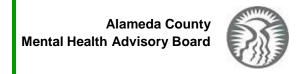


Criminal Justice Committee APPROVED Minutes Wednesday, May 19, 2021 ◊ 4:30 PM − 6:00 PM This meeting was conducted exclusively through videoconference and teleconference



Committee Members:	⊠ Brian Bloom (Co-Chair, District 4); ⊠ Juliet Leftwich (Co-Chair, District 5); ⊠ Lee Davis (District 5)
ACBH Staff:	⊠ Angelica Gums; ⊠ Asia Jenkins; ⊠ Dainty Castro (Administrative Liaison)
Unexcused Absences:	

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Co-Chair Brian Bloom

ITEM	DISCUSSION	DECISION/ACTION
Roll Call	Roll Call completed.	
Approval of Minutes	April minutes not approved. A comment was raised, and clarification requested.	Angelica Gums to review the recording and resubmit to Co-Chairs Bloom and Leftwich
Discussion topics:	Co-Chair Bloom introduced Juan Taizan as the Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Interim Forensic, Diversion and Re-entry Services Director	
A. The Role of the ACBH Forensic, Diversion and Reentry Services Director	Juan Taizan has been with ACBH for over four years. His prior role was ACBH Juvenile Justice Health Director where he oversaw contracts for primary services for youth detained at the Juvenile Hall and Camp Sweeny. He also oversaw youth who were on probation and re-entering into the community. Part of his current duties include enhancing services around individuals who are incarcerated or in detention. Juan Taizan's position was created due to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approval of the 107 positions slated for the Santa Rita jail. ACBH was able to build up staff including an executive level position to oversee forensic as well as out-patient forensic services.	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	DECISION/ACTION
B. The April 22, 2021 Report of the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, "Investigation of Alameda County, John George Psychiatric Hospital and Santa Rita Jail"	 The Committee members discussed the recent Department of Justice (DOJ) report dated April 22, 2021 which sparked the following comments: The DOJ addressed the letter to the BOS citing that Alameda County has too many people in segregated involuntary settings and, under statute, more people need to be in voluntary outpatient treatment. However, DOJ did not provide any data to support it. Whoever investigated or wrote the report is from an area that does not have a homelessness crisis within their state. Alameda County's homelessness crisis and lack of housing are more acute than anywhere else in the country. Some of the assumptions written on the report surrounding the community-based services are vague. The Berkeley Mental Health Commission wants to collaborate with this Committee regarding a response to the report. There are two separate reports or findings. The first half focuses on what the Committee is currently discussing, and the second half of the report is about Santa Rita, specifically the punitive nature of suicide prevention that exist in the jail. The remedies are to increase the number of FSPs, implement a sufficient quantity of scattered-site, permanent supported housing slots. The DOJ does not control how Alameda County can achieve this, nor does it control the policies regarding the release of people from John George or anywhere else. The Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) should push the BOS to fund more of these FSPs and stable housing. DOJ does not understand the priority of need nor is familiar with the system of care. 	
Next Steps	Co-chair Julie Leftwich volunteered to reach out to the authors of the DOJ report and proposed to have a special meeting within the next few weeks	Special meeting is set for June 2, 2021.
Adjournment	Adjourned at 6:10 PM	