

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 2

#4



**From:** Susan Shields <shields3033@netscape.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 6:37 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** I oppose north county jail expansion

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To the attention of Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Spending millions of dollars on jail expansion is not the best use of county funds. We are jailing people who don't need to be incarcerated to protect public safety. Many of them could be diverted from jail, in particular those who need mental health treatment and those who have not been convicted or sentenced. Additional beds are unnecessary as crime projections do not support the need for more beds. Given that such a large percentage of inmates suffer from mental health problems, it would be far more effective to use available funds to provide treatment. In addition, since poverty all too often is the reason for arrest and incarceration, improvements in social welfare programs would also be a benefit to the community. It would be more effective and humane to invest in treatment programs, mental health programs and flexible probation requirements.

Susan Shields  
3033 Calle Rosales, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Sally H <sbhearon@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 7:59 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** More jail cells? No

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am actually shocked that there is any consideration of a plan which assumes that the problems of a society will be solved by many more jail cells.

That seems like going back to medieval ideas of punishment.

The enormous amount of funding can certainly go to programs that actually treat people with respect and seek to help them. We have such programs in this county!

Please do not make our city and county a prison farm.

Sarah Hearon

2808 Miradero Drive

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Sent from my iPhone

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Sharon Broberg <slbroberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 8:02 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Jail Expansion

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

I support the CLUE findings that came from long and detailed study:

- **Retain** North Branch Jail (NBJ) facility beds at **375**
- **Reduce** costly unsafe South Branch Jail (SBJ) to intake beds at **116 as population reduction is implemented**
- **Pause** any jail building
- Direct the County to **create a TASK FORCE** to provide a transparent analysis of people in the jail who don't belong there and recommend less expensive, more effective community alternatives, actions and funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon and John Broberg  
Santa Barbara, zip code 93103

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Judy Burch <judyburch.jj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 29, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** 4/1/25 meeting: Add services not jails

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please PAUSE, do not vote on adding jails. Spend resources on a plan for low-cost housing and medical and mental health services that addresses substance abuse addiction.

Punishing individuals is less effective than giving them helping hand to become a productive member of society.

I feel very strongly about this. It is more cost effective and better for our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Judith Burch  
Orcutt

**Katherine Douglas**

---

**From:** Jeannette Love <jenblove9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 29, 2025 8:27 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Jeannette Love  
**Subject:** \*\*\*Tuesday, April 1st, the Board of Supervisors Meeting: Jail Expansion needs to be stopped...

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To: County Board of Supervisors,

I support CLUE SB, the League of Women Voters and other activist groups! We need to stop the expensive and unnecessary proposed expansion of the county jail facilities! **After learning that the cost of the proposed new jail housing unit has increased from \$76 million to between \$120-124 million, I believe that we can no longer support this option.**

Instead I support keeping the current North Branch Jail and reducing the outdated South County Jail to 116 beds. The Behavioral Wellness Commission recommended that the Supervisors **PAUSE** any new jail construction and establish a high-level task force that includes community stakeholders. New information has also revealed that more individuals with mental health needs, who have been approved for diversion, are still being held in our jail. We need more information on who is currently incarcerated and a clear action plan for safer, more cost effective, and more efficient community alternatives.

I hear that the Board of Supervisors will consider various jail construction options, including the Sheriff's office proposal for two new jail facilities in North County, which would increase the jail bed capacity from a daily average of 740 in January to 1008. **I believe that we cannot support this option.**

Submitted by Jeannette Love  
[jenblove9@gmail.com](mailto:jenblove9@gmail.com)

3950 Via Real #219  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** CS Silvers <silvers3310@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 8:43 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 4 - Jail Renovations

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Chair Capps and Members of the Board,

Regarding the proposed jail expansion and relocation, please think critically about the root causes of incarceration in our current system and prioritize those first. Take the time to more fully assess our community's needs not currently being adequately addressed, that lead to elevated and unnecessary incarceration rates in our county. There is plenty of research to support the increased safety and fiscal savings for communities employing this approach.

I encourage you to be brave, thoughtful and creative leaders for us. Stop criminalizing people for mental health problems, addiction, and not having more money in a county that is both one of the wealthiest and also has the second highest poverty rate in the state. Holding people in jail who should not be there is cruel and unjust. It is also fiscally wasteful and does not make our communities safer, as study after study show. It increases the chances of recidivism for those unnecessarily detained and wastes taxpayer money. Not to mention the ripple effects in our community when family members are detained unjustly. And the racist disproportionality of those detained.

Please don't double down on perpetuating this destructive system. Please take the time and effort to lead us toward more just solutions that will keep all of us safer.

