



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)

Cooper-Kahn, Mia

BHAB Member (District 5 Appointment)

Leftwich, Juliet

BHAB Member (District 5 Appointment)

Bradley, Viveca

CFJL Ad Hoc Committee Member

Dashiell, Margot

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Feller, Alice

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Malkki, Kari

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Nguyen, Tash

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Lindsay-Poland, John

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Polony, Katy

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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=4B72ExuBj3GzGz0O5HD3RvU5bTILG.1>

Date: Thursday, January 8, 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 RDA
- III. Wendy Ware's Report
- IV. Plan for next Report to Board of Supervisors (March 2026)
- V. Agency Subcommittees Report
- VI. Data Committee Report
- VII. Parking Lot Review & Wrap-up

Summary

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee is to identify and establish ongoing methods for monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the Care First, Jails Last recommendations. The committee's meetings will focus on identifying policy, operational, and implementation challenges, and on developing strategies to ensure consistent and effective execution of the recommendations.

Updates from RDA

RDA has begun meeting with agencies to review their agency plans and the analyses conducted by RDA. Following these meetings, RDA provided feedback to the agencies regarding missing or incomplete information, such as budget details and estimated timeline requirements. The analysis that was generated must be finalized by January 31, 2026. RDA also offered assistance to the agencies as needed; some agencies accepted this support, while others declined, indicating that assistance was not required.

RDA will incorporate agencies' comments, and in early March, the Ad Hoc Committee will have the opportunity to respond to the agencies' plans. Erin Armstrong will then encourage agencies to present their plans to the Joint Committee sometime in Q2. The committee emphasized that the recommendations cannot be modified, as they have already been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Agencies are responsible only for implementing the recommendations assigned to them and determining how they will do so.

Although the court is not within RDA's scope or budget, it will be included in the





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countywide plan that is being developed by RDA. As with the other agencies, RDA will provide a template for the court to complete. The Court's Subcommittee has already begun identifying recommendations, and inclusion of the CAO is being considered as an additional department.

Although it was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee's role is to oversee the implementation of the recommendation, the resolution does not reference agency implementation plans.

Wendy Ware's Report

Wendy Ware previously worked on the reimagining of the Augustus Initiative and authored several related reports. More recently, she presented a report to the Board's Public Protection Committee addressing various activities related to the jail. This work represents a continuation of the efforts she led during the earlier RHA process.

Wendy's report was notably thorough and unlike anything previously produced by the County, which generated significant interest from Supervisor Marquez and other members of the Board. Although her contract had concluded, this interest resulted in additional funding to allow her work to continue for a period, with the potential for further expansion. However, the report does not address the behavioral health or substance use disorder (SUD) needs of individuals incarcerated in the jail.

The Subcommittee recommended forwarding Wendy's report to the Board to support the continuation of her work and to address outstanding questions related to the behavioral health needs of the jail population.

Plan for next Report to Board of Supervisors (March 2026)

RDA opened this section by posing the following key questions to the committee:

- Should the committee revisit any recommendations from May 2025?
 - Are there any new recommendations to be added?
 - If there are specific recommendations the committee wishes to address in March, please identify them to ensure a shared understanding of the scope and content.
- **Behavioral Health Department (BHD):** The Subcommittee met on December 18, 2025, to discuss four potential new recommendations. The first is the Full-Service Partnership (FSP) recommendation from the task force, which proposes adding 300 additional FSP slots countywide, increasing the total from 1,100 to 1,400 slots.

The second recommendation includes items 9A, 9B, and 9C, which collectively address family support services. Due to their related scope, these recommendations could be bundled together.





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The third recommendation is the Behavioral Health Directory of Services, which falls within the "3-series" recommendation. As this is considered a low-risk request, it could also be bundled with another recommendation.

The fourth Behavioral Health recommendation relates to the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) award and includes a request to increase subacute, residential, and crisis treatment beds. An analysis is being conducted to support the BHCIP funding request.

