

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 11

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES TO PUBLIC SAFETY, TREATMENT AND SERVICE EXPANSIONS, 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 focused on creating alternatives to incarceration, with an emphasis on data and stakeholder input to develop recommendations to enhance public safety, advance equity, and reduce incarceration of people who do not pose a public safety threat by providing community-based rehabilitative services and supports in lieu of custody. The October 19, 2021 (3), agenda item observed that jail populations during the COVID-19 public health emergency had dropped by more than 25 percent. The Board Letter directed specific activities, described research questions, requested broad stakeholder engagement, and set forth reporting timelines through early 2023 to develop data-driven analysis of jail populations, policies enacted in response to COVID-19 affecting these populations, information on public safety outcomes, and comprehensive recommendations and fiscal analysis for short, mid, and long-term actions to reduce San Diego County jail populations safely and permanently. The Board direction identified actions to be led by the County Chief Administrative Office and actions to be conducted by an independent contracted consultant.

In response, the County's Public Safety Group convened a first group of stakeholders to develop immediate analysis and a first set of recommendations for services that support alternatives to incarceration that can be included in the Fiscal Years 2022-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan. Stakeholders include County and City of San Diego criminal justice agencies and Health and Human Services Agency partners who collaborated in a series of workgroups over the past few months. These initial recommendations were also reviewed by community members who provided insightful and diverse input in an evening forum on January 19, 2022. Input from that meeting and from future community meetings will be essential to developing additional recommendations. The initial recommendations presented in a Preliminary Report include short and mid-term proposals to support alternatives to incarceration and connections to services for people with drug, alcohol, and public conduct-related non-violent misdemeanor charges. Jail bookings related to these misdemeanor offenses have decreased significantly during the COVID-19 emergency, and the proposals described today are designed to safely maintain the current lower numbers of jail bookings and create new service connections for vulnerable community members.

Today's request is to receive a Preliminary Report on Data-Driven Alternatives to Incarceration, and to approve referring the proposals for services developed by stakeholders for inclusion in the Fiscal Years 2022-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan. These proposals include enhancing the capabilities of the sobering services program to serve higher acuity clients and provide successful care transitions and exploring the further integration of substance use and mental health services including sobering services in current and future crisis stabilization units (CSUs).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive a Preliminary Report on Data-Driven Alternatives to Incarceration.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to enhance the capabilities of sobering services in the Central region to serve higher acuity clients and provide successful care transitions. Refer funding for sobering services capabilities to the Fiscal Years 2022-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan.
3. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to explore further integration of substance use and mental health services including sobering services in current and future crisis stabilization units and include any recommendations in the scheduled returns to the Board regarding Data-Driven Alternatives to Incarceration.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Nationally, social determinants lead to disproportionate arrest and incarceration of people of color and those who are poor, mentally ill, struggling with addiction, disabled or homeless. The same is true in San Diego County, where people of color are disproportionately incarcerated, as are those with behavioral health conditions and those experiencing homelessness. For example, in 2021 black individuals composed 20 percent of the average daily jail population, according to jail data, while only 5 percent of San Diego County residents are black, according to Census data. Likewise, for example, the 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Count estimated 25 percent of individuals in jail had been homeless at the time of arrest, while homeless individuals represent only a small fraction of San Diego County's residents. The 2020 PIT Count also found 7 of 10 unsheltered individuals interviewed in the community had been to jail at some point.

Today's proposals focus on creating alternatives to incarceration through services that address social determinants associated with justice system involvement. The proposals are designed to advance fairness and equity and create better outcomes for underserved and diverse communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system and reduce justice involvement, incarceration, recidivism, and longstanding disproportionalities. Proposed services will be evaluated for their effectiveness in engendering short and long-term positive outcomes with attention to cultural responsiveness and accessibility among the County's diverse populations, especially those disproportionately impacted by justice involvement. Information on demographics and geographic area will be collected, reviewed, and reported to continually inform the design, effectiveness, and equity of these services. Throughout this project, community stakeholders will be engaged in the review of data and outcome measures to provide diverse perspectives and inform ongoing implementation. This includes an initial public, community listening forum that was hosted by the Public Safety Group Executive Office on January 19, 2022, and internal County stakeholder workshops.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no current year fiscal impact associated with the today's request. Funds for Recommendation #2 will be included in the Fiscal Years 2022-24 CAO Recommended Operational Plan and will be supported by 2011 Public Safety Realignment, Community Corrections Subaccount. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. Staff will return to the Board with possible actions according to the schedule directed by the Board regarding Data-Driven Alternatives to Incarceration and seek approval for financial impacts associated with any future Board recommendations.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

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