

Alameda County ^{ac} ^{bh} Behavioral Health Care Services Departmental Update: 2023

Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) Presentation: June 21, 2023


MHAB Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Report – Departmental Response

Presenter:

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Overview:


- **Context & Background**
 - **MHAB Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2021 Recommendations Review**
 - **Departmental Response (Questions 1-10)**
 - **Summary & Departmental Next Steps**
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Context & Background

Purpose and Intended Audience for MHAB Annual Report Presentation



Purpose & Intended Audience



- **Alameda County Board of Supervisors' Meeting:**
 - Joint Health & Public Protection Committee Hearing
 - **Renewed focus on System Review & MHAB Statutory Functions & Role**
 - **Provide an Update to the BOS for Informational Awareness:**
 - With recommended Action
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MHAB FY 2021-22 Recommendations: Review & Summary

Source:

Alameda County Board of Supervisors'
Special Meeting & Joint Health & Public
Protection Committee Hearing

Alameda County MHAB Presentation
Monday, October 24, 2022 – 9:30am
Link – [BOS Health Committee \(acgov.org\)](https://www.acgov.org/bos/health)

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and evaluation of existing programs serving the seriously mentally ill in Alameda County.**
- 2. Fully fund ACBH's Forensic Plan.**
- 3. Expand the capacity of court-based and other diversion programs.**
- 4. Create Full-Service Partnerships ("FSPs"), Collaborative Courts, and other programs focused specifically on the needs of those who suffer from Co-Occurring Disorders.**
- 5. Expand the services and capacity of the Safe Landing Project.**
- 6. Expand Effective Full-Service Partnerships ("FSPs").**
- 7. Significantly increase the capacity of residential treatment beds countywide (including those at Villa Fairmont) to ensure that effective, humane treatment is available at all levels of need.**
- 8. Provide better treatment options for incarcerated individuals who are "5150'd" from Santa Rita Jail to John George Psychiatric Hospital.**
- 9. Support the repeal of the IMD (Institution for Mental Disease) Medicaid Exclusion.**
- 10. Prioritize strategies to address the mental health workforce shortage.**



Recommendation #1

“Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and evaluation of existing programs serving the seriously mentally ill in Alameda County.”

Departmental Response:

- In Agreement:

ACBH believes that a comprehensive needs assessment and evaluation of the existing programs serving the seriously mentally ill (SMI) population across Alameda County is a critical aspect of program planning and is fundamentally important to the work of any governmental jurisdiction. Planning and preparation associated with many county, state, and federal initiatives continue to require that the department engage in a thoughtful approach to system assessment, performance evaluation, and program/systems gap analyses.



Recommendation #2

“Fully fund ACBH’s Forensic Plan.”

Departmental Response:

- **Contingent Upon BOS Direction & County Action:**

It should be noted that this item was presented to County BOS Leadership (during the October 24, 2022 Board Meeting). As a result, ACBH cannot make determinations regarding funding as it relates to overall county operations. However, ACBH can provide an update that was presented by the county’s Chief Administrator’s Office (CAO) during a more recent Board Work Session. As a result of this presentation, the BOS approved ACBH to continue to allocate funding towards the implementation of the Forensic Plan by an additional inclusion of \$9 Million Dollars in its overall departmental budget. If approved through the county budgeting process, these resources will be allocated to the Forensic Plan as approved and directed by the County BOS’ beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (as of July 1, 2023).



Recommendation #3

“Expand the capacity of court-based and other diversion programs.”

Departmental Response:

- **In Agreement:**

ACBH agrees that it will continue to expand upon existing court-based and other diversion programs. The department has already expanded several court programs last fiscal year, and as a result of changes to populations including those experiencing substance use disorder issues and/or those at risk of homelessness and other factors, ongoing assessment and expansion is aligned with current planning as resources are identified.



Recommendation #4

“Create Full-Service Partnerships (“FSPs”), Collaborative Courts, and other programs specifically on the needs of those who suffer from Co-Occurring Disorders.”

Departmental Response:

- In Agreement:

ACBH agrees that it will continue to create and expand upon FSP, collaborative courts, and other programs targeting individuals with co-occurring disorders. The department has already begun preparing for pending legislative changes...(and)...ACBH is already developing plans to re-invest dollars allocated to Alameda County through Opioid Settlement dollars to combat this epidemic through a variety of strategies.



Recommendation #5

“Expand the services and capacity of the Safe Landing Project.”