- **County Administrator's Office (CAO):** The Subcommittee met to discuss budget transparency and unspent funds. The CAO offered to compile a list of relevant policies; however, the Subcommittee indicated that its primary focus is obtaining the underlying data. As discussions with the CAO have stalled, the Subcommittee will provide a progress report.
- **District Attorney's Office (DA):** Members of the Ad Hoc Committee met with the District Attorney's Office to discuss potential new recommendations for the March presentation. Several of the recommendations discussed overlap with efforts led by other departments and committees, including CARES Navigation (Pre-Arrest Diversion) and Recommendation 5D (IST Diversion), which involves the Court and the Public Defender's Office. Court-based diversion was noted to fall within the scope of the District Attorney's Office.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2026, with L.D. Lewis to discuss the Board letter related to funding La Familia for a Netcare Navigation site. Although the letter was ultimately withdrawn, it caused confusion among committee members. The item involved La Familia, BACS, Uncuffed, and three TBOs. As this is an external grant, the County is not responsible for and is not contributing funding toward the grant.

During the meeting with L.D. Lewis, the committee will seek clarification on whether La Familia intends to assume the contract that is currently being held by Uncuffed or whether services will continue to operate in North Oakland. It was also noted that there has been discussion regarding the potential opening of a second diversion center in Pleasanton under Horizons.

- **Housing (HCD and H&H):** The subcommittee met on December 4, 2025, to discuss several recommendations. These included Recommendation 7H, which focuses on the Independent Living Association (ILA); Recommendation 6C, which addresses reallocating funding from the jail to permanent supportive housing or Board and Care facilities; and Recommendation 7I, which emphasizes building and supporting licensed Board and Care facilities, with a focus on housing for individuals with the highest needs.

The subcommittee also reviewed Recommendation 7B, which involves establishing a Coordinated Access Point, or Forensic Access Point, at Santa Rita Jail to provide housing assistance to inmates prior to release, rather than after they leave custody.





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Additionally, Recommendation 8B will include an analysis of the need for Board and Care facilities and is scheduled to be presented at the March Board of Supervisors meeting. Subcommittee members emphasized the need for a more robust Needs Assessment, noting that it is critically necessary.

- **Probation Department (PD):** The Probation Committee raised questions regarding staffing for the Mental Health Diversion Court and requested clarification on the status of the IST Diversion program, including whether the contract has been executed and what the implementation plan entails. Additional discussion focused on the IST Diversion program, specifically the potential need for additional subacute beds and which populations would be served.

- **Public Defender's Office (PDO):** The Mental Health Diversion Court was omitted from the plan, and the committee brought this omission to the Board's attention for correction.

Recommendation 5B, relating to Pre-Arrest Release, involves three departments: Probation, the Public Defender's Office, and the Court, and includes an evaluation of the Risk Assessment Tool.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2026.

- **Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO):** The committee raised the topic of Safe Landing and requested that it be revisited at a future meeting. While Safe Landing falls under Behavioral Health Department (BHD) subcommittee, the Sheriff's Office subcommittee is also tracking this issue. The committee identified Recommendation 7A, which focuses on connecting individuals to housing prior to reentry, as a new item to advance for consideration at the March meeting.
- **Superior Courts:** The subcommittee discussed family participation and involvement in the Collaborative Court. Gavin O'Neill's Collaborative Court Program has expressed interest in implementing family engagement initiatives. Family support was also identified as a related priority that may be incorporated alongside recommendations from other subcommittees.

Agency Subcommittee Report

- **Behavioral Health Department (BHD):** A joint meeting between the African American Wellness Hub and Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) is scheduled for January 21, 2026, 4:00pm – 6:00pm.
- **County Administrator's Office (CAO):** No updates to report.

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- **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.

Data Committee Report

The Data Subcommittee has encountered challenges in obtaining the information necessary to produce a comprehensive report, as some stakeholders have expressed concerns that providing the requested data could be perceived as favoritism. However, the subcommittee is exploring the possibility of collaborating with one or more judges to formally request the data through the presiding judge. Alternately, the subcommittee may pursue obtaining the information through the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB), which may have the authority to facilitate access to the same data.

Parking Lot Review

- Subcommittee requested RDA's assistance with managing overlap in recommendations between subcommittees. Recommendation tracker and the integrated plan could be solutions to this issue.
- Suggestion to incorporate the storytelling segment discussed at last month's meeting. The first topic may focus on diversion and an individual's journey through the court system.
- Suggestion to use the presentation template similar to the format used in May, with an added section for financial/budgetary needs requested by subcommittee members.
- RDA recommendation - revisiting the Effort vs. Impact matrix.

Next meeting date: February 5, 2026

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