Thank you,

Cressida Silvers

Second District

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Robin Schievink <robin.schievink@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Please PAUSE, NOT VOTE on expanding the jail system

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the County Board of Supervisors,

Please PAUSE, NOT VOTE on expanding the jail system until mental health and other infrastructure support is considered for low-level, non-violent offenders.

Thank you.  
Robin Schievink  
27 West Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101



## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Anna Roberts <mistyscampy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 1:21 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Adding New Jail Beds

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

Regarding Sheriff Bill Brown's proposed jail expansion plan, I ask the Board to PAUSE, NOT vote on adding new jail beds until first examining alternative community investments. I believe that prison is not the solution for all crimes and that many low risk inmates suffering from drug or mental issues would benefit greatly from resources outside the prison system. Rather than spending millions on expanding the jails, more should be invested in helping treat these individuals through counseling and other treatment. I take the same stance as CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) has described below.

- Form a high level Task Force that includes community stakeholders, to make a detailed plan and schedule for reducing the jail population. This needs to occur before deciding on any jail addition.
- Create a plan to invest in community mental health and housing that will treat medical and mental health, address substance use addiction, and provide alternatives to keep people out of jail.
- Identify the need for, and resources required, to provide more low-cost and supportive housing for justice involved individuals.

Please consider these options at your meeting on Tuesday, April 1.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Roberts  
GOLETA, CA

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** Ivette Peralta <ivette@futureleadersnow.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 1:56 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Opposing Jail Expansion in SB County

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

My name is Ivette Peralta, I am Director of Annual Programs with Future Leaders of America.

I am here today. I am speaking today to strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Santa Barbara County Jail.

We know that Black and Latino individuals, particularly men, are incarcerated at significantly higher rates than their white counterparts.

Programs that focus on mentorship and social interaction improve emotional resilience, communication skills, and teamwork, preparing youth for future success. At Future Leaders of America, as a Latino/a/x youth serving organization, I get to witness how community programs positively influence youth. When they feel seen and heard, they take initiative to create positive change in themselves, their families and their communities.

I urge the Board to reject this expansion and prioritize real solutions that invest in our communities, not incarceration. Please invest in our communities and center youth in your decision-making. Thank you.

Best,



**Ivette Peralta (she/her/ella)**

Director of Annual Programs

**Future Leaders of America**

P: (805) 642-6208 ext. 1004

A: PO Box 396, Santa Maria, CA 93456

W: [FutureLeadersNow.org](http://FutureLeadersNow.org) E: [ivette@futureleadersnow.org](mailto:ivette@futureleadersnow.org)

## Katherine Douglas

---

**From:** bonesjazzid@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 4:17 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** BOS MEETING 4/1/25 AGENDA ITEM 4: MONEY FOR SECURE LOCKED MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES NOT MORE JAILS

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

My family member has been dealing with severe mental health and substance abuse issues for a decade. Prior to the start of his mental illness he was super intelligent, talented, happy, creative, artistic, gregarious, loving, popular, etc. etc. He was a great student right through SBCC with a plan to transfer to university in engineering. Then the mental illness started in his early 20s which is typical.

Since then, despite having numerous 5150s, near death overdoses, trips to the ER, stays in Cottage Hospital psychiatric department, arrests, jail time, and being in the SB County Behavioral Wellness system for the past several years, there has been ZERO TREATMENT AVAILABLE for his mental illness and his condition has only worsened and he is now getting into more and more trouble being homeless on the streets.

This revolving door of law enforcement, 5150, emergency room, jail, back on the streets, overdose, ER, law enforcement, arrest, jail, back on the streets, 5150, etc. etc. has cost the taxpayers of this county and his family countless money with ZERO effective actual treatment for his mental illness and drug abuse that is causing his problems.

He doesn't need jail, he needs a secure locked facility where he can get actual mental health and drug abuse therapy. Mental illness and drug abuse is a medical problem, not a law enforcement problem. Putting these people in jail only makes them worse and then they just release them back on the streets and the cycle repeats itself.

MENTAL ILLNESS IS NOT A CRIME BUT ALL SB COUNTY DOES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL IS PUT THEM IN JAIL. STOP PUNISHING THE MENTALLY ILL FOR HAVING A MEDICAL CONDITION. IT IS JUST CRUEL AND HEARTLESS.

The decision for funding for more jails needs to be paused and a task for of community members should study why 60% of SB jail inmates are mentally ill, and then figure out how to fund secure, locked mental health facilities in SB county for these people and get them out of the jails and off the streets.