



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=4BZ2ExuBj3GzGz0O5HD3RvU5bTILG.1>

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Attendees: Ad Hoc Committee Members, Indigo Project Team, ACBHD

Agenda:

- I. Call to order – Introduction/Welcome & Announcements
- II. BHAB Care First, Jails Last Ad Hoc Committee BOS Presentation – Continued Review and Finalization
- III. Wrap-up

Summary

The Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) Task Force Committee is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Board's 2024 CFJL recommendations.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board Care First, Jails Last committee reviewed their implementation report ahead of July 23, 2026, Board of Supervisor's Joint Committee on Public Protection and Health presentation.

Chair Bloom aims to send the slide show, rather than the narrative report, to the Board of Supervisors representative by Wednesday, July 8. This timing gives the committee a couple of weeks to work on the draft report. The final report must reach the committee between July 15 and July 17 at the latest.

BHAB CFJL Committee BOS Presentation – Continued Review and Finalization

The CFJL committee reviewed the slides for the upcoming BOS Joint Committees on Health and Public Protection. Highlights are as follows:

- **Prevalence of Mental Illness in the Jail:** The slide focuses on the jail population, the Level Care 2-4 highlighting a 49% increase in SMI individuals, whose numbers grew from 76 in May 2025 to 113 by June 2026.
- **Serous Mental Illness at Santa Rita Jail:** County policies directly impact the significant challenges seen in both the serious mental illness (SMI) individuals and Level 2-4 groups.
- **Full-Service Partnerships ("FSPs") (Rec. 2A):** The FSP assessment stems from the Disability Rights California (DRC) lawsuit settlement, which obligates the county to determine the precise number of FSP slots and funding required to support the community. Emphasizing this part of the settlement is key, as a federal judge oversees the 3 to 4 month DRC lawsuit against Alameda County to ensure the

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program effectively keeps people out of jail. The request for action to fund all 1400 FSP slots and increase utilization rates.

Committee Member Leftwich suggested integrating the discussion summary into each slide rather than dedicating a separate slide to it. Likewise, explicitly highlight the “low-hanging fruit” and be specific as possible on every single slide.

Chair Bloom emphasized the need to clarify the committee's theory of change for securing of county support. The Indigo Project team suggested a single slide to present the CFJL goals, noting that different goals require distinct pathways to achieve success.

- **Court-Based Diversion Programs (Rec. 5C):** Approval of this action secures necessary sustainability funding to maintain critical operations within the Collaborative Court Program, compensating for the phasing out of long-standing grants.
- **Incompetent to Stand Trial (“IST”) Diversion Program (Rec. 5D):** Supervisor Miley stated in a press release that they were awarded an \$8.25 million grant from the Department of State Hospitals (DHS) to operate the diversion programs, however, the funding was ultimately declined because the daily rate of \$228 per/day was deemed insufficient.
- **Pre-Trial Release Services:** The Alameda County Pre-Trial Program, Cory Jacobs wants this program to request \$8.5 million from Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to sustain and expand its operations since the CCP granted the initial award. The program is reapplying to CCP for critical funding to meet the needs of a rapidly growing pre-trial population.
- **Renew the Contract for Jail Data Analysis: More “Low Hanging Fruit”:** The \$100k contract secures the continued services of analyst, Wendy Weir to advance her multi-year data analysis initiatives, starting with adult justice. Her foundational analysis of Santa Rita Jail provides the infrastructure necessary to incorporate behavioral health treatment metrics for the jail population.

Committee member Lindsay-Poland reiterated that diversion and treatment are more cost effective than jail units. Therefore, they proposed shifting funds from the planned jail mental health unit into supportive housing, citing supporting data from Wendy Weir analysis.

- **Relative Costs of Incarceration at Santa Rita Jail v. Community Based Treatment:** Committee member Sikora raised a query regarding the complex costs associated with acute care versus licensed and unlicensed, sub-acute and permanent supportive housing. To keep the public informed, she suggested mapping out the entire continuum of care rather than focusing solely on hospitalization. The subcommittee concluded that this is a systematic funding issue that individual departments cannot resolve, requiring the board to address relative cost structures.

