



Alameda County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

Ad Hoc Committee

Members:

Bloom, Brian

Ad Hoc Committee CHAIR
BHAB Chair (District 4 Appointment)

Land, Terry

Ad Hoc Committee Co-CHAIR
BHAB Vice Chair (District 1 Appointment)

Leftwich, Juliet

BHAB Member (District 5 Appointment)

Bradley, Viveca

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Dashiell, Margot

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Feller, Alice

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Malkki, Kari

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Lindsay-Poland, John

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Polony, Katy

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Schwartz, Myrna

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Sikora, Kathleen

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) Ad Hoc Committee Summary

Location: 2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400, Oakland, CA (Chabot Conference Room)

Zoom Link –

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83541678892?pwd=4B72ExuBj3GzGz0O5Hd3RvU5bTlG.1>

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Attendees: Ad Hoc Committee Members, RDA Consulting, ACBHD

Agenda:

- I. Call to order – Introduction/Welcome & Announcements
- II. Plan for next Report to Board of Supervisors (Date TBD)
- III. Updates from RDA work on Agency Plans
- IV. Subcommittee Report
- V. Parking Lot Review & Wrap-up

Announcements

The Ad Hoc Committee reported that several recently announced layoffs have been suspended. Nate Miley and Nikki Fortunato Bas are currently exploring multiple strategies to address the budget shortfall, including options that would minimize impacts on patient care.

The first budget presentation meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2026.

The Budget Workgroup meeting took place on March 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

Committee members discussed the Community Corrections Partnership, which includes an advisory body, known as the Community Advisory Board. The board consists of 15 members and is chaired by Vincent Garrett. There are currently vacancies in Districts 1 and 2, while all other districts are fully represented. Each district is represented by three members, all of whom are appointed by their respective Supervisor.

As the board operates under the Brown Act, it was suggested that BHAB members could consider participating. The board meets on the first Tuesday of each month and focuses on funding decisions for individuals who are incarcerated and transitioning out of the jail system. It also plays a role in allocating funds for the Care Navigation Center, a pre-arrest diversion program initially designed for individuals exiting incarceration but now serving a broader segment of the justice-involved population.

The subcommittee also discussed state realignment funds, which are distributed





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among community-based organizations (CBOs) and various agencies. These funds were established several years ago to reduce recidivism. One example noted was the allocation of funds to Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) to support its mental health programs.

Plan for next Report to Board of Supervisors (Date TBD)

Due to the rescheduling of the March presentation, additional time is now available for Chair Bloom to provide an overview of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan for 2026–2029, followed by a subcommittee discussion regarding the presentation. The subcommittee will also discuss the potential role of the Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) subcommittee in relation to the Community Advisory Board.

Chair Bloom reported that, after coordinating with Erin Armstrong from the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the rescheduled presentation is anticipated to take place in May. The BOS is also expected to receive a presentation on CARE Court, which has not been reviewed since early 2025. This presentation, led by The Indigo Project, is expected to be shorter and will also occur in May.

A concern was raised regarding the BOS' request to hear directly from agencies on their respective plans, which could result in a lengthy meeting if each agency presents them individually. Chair Bloom suggested focusing on key recommendations and integrating agency plan highlights into a single, consolidated session. This approach was supported by BOS representative Erin Armstrong.

Ad Hoc subcommittee members also discussed the potential challenge of ensuring that audience members understand the distinction between CARE Court and Care First, Jails Last (CFJL). However, some members noted that CARE Court is a more limited initiative in scope compared to CFJL and expressed less concern about confusion between the two.

The Ad Hoc subcommittee recommended prioritizing subgroup work in March to review the Integrated Plan, assess its strengths and gaps, and evaluate how existing recommendations align with or are reflected in the plan. This preparation is intended to provide a more cohesive and strategic presentation when the committee reconvenes in April ahead of the May presentation.

Under state requirements, counties must submit a three-year Integrated Plan by July 1, 2026, detailing the allocation of Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funding. These funds support a broad range of behavioral health services, including substance use disorder treatment, across multiple agencies. Alameda County's total behavioral health budget exceeds \$800 million, with BHSA funding comprising approximately one quarter of that total (just under \$200 million). The Integrated Plan, encompassing all programs contracted through Alameda County





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Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) is scheduled for publication on March 19, 2026.

Key upcoming dates include:

- April 8, 2026 – Public comment webinar
- April 20, 2026 – Two-hour public meeting with additional opportunity for comment
- June 30, 2026 – Deadline for Board of Supervisors approval of the final plan for the fiscal year.

Committee members also noted a state requirement for each county to implement a First Episode Psychosis (FEP) program by July 1, 2026.

Subcommittee members reported on Recommendation 6C, which identified approximately \$26.6 million in unspent jail funding. The recommendation proposes reallocating these funds toward permanent supportive housing, along with providing a detailed report on planned expenditures.

Updates from RDA work on Agency Plans

RDA has been working with agencies to strengthen and enhance the comprehensiveness of their plans. To date, the following agencies have completed or received approval for their plans: Housing and Homelessness, Probation, Social Services Agency, and the Superior Court. The Public Defender's Office has submitted its plan and is currently pending integrated feedback. Plans from the remaining agencies are still in development.

RDA has requested that subcommittee members collaborate with the remaining agencies to review their plans, with a focus on identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. RDA will then assist in developing a concise, written response on behalf of the subcommittee. To support this process, RDA will provide a standardized template to use when reviewing agency plans and is intended to help identify gaps, inconsistencies, and areas requiring clarification.

Ad Hoc members sought clarification regarding whether agencies are making specific requests within their plans. RDA indicated that agency requests have primarily focused on funding, timelines, and staffing needs.

RDA has developed draft model slides based on recommendations identified during the February 2026 meeting, which will be further refined in alignment with finalized agency plans. These slides are intended for use in the upcoming presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

The subcommittee noted that additional materials will not be included in the presentation slides. As such, they will prepare a more detailed analysis to accompany the presentation. This will include items such as the BHSA Integrated Plan and the broader behavioral health budget, both are expected to be

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presented in May 2026.

In addition, the subcommittee will develop a narrative to accompany its written report.

Subcommittee Report

- **Behavioral Health Department (BHD):** No update to report.
- **County Administrator's Office (CAO):** The CAO was awarded approximately \$170 million in BHCIP capital funding from Sacramento to support the development of new bed capacity across 8-9 entities, including SUD and residential treatment facilities. As part of the award, the County committed to funding ongoing operations for a 30-year period. Some facilities may become operational as early as summer 2026, others as late as 2028.
- **District Attorney's Office (DA):** No updates to report.
- **Housing (HCD and H&H):** No updates to report.
- **Probation department (PD):** No updates to report.
- **Public Defender's Office (PDO):** No updates to report.
- **Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO):** No updates to report.
- **Social Services Agency (SSA):** No updates to report.
- **Superior Courts:** No updates to report.

Parking Lot Review

- RDA will create a Google Drive folder to house the completed agency plans, using an outline that they created based on the written report from May of 2025. RDA will notify the subcommittee via email once the drive is available.
- RDA will also develop a template for subcommittee responses to agency plans, incorporating prior discussions as well as key considerations and omissions identified in the June 2024 report.
- Subcommittee members will complete their responses to agency plans on a rolling basis as they are received.

Next meeting date: April 2, 2026

