



**CLERGY & LAITY UNITED FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE
– SANTA BARBARA**

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WHO WE ARE:

An interfaith network of community leaders and members organizing to address the root causes of local economic and social injustices in Santa Barbara County. Shared humane values; lift up human dignity.

CLUE-SB and League of Women Voters combined Criminal Justice Reform work- group includes:

- People with lived experience in our criminal justice system;
- Retired attorneys: former Dep. District Attorney; former District Attorney; former Public Defender staff attorney,
- People with careers and experience in healthcare;
- Social psychologist; Clinical psychologist
- Community psychologist



WHAT WE DO

RESEARCH HUMANE, EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS; EDUCATE PUBLIC; ADVOCATE FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

Meet Criminal Justice leaders; Visit jails; Talk to criminal justice workers and people with lived experience; Review expert reports (Murray case); Meet with County health officials, planning officials; Study Grand Jury reports on jail deaths, impact of Pandemic-reduced jail population; Examine other jurisdictions' strategies to improve jail conditions and reduce recidivism

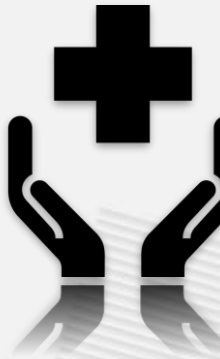


KEY QUESTION

How can our County improve healthcare access for jail residents that will also increase public safety and health in our communities?

“**Healthcare**” = Mental Health care + General medical care

Systemic perspective – jail residents return to our communities. Criminal Justice departments, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, and Non-profits must work together



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

1. Assure accurate health, mental health and risk assessments at intake. Start re-entry planning and use diversion.



Between 104-125 people in jail have acute mental health problems on any given day; lengthy wait list for substance addiction healthcare (MAT program).

WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

INTAKE:

- **Increase interdisciplinary collaboration; holistic assessments** (CCP's recommendation; unfilled coordinator position) Sheriff, Probation, Wellpath, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender would participate
- **Quickly divert low-level, low-risk individuals to community-based treatment resources.**

RE-ENTRY:

- **Build in contractual “warm handshake” requirements and clarity:** Who builds “warm hand-shake”? Wellpath provides sufficient bridge discharge medications. CalAim billing responsibilities?



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

2. Encourage Sheriff's Department to prioritize jail residents' timely access to healthcare.

a) Prioritize healthcare appointments, absent emergency circumstances (policy and practice) See Grievance data 2020 2024;
<https://www.independent.com/2024/03/19/santa-barbara-county-jail-sees-big-spike-in-medical-grievances/>

b) Assure patient-physician confidentiality; Designate meeting/exam rooms, and use them

- No “meetings” through jail bars in the presence of custodial staff and other jail residents.
- Set confidentiality as a default policy and practice

c) Exercise proactive oversight of Wellpath to monitor and cure staffing shortfalls.



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

3. Increase Sheriff *and County* oversight of Wellpath's contract. Contract should include clear consequences, monetary penalties for shortfalls in required staffing and healthcare.



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

4. IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT

- a) Provide diagnosed residents with mental health treatment and living spaces that meet inpatient standards of care.

- b) Transfer to mental health facilities those deemed incompetent to stand trial (IST) after 90 days, as required by law.



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

5. IMPROVE DRUG/ALCOHOL MONITORING AND TREATMENT

- a) Improve drug/alcohol withdrawal monitoring to reduce serious overdose injuries or death.

- b) Expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to eliminate wait-lists



WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

6. REDUCE OUR JAIL POPULATION

- a) A reduced jail population will improve health care delivery: better staff-to-resident ratios, reduced scheduling of appointments
- b) Increased diversion and Sheriff's use of electronic home monitoring will help lessen jail healthcare needs.
- c) Robust intake/re-entry planning with "warm handshake" to community-based resources will reduce jail healthcare needs
- d) Jail resident grievances about healthcare will decline with improved healthcare delivery.



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY JAIL GRIEVANCES

- Jail residents' experience of healthcare -

Trends: 2020-2023

WHEN JAIL POPULATION IS REDUCED:

1) Total grievances

decrease: (1,669 vs. 1,112)

2) Average grievances per resident decrease:

(1.7 vs. 2.2)

3) Percentage of medically-related grievances decrease:

(33.75% vs. 22%)

4) Time for staff to respond to grievances improves: (4.6

days vs. 5.75 days)

Year:	Average daily Population	Total no. of Grievances (avg.per resident)	% Medical-related grievances	Average time to respond
2020:	673	1,292 (1.9)	20%	4.2 days
Average:	655	1,112 (1.7)	22%	4.6 days
2021:	638	931 (1.5)	24%	5.0 days
2022	768	1,692 (2.2)	34.5%	6.3 days
Average:	763.5	1,669 (2.2)	33.75%	5.75 days
2023:	759	1,646 (2.2)	33%	5.2 days

WHAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN OUR JAILS?

OVERARCHING GENERAL ANSWERS:

- 1) Specific steps can help improve jail healthcare;
- 2) “Warm handshake” re-entry to community-based resources will improve long-term outcomes, help reduce “familiar faces” recidivism, and improve community public safety and public health;
- 3) A reduced jail population and increased community-based healthcare resources will lessen jail healthcare demands and improve jail healthcare delivery.

