

PHAB Correctional Health Working Committee

UPDATE TO PHAB

APRIL 6, 2022

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Background

- Dec 2020: COVID outbreak in jail
- Mar 2021: Special PHAB session with presentations by SSO, ACH, community members
- Apr 2021: Draft letter regarding jail health reviewed at PHAB meeting and special session
- May 2021: Formation of Working Committee
- Nov 2021: First PHAB letter of recommendations on correctional health shared to BOS
- Mar 2022: Second PHAB letter of recommendations on alternatives to incarceration shared to BOS

Scope & Objectives

- Investigate discrepancies in narratives related to COVID response and conditions in the jails
- Understand progress and identify root cause challenges related to the Mays Consent Decree Remedial Plan
- Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning the above to strengthen transparency surrounding these issues and improve allocation of resources toward high impact solutions aligned with public health principles

Committee Structure

- Ad hoc Working Committee
- Max 9 members, majority PHAB
- 4 PHAB Seats
 - Libby Abbott, Phil Summers (Co-Chairs)
 - Ashley Sterling, Farla Kaufmann (PHAB Chair)
- 3 Community Seats
 - Jael Barnes
 - Liz Blum
 - Steve Orkand

Sources

Interviews

- Dr. Damiano and Rick Heyer
- Dr. Damiano and Dr. Kothari
- Supervisors Serna, Kennedy, Nottoli, Desmond
- Prison Law Office, Mays class counsel
- Inspector General Mark Evans
- Tiffanie Synnott, Supervising Public Defender
- Judge Brown, mental health courts
- Geoff Twitchell, Forensic Behavioral Health Division

- Sacramento Sheriff's Office
- Sac. County Mental Health Board
- Aparna Komarla, COVID in Custody Project
- Dr. Amy Barnhorst, JPS, SMHTC

Key Documents

- First round Mays Monitoring Reports (Q1 2021)
- Second round Mays monitoring Reports (Q4 2021)
- Office of the Inspector General Report - 2020



Letter to BOS (Oct/Nov 2021)

Background: High economic, social and health costs of incarceration. Racism as a public health threat & health equity lens. Second round of monitoring reports – inadequate care and need to reduce population.

Transparency & Accountability

- Public hearings on monitoring & consultant reports
- Dashboard with jail health metrics (Mays, staff vaccination, etc.)






PSJA

- Deputy CEO – public health orientation; non law enforcement background
- Active engagement with PH, MH, trauma informed care expertise; CRC; individuals impacted by incarceration

In-Custody Death

- Immediate public reporting
- Analysis and mitigation
- Routine reporting of investigation results, corrective actions

Current Status of Recommendations

Recommendation area	Recommendation	Status	Notes
Transparency & Accountability	Public hearings re: Mays monitoring reports, consultant reports, and jail health broadly		Supervisor Nottoli verbal commitment to public hearings, targeting Mar/Apr. Status of consultant reports unknown.
Transparency & Accountability	Dashboard with jail health metrics		Plan to present mock up during upcoming BOS presentation
PSJA	Candidate profile – public health orientation		Status of appointment unknown. Unclear whether recommendation re: candidate profile will be taken up.
PSJA	Engagement with varied experts, stakeholders, & impacted community through PSJA Advisory Committee		Delay in implementing PSJA Advisory Committee. Org chart for PSJA does not include ACH, PHAB, MHB
In-custody death	Notification & investigation		No progress.

Second Letter

- **Premise:** Reduce jail population & connect justice-involved individuals to needed services
 - In line with public health best practice (APHA)
 - In line with Supreme Court In re Humphreys
 - County is committed to reducing jail pop via Mays Consent Decree
- **Objective:** Provide recommendations to BOS to make investments in programs that reduce jail population & recidivism, and connect justice-involved individuals to the services they need
- **Recommendations**
 - 1. Expand Capacity for Pre-Trial Diversion to Improve Public Health Outcomes, Reduce the Jail Population, and Reduce Recidivism
 - 2. Restore and Expand Capacity for Mental Health Treatment in the General Community through Investments in SCMHTC and EMPOWER
 - 3. Expand Supportive Housing to Improve Service Connections, Reduce Recidivism, Reduce Costs Associated with Incarceration, and Promote Public Safety

Next Steps

- Chevon Kothari, Sandy Damiano, Eric Jones (PSJA) 4/7/22
- Supervisor Serna, 4/11/22
- Supervisor Kennedy, 4/21/22
- Supervisor Nottoli, TBC
- Supervisor Desmond, TBC
- Presentation to Board of Supervisors, early May (date TBC)
- *Catherine York & SIM walk-through, TBC*