



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

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Malkki, Kari

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Monroe, Alison

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Nguyen, Tash

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Lindsay-Poland, John

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Polony, Katy

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Schwartz, Myrna

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

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, April 2, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Attendees: Ad Hoc Committee Members, RDA Consulting, ACBHD

Agenda:

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

Summary

The objective of Care First, Jails Last Task Force, with support from RDA, is to monitor the implementation of the Care First, Jails Last recommendations.

The April 2, 2026, meeting focused on two primary objectives: (1) reviewing agency plans and (2) preparing for the May 2026 presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

A request has been submitted to Erin Armstrong of the Board of Supervisors to confirm the specific presentation date in May 2026.

Announcements

FERC (Family Education and Resource Center), a program of Mental Health America of California, is scheduled for termination at the end of June 2026. The program was initially approved with unanimous support from BHSA and received broad support from agency representatives and the community, including families.

FERC aided families navigating the justice system for incarcerated or at-risk family members. Recommendation 9A/9B addresses the need for family advocacy and associated county funding, which aligns with the services previously provided by FERC.

The Subcommittee engaged in a discussion with the Alameda County Behavioral Health Director regarding funding constraints and program reductions in the current fiscal year. While some programs were preserved, FERC, identified as a priority by the Subcommittee, was not retained.





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It was noted that budget reductions have impacted all divisions within the Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD), resulting in the elimination of certain services, programs, and potentially eliminating staff positions where alternative funding was not secured.

A budget hearing is scheduled for April 14, 2026, during which departments will present their preliminary budgets. The specific time is forthcoming.

Updates from Agency Plan Reviews

Subcommittee members noted that the recommendations currently lack an upfront summary. In response, RDA agreed to compile notes from agency plans following the April meeting and draft summaries for review and approval by the respective agencies.

RDA informed the Subcommittee that its contract expires at the end of June 2026. Accordingly, its goal is to complete countywide integration and collaboration efforts and present them to the Board of Supervisors prior to that date.

RDA will review the recommendations and prepare a summary of each for agency review. Once agencies have completed their review, they will submit any comments back to RDA. If feasible, the subcommittee will be provided with an opportunity to review and provide input on the summaries prior to their distribution to the agencies.

Subcommittee Report

- **Behavioral Health Department (BHD):** No update to report.
- **County Administrator's Office (CAO):** Subcommittee members met to discuss action items for the upcoming presentation to the Board of Supervisors; however, the plan from the County Administrator's Office (CAO) remains pending. RDA also has requested a meeting with the CAO.
- **District Attorney's Office (DA):** Subcommittee members are scheduled to meet on April 3, 2026, to review the recently received plan from the District Attorney's Office.
- **Housing (HCD and H&H):** The Housing Subcommittee has received the plan; however, it has not yet been reviewed in entirety. Following the departure of Mia Cooper-Khan, the Subcommittee is currently awaiting the appointment of a new chair.
- **Probation department (PD):** No updates to report.

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- **Public Defender's Office (PDO):** Subcommittee members are scheduled to meet on April 7, 2026, and have previously engaged in multiple discussions with agencies regarding their plans.

Recommendation 5B (Pre-Arrest Diversion Expansion) was discussed in detail. Notes have been compiled, and a proposal is currently in development. Ongoing discussions are focused on determining whether this recommendation is best situated within the Public Defender's Office (PDO) or another agency.

Recommendation 5C (Behavioral Health Court, Collaborative Courts, and Proposed Dual Diagnosis Court) was also discussed. This recommendation highlights the need for additional staffing in the Mental Health Diversion Court. For the upcoming presentation, the Subcommittee will include staffing data, budget requests, progress outcomes, and racial equity measures.

- **Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO):** The Sheriff's Office Subcommittee met recently and has compiled comprehensive notes, which have been fully documented in the plan.
- **Social Services Agency (SSA):** No updates to report.
- **Superior Courts:** The subcommittee has met recently; however, there are no additional updates to report currently.

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

RDA and the Subcommittee discussed the timeline for reporting back to the Board of Supervisors. RDA will develop recommendation summaries over the next few weeks and distribute them to the agencies for review. Agencies will have two weeks to respond to the summaries.

The presentation timeline will follow a similar schedule, allowing a two-week period prior to submission to the Board for final editing, including grammar review, slide formatting, and other preparation tasks.

The Subcommittee also discussed the storytelling component of the Board presentation. RDA encouraged members to begin drafting written scripts for speakers to ensure readiness at the time of presentation.

In addition, RDA noted that the written report is available in Google Docs for Subcommittee review and editing and will be required for the Board presentation. Each recommendation was assigned to a Subcommittee member to develop an outline for presentation purposes.





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Finally, the Subcommittee reviewed several recommendations and discussed key items to highlight for the Boards consideration.

Parking Lot Review

- RDA requested that subcommittee members submit any identified red flags, omissions, or recommendations particularly those they believe may have been assigned to the incorrect agency via email by April 24, 2026. RDA will review and flag these items and incorporate relevant updates into the countywide plan. May 7, 2026, Ad Hoc meeting will be primarily dedicated to reviewing the updated presentation.
- The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Chair informed the subcommittee that at the main board meeting on April 20, 2026, Tracy Hazelton, head of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), will be in attendance. Subcommittee members with questions may coordinate with a BHAB member to have their questions raised during the meeting, rather than waiting for the public comment period.
- Additionally, RDA will distribute a timeline outlining deadlines for both the slide presentations and the written report from the subcommittee and participating agencies, in preparation for the possible meeting date of May 18, 2026.

Next meeting date: May 7, 2026

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