Departmental Response:

- **Completed:**

During this past year, ACBH has worked with the Alameda County Sherriff’s Office (ACSO) to identify adequate space and facilities to accommodate the 100% increase in augmented contracted services already allocated to the Safe Landing Project in the last fiscal year. As such, this recommendation is already in progress and is subject to the availability of said space to allow for the increase of dedicated staff and program growth supported by the current community based organization (CBO) providing the Safe Landing services. Additional expansion beyond the doubling of the program will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and through the department’s Forensic, Diversion, and Re-Entry Services System of Care.



Recommendation #6

“Expand Effective Full-Service Partnerships (“FSPs”).”

Departmental Response:

- **In Agreement & In Progress:**

ACBH has also completed a Fidelity review to ensure that clinical programs, including FSP programs, are providing services consistent with the appropriate evidenced based model. To that end, Fidelity results indicated that “effective” programming is most closely aligned with providers associated with these proven models.

Overall, system trends continue to demonstrate that ACBH and CBO FSP programs are effective and will continue to be expanded upon as appropriate, required, and as funding permits.



Recommendation #7

“Significantly increase the capacity of residential treatment beds countywide (including those at Villa Fairmont) to ensure that effective, humane treatment is available at all levels of need.”

Departmental Response:

- **In Agreement. Subject to BOS Approval, ACBH targeting July 1, 2023 start date:**

ACBH has already committed to increasing the capacity of residential treatment beds through consistent and proactive application submissions for BHCIP and Community Care Expansion Program (CCE) opportunities, with much success. During the prior fiscal year, the department also began working with the current contracted CBO provider of sub-acute services (i.e., Villa Fairmont) to restore the eighteen (18) beds contracted out to other counties by prior ACBH Leadership in 2017.



Recommendation #8

“Provide better treatment options for incarcerated individuals who are “5150’d” from Santa Rita Jail to John George Psychiatric Hospital.”

Departmental Response:

- In Agreement:

Although the item was directed to the County BOS, ACBH is unable to respond on their behalf given the current structural oversight and authority afforded by the County to the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees. However, ACBH is currently working within and across the system, including with Alameda Health System (who operates John George Psychiatric Hospital), to identify strategies designed to improve psychiatric treatment to incarcerated individuals. It is important to note that the County does not currently operate its own psychiatric inpatient unit within or outside of Santa Rita Jail.



Recommendation #9

“Support the repeal of the IMD (Institution for Mental Disease) Medicaid Exclusion.”

Departmental Response:

- **Under Consideration:**

ACBH is currently evaluating the impacts of the IMD Exclusion (Section 1115(a) Demonstration Opportunity: “IMD Exclusion Waiver”) including those related to certain federally-guided requirements associated with the Waiver.



Recommendation #10

“Prioritize strategies to address the mental health workforce shortage.”

Departmental Response:

- **In Agreement:**

...the department continues to engage in several activities designed to support the prioritization of the mental health (behavioral health) workforce shortage.

MHAB FY 2021-22 Recommendations:

Departmental Response Summary

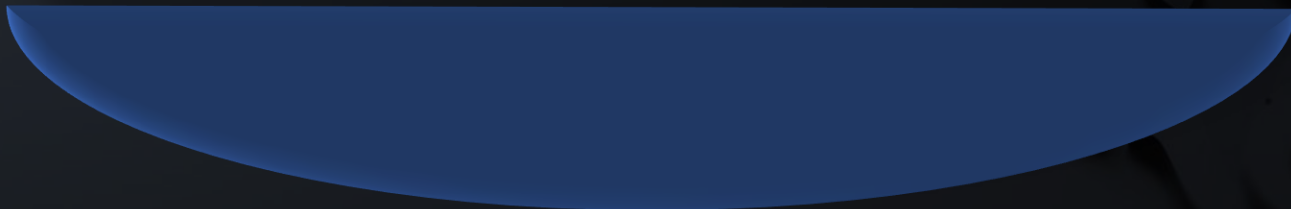
- **General Support for MHAB Recommendations to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.**
- **Departmental strategies to implement several of these recommendations have already been underway:**
 - Quality Improvement Efforts
 - Forensic Planning & System Enhancements
 - Regulatory and Required Changes
 - Network Adequacy & Local Need/State Requirements
- **Some recommendations are beyond the control of the Department, requiring consideration of BOS or County action or fiscal and budgetary considerations.**



Departmental Next Steps:

- **Continue to improve responsiveness to, and coordination with the MHAB;**
 - **To implement and continually engage in Quality Improvement efforts system-wide, including those involving stakeholder planning;**
 - **To fully implement all new and required legislative and regulatory changes; and to**
 - **Prioritize the application of “True North Metrics” in Decision-Making & Departmental Trajectory:**
 - Quality; Investment in Excellence; Accountability; Financial Sustainability; & Outcome-Driven Goals.
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Questions or Comments?





THANK YOU



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