding crime. In addition, they have developed innovative educational materials for public policy officials and practitioners; provided professional training to personnel working in jails, prisons, and immigration detention facilities; and have a great deal of expertise related to conditions of confinement in lock-up facilities.

Engagement

JCIT continues to refine and build upon its relationships with representatives from the Sheriff's Department and CHS, which has granted opportunities for the team to obtain firsthand experience with the jail facilities and their operations and programming. In August 2022, the Sheriff's Department's Director of Gender Responsive Services, Dr. Melissa Kelley, will host tours of the Pitchess and Mira Loma Detention Centers. Additionally, Dr. Kelley will host JCIT and representatives from the University of Irvine's Center for Evidence-Based Corrections at CRDF. The facility is being renovated to incorporate a Forensic Inpatient Program (FIP) step down unit, modeled after the units in MCJ, that will house women previously treated in FIP for exhibiting symptoms of severe mental illness but have been stabilized through psychiatric interventions and are learning to live in a structured, yet supportive environment, aided by psychiatric technicians and inmates serving as trusted messengers in the role of mental health assistants.

On June 30, 2022, JCIT met with the Women and Girls Initiative newly appointed Executive Director, Chanel Smith, who was onboarded in May 2022. JCIT is looking forward to partnering with Ms. Smith and ensuring that our work is gender-responsive and equitable.

To support ODR's efforts to divert pregnant women from the jail, whenever possible and through court interventions, and provide them with supportive housing and Reentry Intensive Case Management Services (RICMS), JCIT began funding ODR's Maternal Health Program through Fiscal Year 2023-2024 beginning on April 1, 2022. This will enable ODR to support the diversion of up to 50 women with interim housing, employment and vocational training, and rapid re-housing and connection to RICMS, with the goal of providing support and stability that leads to reduced recidivism rates. Currently, the Maternal Health Program is serving 24 pregnant and parenting women; all are receiving RICMS, and some are receiving mental health services and substance use treatment. Future reports will detail the success rates of clients and long-term metrics related to housing, employment, and recidivism.

Further, JCIT continues to engage with community-based organizations, including the Amity Foundation, Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LA CADA), and other service providers that support a person's successful reentry into the community. On

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June 6, 2022, JCIT met with the Amity Foundation, an ATI provider and third-party administrator of Care First Community Investment funds and toured the men's re-entry program site in Los Angeles. On June 13, 2022, JCIT met with LA CADA, a provider for the Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Program and toured the women's re-entry program site in Santa Fe Springs. On June 23, 2022, JCIT met with Housing for Health staff and toured the Home at Last interim housing site in Los Angeles. These tours offered a firsthand perspective of services that are available to support the diversion and reentry of cisgender women and the 2S-LGBQ+TGI populations to provide safe and supportive landing spaces upon their release from custody.

Next Steps

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 the October 19, 2021, motion and provide a status update every 90 days.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (213) 262-7989 or lblacher@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
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