



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=4B7Z2ExuBj3GzGz0O5tHD3RvU5bTlIG.1>

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Attendees: Ad Hoc Committee Members, RDA Consulting, ACBHD

Agenda:

- I. Call to order – Introduction/Welcome & Announcements
- II. Ad hoc Committee Transition (Summer 2026)
- III. Agency Plans Overviews and Responses Process
- IV. Report to Board of Supervisors (July 23, 2026)
- V. Parking Lot Review & Wrap-up

Summary

The purpose of the Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) Task Force Committee is to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) recommendations.

Announcements

The Health Committee has postponed the release and presentation of the innovative 3-Year Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Plan until June 8, 2026.

On May 3, 2026, the Care First Game Coalition and Mister Oakland hosted a town hall meeting attended by approximately 70 community members. The event focused on discussing Care First priorities and budget considerations. Presentations were provided by coalition representatives, as well as Nikki Fortunato Bas, Public Defender Brendan Woods, and Tesla McCarroll from Porter Paladin Community Landlines.

Ad hoc Committee Transition (Summer 2026)

Chair Bloom provided an update on the transition, noting that RDA will continue supporting the Care First, Jails Last Ad Hoc Committee through June 2026 before formally transitioning out of the project. Chair Bloom thanked RDA for their hard work and dedication to the committee. The committee's current primary focus remains the July 23, 2026, presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Care First,
Jails Last



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Beginning in July 2026, Indigo Project has been contracted by the Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) to assume responsibility for facilitating the Care First, Jails Last Ad Hoc Committee recommendation project. Roberta Chambers and her team will oversee and support the facilitation of the committee recommendations and agendas, with part of the team working in-house to manage deliverables in a manner like RDA's current role. The overall objective is to develop a sustainable monitoring plan capable of enduring overtime.

The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to formally transition into a standing committee sometime in fall 2026. At that time, meetings will become subject to the Brown Act and will follow the same requirements as the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) and its other subcommittees. These requirements include posting agendas at least 72 hours in advance of meetings, including weekends; ensuring meetings are publicly accessible through Zoom and/or in-person attendance; and including a designated public comment agenda item.

The June 15, 2026, BHAB meeting has been designated as a dress rehearsal for the Joint Committee presentation scheduled for July 23, 2026. During this "dry run," Care First, Jails Last Ad Hoc Committee members will present to BHAB members to gain experience and feedback ahead of the formal July presentation. To comply with Brown Act timelines, all presentation slides for the rehearsal must be submitted no later than 72 hours prior to June 15, 2026, meeting date, which is Friday, June 12, 2026.

Agency Plans Overviews and Responses Process

RDA has completed draft brief overview summaries, and all participating agencies, apart from the Sheriff's Office, have approved their respective summaries. The Sheriff's Office has submitted several comments and requested revisions before providing final approval of its section. All approved summaries have been saved to the shared Google Drive for committee access and review.

The Care First, Jails Last (CFJL) Task Force was assigned to meet with each subcommittee to formulate responses to the various agency plans. Those discussions remain ongoing.

RDA requested that all responses regarding the overview summaries be submitted by May 21, 2026. RDA will also distribute a reminder email to all task force members regarding the response deadline.

In addition, RDA continues to work on the countywide plan, which will consolidate all agency plans together with relevant information from the 2024 report. If available, RDA will also seek information from the County Administrator's Office (CAO) to assist with development of the comprehensive countywide plan.

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Report to Board of Supervisors (July 23, 2026)

A dress rehearsal for the presentation has been scheduled for June 15, 2026, during the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting.

All presentation slides must be submitted to Chair Bloom no later than the morning of June 12, 2026, to allow sufficient time for downloading and inclusion in the meeting packet in accordance with the Brown Act 72-hour posting requirement.

The order of the presentation to the Board will consist of the following elements:

1. Slides Presentation – A high-level, bullet-point overview summarizing the key points of the presentation.
2. Presentation Script – A narrative script accompanying each slide that provides the detailed verbal explanation during the presentation. The recommended speaking time is approximately two minutes per slide.
3. Written Report – A comprehensive report encompassing all presentation components, including slides, scripts, citations, background information, and additional supporting details as needed.

The subcommittee also discussed the contract for Wendy Weir and considered which agency should oversee the matter. Several members expressed support for renewing the contract and noted that Supervisor Márquez, given her previous advocacy on the related issues, could potentially assist in advancing the effort. However, conversations with Supervisor Márquez and her staff did not result in a firm commitment.

Additionally, the subcommittee held an extensive discussion regarding the Story Telling segment of the presentation. Katy Polony and Cynthia St. Orange were identified as primary speakers to help lead this portion of the presentation, with additional speakers potentially participating if necessary. Each storytelling segment is expected to last approximately five minutes and should be engaging, potentially incorporating slides and images to help immerse the audience and strengthen the impact of the stories being shared.

Selected Recommendations – Board Action Requested (with assigned committee member)

- 7H Independent Living Association - **Kathleen Sikora**
- Wendy Weir contract renewal - **John Lindsay-Poland**
- 3L First Episode Psychosis – **Alice Feller**
- 5C Court Based Diversion-include Mental Health Court + Behavioral Health Diversion + Collaborative Courts – **Myrna Schwartz**

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- 5D IST Diversion Court (includes dedicated treatment beds) – **Brian Bloom**
- 6A Transparent Public Reporting on Funds - **John Lindsay-Poland**
- 6C Reallocate SRJ MH Program Services Unit funds to permanent supportive housing – **Brian Bloom**
- 7E, 7F Deep Subsidies – **Kari Malkki**
- 7I Build and Support Licensed Board & Care Facilities – **Alison Monroe**
- 8B Fund Gap Analysis to understand existing MH needs & service gaps, including 4D and 4E, analyze need for beds – **Alison Monroe**
- 9A, 9B & 9C Family Involvement Programs – **Katy Polony**

Selected Recommendations: Updates (with assigned committee member)

- 2A Full-Service Partnership – **Brian Bloom**
- Service Directory Bundle - **John Lindsay-Poland**
 - 3D – Public Information Campaign
 - 3M – Directory of Services
- 5B Pretrial Release Services – **Myrna Schwartz**
- 1A African American Wellness Hub – **Vivica Bradley & Margot Dashiell**

Parking Lot Review

- The written report is due to RDA by June 9, 2026. RDA will review, compile, and finalize the report before returning it to the committee by June 23, 2026.
- Slides for the dress rehearsal presentation at the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting are due by June 12, 2026. Prior to submission, the slides will be reviewed during the Care First, Jails Last meeting scheduled for June 4, 2026.
- 2C Safe Landing – Passed for the time being and will be revisited at a later date/to be determined (TBD).
- 5A Point of Arrest Diversion (CARES Navigation) – Removed from the current project scope.

Next meeting date: June 4, 2026

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