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- **Deep Housing Subsidies (Rec. 7E & 7F):** Currently, the subcommittee does not find the recommendation compelling. Significant opposition exists regarding the prioritization of justice-involved population for deep rental subsidies, and there is no interest in modifying the coordinated entry system. The current \$97 million budget for these subsidies will be distributed generally, without specific distinctions between justice-involved individuals and those with serious mental illness (SMI).
- **Licensed Board & Cares (Rec. 71&70):** While Supportive Community Housing Land Alliance (SCHLA) is actively arranging bridge funding to sustain its operations as an independent entity, the organization has not secured the funds required for the acquisition.
- **Independent Living Association (ILA) (Rec. 7H):** ILA is categorized as a "low hanging fruit". The subcommittee emphasized it's not a major concern to start the organization again. It was noted the focus should be on the chain of housing continuum for serious mental illness (SMI) including license fees. Furthermore, the county has decided not to fund the Land Trust, which also needs to be reported and monitored. Subsequently, it was mentioned that Alameda County Public Health Director Aneeka Chaudry needs to see an assessment to know the degree of need.

Alternatively, the subcommittee cited the consolidation of the unlicensed board and care recommendation into the broader recommendation to assess the need for licensed board and care facilities.
- **Reallocate the \$26.6M for the MH Program Services Unit at the jail to permanent supportive housing (Rec. 6C):** No updates to report.
- **Transparent Reporting on Funds (Rec. 6A):** The matter remains open for further discussion.
- **First Episode Psychosis (FEP) Program (Rec. 3L):** Chair Bloom reported holding multiple meetings with county leaders in coordination with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) regarding the FEP program. To meet community needs, both the program's capacity and its outreach efforts must be expanded beyond the current 100-slot limit.
- **African American Wellness Hub (Rec. 1A & 1B):** The subcommittee emailed the ACBHD Director, Dr. Tribble to reconcile views on family participation. Member Dashiell suggested follow-up communication with the agency to clarify advisory work and interim services. While the building's completion date remains unconfirmed, Chair Bloom will encourage Behavioral Advisory Board (BHAB) to hold a dedicated meeting with regards to AAWH. Depending on the outcome of Member Dashiell's discussion with Dr. Tribble, this recommendation may be included in the written report rather than the presentation. The matter remains open for further discussion.
- **Involve Families and Provide Support (Rec. 9A & 9B):** The subcommittee's best approach is to expand on existing advocacy efforts. Committee member Polony will meet with Patty Espeseth, CAO for Behavioral Health in Alameda

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Health System, to discuss this matter further. Additionally, the public should be made aware of the IHOT and the FEP program.

- **Assess the Unmet Need for Various Types of Treatment Beds (Rec. 4E, 5C, & 8B):**

The Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) has not yet published an analysis of sub-acute bed utilization. A comprehensive psychiatric bed assessment is required to identify the unmet needs and service gaps across acute/sub-acute, crisis, residential, forensic, and board and cares areas.

- **Establish a “Care First Implementation Director” to ensure that Recommendations are Implemented:** The subcommittee members shared thoughts relating to this recommendation:

- Chair Bloom should briefly mention at the beginning of his presentation the concept of the committee's plan to appoint a Coordinating Director to summarize the recommendations who will elaborate on this role or give a detailed explanation at the conclusion of the presentation.

- They should set the stage by sharing the presentation goals and stating the importance of a Coordinating Director. Discuss the themes of interconnectedness, siloing risks, and why collaboration is essential.

- A primary challenge is the current fragmented system which lacks a central champion. As the Chair of BHAB that supports this initiative, he must work with the board to establish the Director's scope of authority in this new centralized role and define the Director's specific authorities to make him an effective, centralized leader.

Next meeting date: August 6, 2026

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