

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 20

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES, AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On October 19, 2021 (3), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed a series of actions now known as the County's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) initiative. The direction came approximately 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, when emergency public health measures restricted people from being booked into jail on most nonviolent and low-level charges and lowered jail populations. The Board noted such policy changes provided an opportunity to review evidence-based treatment and supportive programs to continue to prevent people from entering custody while protecting public safety and advancing equity by addressing underlying issues that lead to justice involvement. The Board directed the County to engage an independent consultant for specific analyses and stakeholder outreach, and to develop recommendations for community-based services that create permanent alternatives to incarceration. The County issued a competitive solicitation and contracted with San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), which conducted extensive data analysis, issued and analyzed community surveys, took broad stakeholder input, including numerous meetings with a community Advisory Group and a County Working Group, hosted multiple community listening sessions, and conducted a best practice review of local and national model programs that can prevent individuals from entering or reentering jail.

SANDAG published its analysis and findings in a series of reports and recently issued its last report: *Final Report: A Data-Driven Approach to Protecting Public Safety, Improving and Expanding Rehabilitative Treatment and Services, and Advancing Equity Through Alternatives to Incarceration* (Attachment A), which summarizes the information contained in previous reports and includes 52 recommendations for the County.

The Board also directed the Chief Administrative Officer to bring forward ATI recommendations. County and regional public agency justice and health partners (ATI Working Group) have been collaborating throughout the project to review SANDAG's iterative reports and review local programs and best practices. The ATI Working Group has identified local opportunities to create pathways and supportive services to prevent or reduce justice-involvement by addressing underlying needs. The ATI Work Plan (Attachment B) identifies 20 actions and eight service enhancements that will fully or partially implement more than half the SANDAG recommendations.

Today's recommendations are to receive the SANDAG report, the ATI Work Plan, and a presentation and to authorize grant application and contracting actions that will expand person-centered care coordination and housing services for individuals contacted by law enforcement or booked into jail with unaddressed homelessness and other unmet needs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive SANDAG's Final Report and recommendations (Attachment A).
2. Receive the Alternatives to Incarceration Work Plan (Attachment B).
3. Receive a presentation from the Public Safety Group and SANDAG on the Alternatives to Incarceration project.
4. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to available funding, to issue a competitive solicitation(s) for case management, system navigation and housing services or similar services for justice-involved populations who need person-centered support after leaving custody, being contacted or transported by law enforcement to a custody alternative, or as part of their criminal case resolution, and/or to amend existing contracts for similar services serving similar populations, and, upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for a term of up to one (1) year, with up to four one-year option periods and up to an additional six months if needed, subject to the approval by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Public Safety Group or the Health and Human Services Agency Director and, for existing contracts, the designated authority from the lead department, and to amend such contracts as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.
5. Pursuant to Board Policy B-29, authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Public Safety Group or the Health and Human Services Agency Director or his/her designee, to submit grant applications and accept grants that support prevention, diversion and reentry programs to support individuals who commit low-level, non-violent offenses with the goal of reducing individuals' jail booking or time in jail by providing supportive services that address underlying needs, through June 30, 2026.
6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in early 2024 with plans for an enterprise structure for Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) that includes the engagement of the Public Safety Group, Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Equity and Racial Justice, Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics, and members of the community; an initial assessment of resources and personnel advancing ATI; a proposed evaluation framework for the ATI Work Plan; and an initial update on Work Plan actions.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Nationally and in San Diego County, arrest and incarceration disproportionately impact people of color and those who are poor, have a mental health need, are struggling with addiction, are disabled, or are experiencing homelessness. For example, San Diego County jail data indicate that Black individuals composed more than 21 percent of the average daily jail population in 2022, while only 5.6% of San Diego County's overall population are Black, according to 2020 Census data. In the Regional Task Force on Homelessness' (RTFH) 2022 Jail Point in Time (PIT) Count, 31% of more than 900 people surveyed said they were experiencing homelessness at the time of their arrest; a prior survey question from the 2020 PIT Count found 7 of 10 unsheltered individuals interviewed in the community had been to jail at some point. The goal of the Alternatives to Incarceration work is to reduce justice system contact and address unmet basic needs for people who commit low-level, non-violent offenses by providing community-based programs and services.

Throughout this project, community stakeholders have been engaged in the review of data to provide diverse perspectives. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) facilitated six community forums throughout the project, including two bilingual Community Listening Sessions in January 2023, to gather public input on priorities and service gaps in regional efforts to reduce incarceration rates. The Public Safety Group also facilitated a Community Listening Session on May 4, 2023, to gather public input on SANDAG's Final Report, in addition to releasing a separate community feedback form for written input.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The actions proposed in today's item contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals of engaging the community, providing just and equitable access, and protecting health and wellbeing. The ongoing initiative to provide prevention, diversion, and reentry services will impact the communities and socioeconomic groups historically burdened by incarceration by providing better long-term outcomes through rehabilitative treatment. Extensive community engagement through surveys, community listening sessions, and an external Advisory Group including individuals with lived experience is a major component of the project. Rather than perpetuating the cycle of incarceration, this project seeks to provide community connections to improve health outcomes, including sobering services, mental health treatment, and crisis stabilization services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Today's requests include a total of \$6,100,000 budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for:

- Ongoing costs and revenue of \$1,500,000 in Sheriff's Department for interim housing services, 3.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) for Alternatives to Incarceration program staff support, and jail-in reach and transitional services for clients with behavioral health needs. The funding source is Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount.
- One-time costs and revenue of \$4,600,000 in the Probation Department for Connection Points and related case management and navigation services for pretrial populations. The funding source is state funding through the Judicial Council of California for pretrial services.

There will be no change in net General Fund costs and 3.0 additional FTEs based on funding from Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount.

Today's requests also include total funds of \$3,638,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan Change Letter for:

- Ongoing costs and revenue of \$550,000 in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Medical Care Services for Transitions Clinic Network Pilots; \$738,000 in the Sheriff's Department for staffing (5.0 FTEs) to provide service connections for homeless individuals in custody; and \$50,000 in the Public Safety Group Executive Office (PSG) for lived-experience consultancy services. The funding source is Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount.
- One-time costs and revenue of \$250,000 in PSG for planning for a Diversion, Reentry and Resource Center; \$2,000,000 in HHSA for expansion of case management, system navigation and housing services; and \$50,000 in the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement for outreach related to the Fair Chance Act. The funding source is Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount.

There will be no change in net General Fund costs and a total of 5.0 FTEs will be added based on funding from Local Revenue Fund 2011, Community Corrections Subaccount.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter