



# Status Report on Collaborative Criminal Justice Partners Improvement Efforts

Board of Supervisors Meeting  
March 15, 2022

County Executive Office

Criminal Justice Partners:  
District Attorney  
Probation  
Public Defender  
Sheriff

# Overview

- Background
  - Regular criminal justice status reports requested by BOS
  - Last status update on November 9, 2021
  - Assisted by retired Judge Sherrill Ellsworth in developing “CJI tracker” to report on achievements, work in progress, challenges, and timeframes
- Today’s report
  - Update on ongoing efforts to enhance criminal justice system
    - Discussion of 5 initiatives deferred or removed from CJI tracker
    - Reports on 9 initiatives prioritized for action
  - Goals and vision for the future

# Criminal Justice System Improvements

- Background
  - Criminal justice departments constitute 23% of operating budget
  - Ongoing efforts to improve system, processes prior to COVID pandemic
  - Significant changes due to pandemic
  - Board invested in \$4.5 million in current year for enhancements
- Outcomes
  - Transparency – Provide accessible data to the public and decisionmakers to promote evidence-based discussion and planning.
  - Equal Justice – Strategies to optimize due process
  - Community Solutions for Public Safety – Invest in continuous case planning to reduce recidivism, enhance whole person interventions, and ensure victim engagement

## Initiatives Removed from CJI Tracker

- To focus on most relevant and strategic opportunities for improvement, 5 initiatives were removed from the CJI tracker:
  - Treatment courts
  - Victim advocacy services
  - ThriveSBC
  - Mandatory settlement conferences
  - Virtual arraignment courts
- Some are still significant and viable to future consideration
  - Can be re-added as other initiatives are completed
- Others are no longer relevant for inclusion as they are reliant on external entities

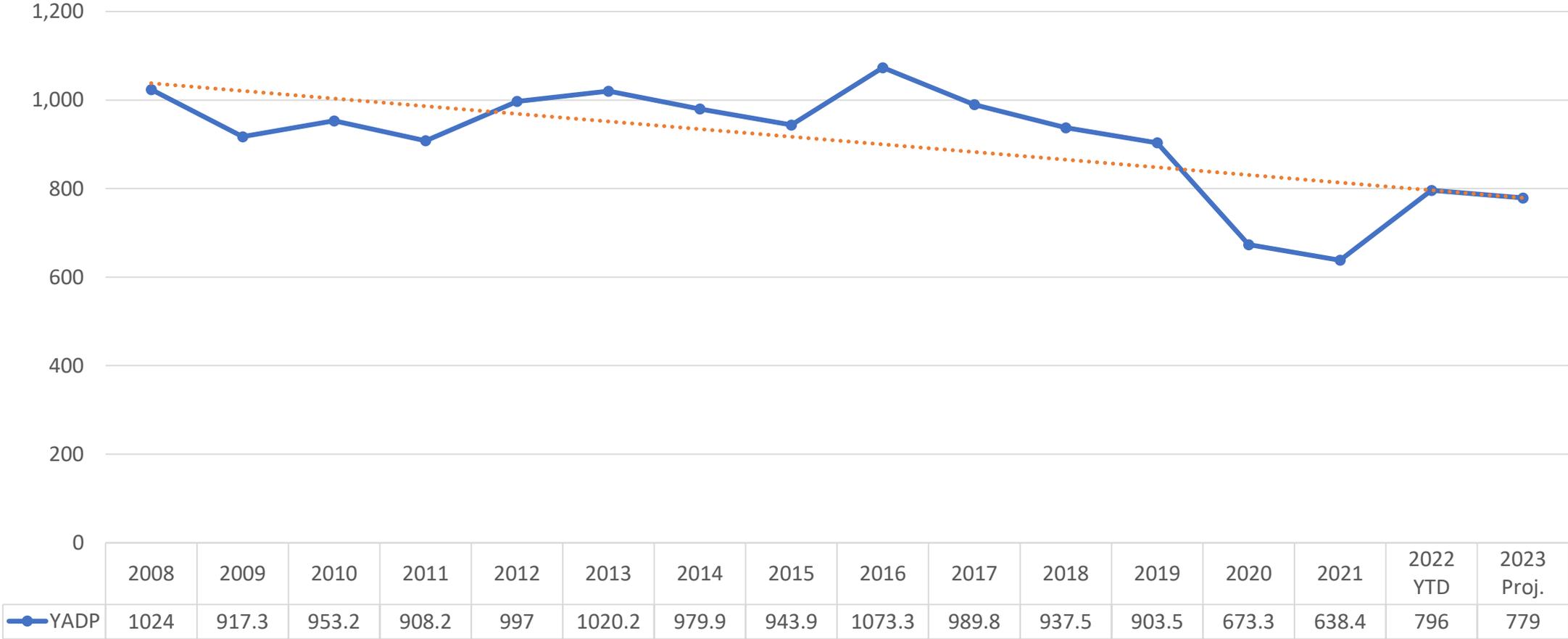
## Initiatives Prioritized for Action

- CJI tracker has been consolidated to the most relevant initiatives in the following priority order:
  - Access to incarcerated clients
  - Discovery
  - Multi-disciplinary teams (MDT)
  - Shared alternative sentencing pilot
  - Pretrial supervised release
  - Data dashboard
  - Holistic defense
  - Diversion
  - Resolving aged cases

## Access to Incarcerated Clients

- Evolution from a simple request/agreement to allow non-internet-enabled laptops in jail, into a much broader and more critical issue, exacerbated by ongoing pandemic impacts
  - COVID-19 outbreak at Main Jail since 12/9/21; quarantines hindered court and attorney access
  - Recent occupation of Northern Branch Jail (NBJ) has enhanced video conferencing capability and access in that location
  - Further improvement once booking operations begin at NBJ
  - Justice partners continue to work toward a coordinated, transparent plan for efficient, dependable, confidential, and standardized access protocols

# Jail Average Daily Population Trend



# Discovery

- Seeks to identify technology solutions to enhance efficiency of cross-departmental discovery sharing process, and support with necessary policies
- InnovateSBC specialized training program
  - 11 formal sessions with professional facilitator; additional ad-hoc meetings of smaller workgroups
  - 31 action items: 13 completed; 18 in progress/ongoing
- Research and discussion with vendors to procure a digital evidence management software (DEMS)
  - RFP planned to release in June 2022
  - Technology and staffing recommendations from data set-aside funding will be brought to the Board after initial vendor application scoring is completed
- Departments finalizing future state process maps

## Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT)

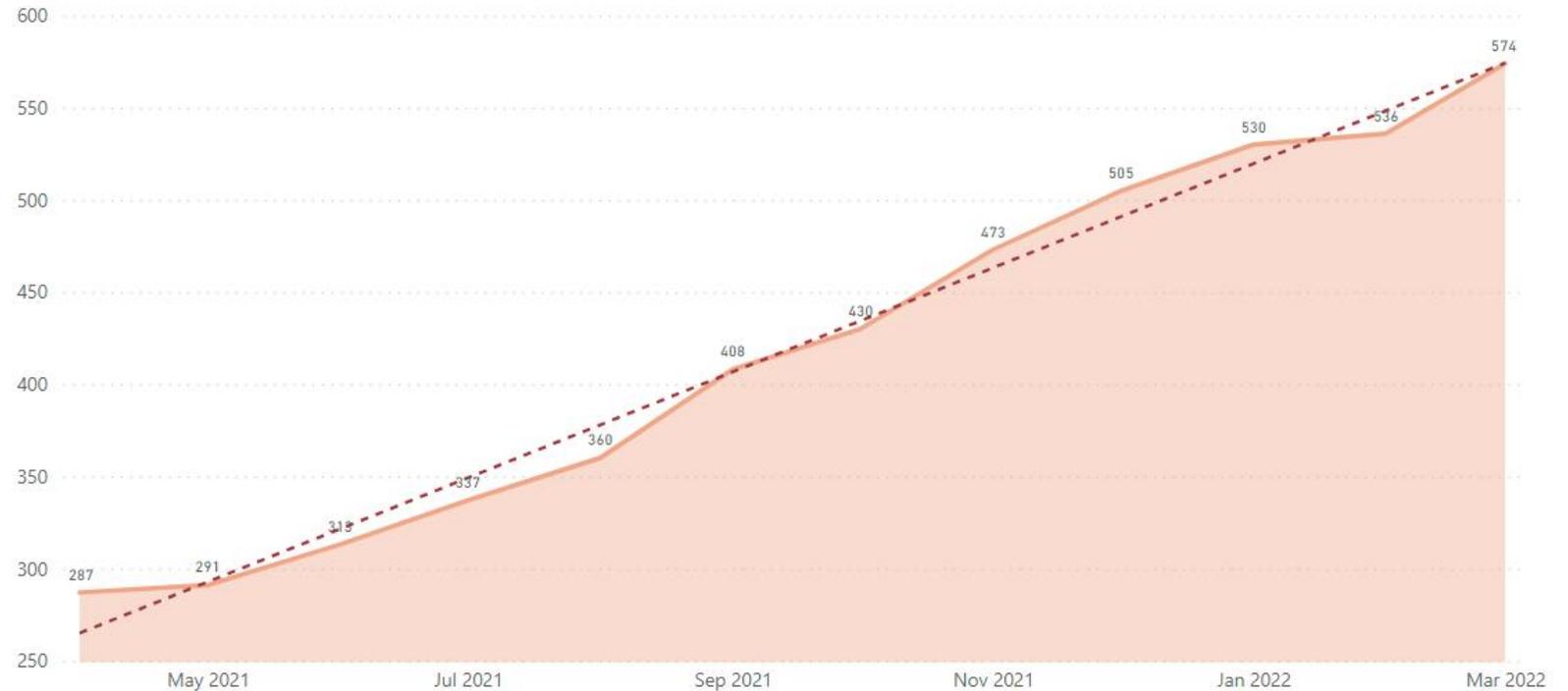
- MDTs intervene at the earliest possible client contact with the legal system, assessing and pairing individuals with services unique to their needs, helping to reduce jail population and recidivism
- Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Workgroup recommended funding for case planning in FY22-23
- Criminal justice partners agree as to necessity of MDT; position specifics, structure, work scope, and department assigned are still in discussion
- Recommendation will go to CCP in April and to BOS in May, with funding to start July 1, 2022

## Shared Alternative Sentencing Pilot

- Provides certain (typically first-time) offenders with the opportunity to serve their sentences via community or State programs, instead of jail time
- These programs benefit the accused, the criminal justice system, and society at-large
- Joint pilot program between Probation and Sheriff combines strengths of both departments to effectively manage supervision in the field
- Departments are in process of finalizing MOU; transition to joint oversight is anticipated to occur by June 30, 2022

# Pretrial Supervised Release

- Identifies suitable candidates for pretrial release, while keeping victims and the community safe by monitoring compliance with release conditions
- Rapid program expansion to currently 574 supervised clients as of March 1, 2022



# Data Dashboard

- Promotes evidence-based practices by creating a public-facing data dashboard with key data points that aid in policy and budget decisions for longevity planning
- Interim static data dashboard was created, including Probation and Sheriff jail data, and glossary of terms
  - Recently improved to now allow for daily refresh of jail data
  - Data from PD, DA, law enforcement, and Courts will ultimately be integrated as well
- Departments also creating their own dashboards
- Next steps include developing consensus on data points and definitions, and exploring outside consultants/vendors for Countywide implementation as a pilot program or partnership

# Holistic Defense

- Multi-agency team-based response that helps improve client outcomes by addressing the root causes of contact with the criminal justice system
- Clients, attorneys, and advocates work in teams to secure pretrial release when appropriate, while addressing issues such as addiction, mental health conditions, unemployment, and homelessness
- PD's Community Defender Division (CDD) launched utilizing external funding; of clients served in FY21-22:
  - 19% were connected with employment services
  - 57% were connected with housing services
  - 73% were connected with substance use treatment
  - 75% were connected with mental health services
  - 73% who started out in-custody were released with community supports of services
  - 94% appeared in court for their next scheduled court date

# Diversion

- Provides a pre-filing “off-ramp” from the criminal justice system for appropriate candidates, where partner agencies and community members define program parameters and rehabilitation efforts
- Restorative justice offers wide range of benefits for communities, offenders, and victims
- Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program (NRJP) addresses low-level crime through community-based solutions outside of the traditional system
- Delays with Center for Court Innovation (CCI) funding from the National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) have delayed the program
- DA is meeting with NTTAC to discuss funding and timelines

# Resolving Aged Cases

- Collaboration between PD, DA, and Courts to resolve serious crime cases over 365 days, to promote closure for victims and defendants, and reduce pretrial jail population
- 121 cases identified as “aged” and prioritized
- Continuing pandemic impacts and significant staffing challenges have hindered progress; however, DA and PD are continuing to review status and work collaboratively to resolve cases as resources permit, with several already resolved

# Future Goals and Priorities

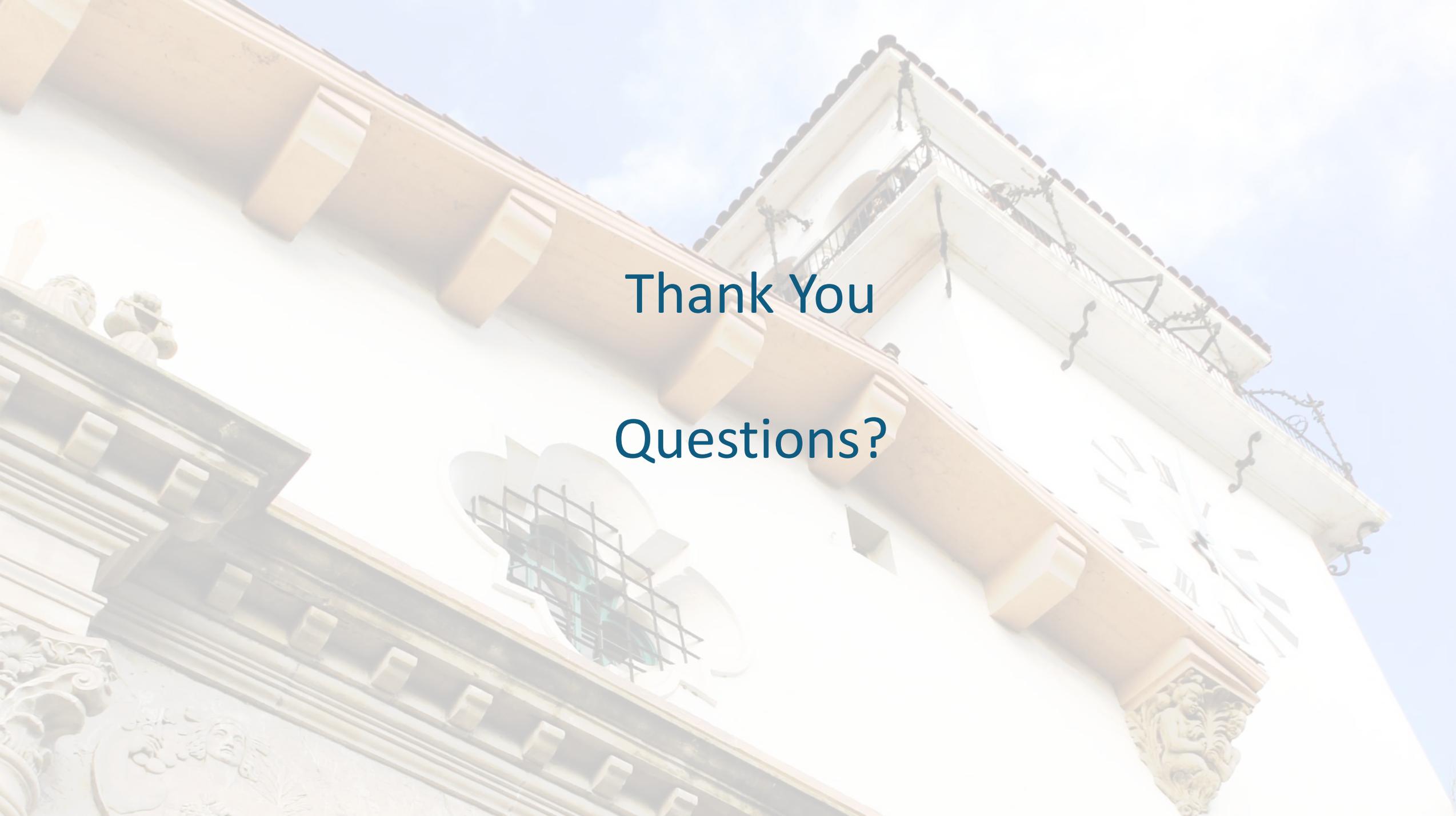
- Determine appropriate allocation of funding set-aside for data and discovery efforts
- Create and institutionalize an Access Plan that is dependable, sustainable, and ongoing
- Enhance early disposition opportunities
- Continued efforts on process, protocols, and supervision of Multi-Disciplinary Case Management Team
- Maintain positive working relationship with Courts
- Focus on technology while continuing to improve processes

# Summary

- Criminal justice collaboration work continues
- Partners meet twice a month to raise issues and track progress
- Progress made in many areas; systemic change takes time and commitment
- Report back in 90-120 days with status update

## Recommended Actions

- a) Receive and file a report on criminal justice improvement efforts;
- b) Provide any direction, as appropriate;
- c) Continue process to improve discovery through completion of InnovateSBC next steps: RFP process for procurement of digital evidence management software (DEMS) and/or technology solution as previously reported, with a subsequent budget revision at a later date to allocate the funds previously set-aside in the FY 2021-22 budget for the identified solution;
- d) Direct staff to return with a status report in 90-120 days on the criminal justice improvement efforts; and
- e) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

A low-angle photograph of a white building with a clock tower. The building features decorative architectural elements, including a balcony with a metal railing and a clock face on the tower. The sky is blue with light clouds. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center.

Thank You

Questions?