BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name:	Probation
Department No.:	022
Agenda Date:	December 9, 2025
Placement:	Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time:	45 Minutes
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	
Vote Required:	Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer

Contact: Spencer Cross, Deputy Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: Community Corrections Partnership Jail Data Analysis Report

County Counsel Concurrence	**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**
As to form: Yes	As to form: N/A
Other Concurrence:	
As to form: N/A	

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

   a) Receive and file a report on behalf of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) on the County jail population and recommendations on possible population reduction strategies; and
   b) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive a presentation regarding County jail population data, which includes an overview of the jail population and reduction and diversion strategies, as recommended by the CCP. At the April 1, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board requested that the CCP analyze data on the jail population and develop recommendations related to the effectiveness of diversion programs and the need for new facilities. The Jail Data Analysis and Diversion Ad Hoc Subcommittee, established for this purpose, worked on behalf of the CCP to discuss and examine strategies and data. Following their analysis and discussions, Probation prepared a Jail Data Analysis Report, which summarized the findings and recommendations of the subcommittee. This report includes an in-depth look at jail data from the 2024 calendar year, a July 2025 jail population snapshot, as well as additional snapshot days for more specific populations. The CCP reviewed the report and, by consensus, endorsed selected recommendations, including data review and

population management strategies, which are before your Board today. The recommendations included: strengthening data collection and analysis; updating and enhancing policies; and supporting and expanding existing strategies. In addition, the establishment of a Jail Population Review and Advisory Team (JPRAT) was recommended to monitor the status of individuals or groups who may be eligible for release from incarceration.

Discussion:

In May 2025, the Jail Data Analysis and Diversion Ad Hoc Subcommittee convened to review prior jail reduction strategies, analyze extensive population data, and assess the availability of countywide programs, mental health and substance-use disorder treatment beds, and housing resources, with the goal of developing additional recommendations to the CCP for reducing the jail population. The Subcommittee was chaired by the Probation Department and included representatives from the Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, the County Executive Office, Behavioral Wellness, the Sheriff's Office, a representative from the Second District of the Board of Supervisors, and a variety of community members and community organizations. The subcommittee reviewed a variety of data and information, which allowed for a robust discussion of existing county strategies and initiatives already underway, as well as areas for enhancement or additional focus. The subcommittee's recommendations were discussed by the CCP on October 2, 2025, and the CCP agreed by consensus to put forward the data and focused recommendations. The data was subsequently approved, finalized, and documented in the Community Corrections Partnership Jail Data Analysis Report.

Demographics

Data provided by the Sheriff's Office revealed that in 2024, most of the jail admissions were male, Hispanic, and aged 30–49. In 2024, the jail average daily population (ADP) remained relatively stable, averaging 343 at the Northern Branch Jail and 403 at the Southern (Main) Jail, for a combined yearly average of 745.3. Of the individuals housed in jail in 2024, the majority (87%) were incarcerated for a felony.

Disposition Status

One key area of focus is the number of sentenced (convicted of a crime and serving their court-ordered disposition) vs. unsentenced (individuals who have been charged and may even have been convicted but are still awaiting a court-ordered disposition) individuals in custody. For the calendar year 2024 data, the population averaged 73% unsentenced and 27% sentenced. The July 1, 2025, snapshot data taken from a single day showed an even higher proportion of unsentenced inmates, with 607 individuals (82%) unsentenced and 137 individuals (18%) sentenced (Attachment A - Figure 3 on Page 13). The implication of this is that a majority of individuals remain in jail pending disposition of their charges and this can impact length of stay. The average length of stay (ALOS) varied by crime category, with individuals admitted for Part I Felony – Violent offenses staying the longest in 2024, averaging 58.1 days (Attachment A – Figure 7 on Page 17).

As it relates to the unsentenced population, general decreases in length of stay (Attachment A - Page 25), whether through accelerated discovery, reduced continuances, or combined implementation of these strategies, have potential to reduce the jail population and improve system efficiency. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, there were 11,888 bookings into the County jails. The ALOS for those released during FY 2024-25 was 22.1 days. Based on these admissions, reducing the ALOS by 1-day (5%) could lower the average daily population by approximately 33 individuals whereas a 5-day (23%) reduction in the overall ALOS could reduce the average daily jail population by approximately 163 individuals.

During the analysis of this data, it was indicated that ALOS can be influenced by a variety of factors and entities and will require additional data and policy review.

Among the sentenced population, there are a significant number of individuals awaiting placement in treatment and mental health beds. These inmates may remain in custody while awaiting a "Release on Bed Availability" (RBA) order, which includes individuals awaiting a substance use treatment (SUD) bed, individuals awaiting a crisis residential bed (i.e., unlocked mental health facility) and individuals requiring a locked mental health facility, commonly referred to as an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) bed. In FY 2024–2025, 109 individuals remained in custody while awaiting a SUD bed, with an average wait time of 30 days. At the time of this report, data was available only for individuals awaiting standard SUD treatment beds (excluding Proposition 36 cases). The number of individuals in custody under a RBA order continues to grow; on September 17, 2025, a snapshot of the jail population indicated 44 individuals were in custody under such orders, the majority of whom were awaiting placement in a SUD bed. Immediate placement into treatment for these individuals could have reduced the average daily jail population by 9. As noted on page 24 of Attachment A, this estimate should be interpreted with caution, as it is highly conservative and reflects only those awaiting SUD beds. The Department of Behavioral Wellness continues to address capacity for the above individuals and has indicated additional projects and grants are being sought to increase capacity. While efforts remain underway, Proposition 36 has increased demand for residential beds throughout the state, therefore, placement of individuals remains difficult as securing beds in existing facilities is competitive.

Existing Strategies and Diversion

While the above strategies were supported for furthering jail population reduction efforts, the CCP also affirmed existing strategies, including the increased use of the sobering centers, pretrial monitoring, alternative sentencing options, and increased system efficiencies. The criminal justice partners have undertaken significant efforts to collectively enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the local criminal justice system and many of the enhancements discussed during this process have already stimulated updated data collection, dashboards, and collaboration between the justice agencies.

One existing program, which has demonstrated early success and was supported in the Jail Data Analysis Report and by the CCP, is the Public Defender's Reentry, Early Access, and Diversion for You (READY) Program. READY provides early representation for individuals charged with certain crimes and is designed to reduce the amount of time defendants spend in custody. A preliminary analysis of the program by MW Consulting estimated that it has already reduced the Northern Branch Jail population by approximately 14 individuals by lowering the average length of stay for individuals who received a READY interview. The expansion of the READY program to the Main Jail could further reduce jail the average daily population. Based on the same percentage of impacted arraignments and proportional reductions in length of stay, a high-level estimate suggests an additional reduction of more than 10 people on an average day at the Main Jail. An updated estimate of the READY program's impact will be completed in the coming months by MW Consulting.

To better understand the effectiveness of currently available diversion strategies, the CCP previously funded a Diversion Process & Implementation evaluation, which was completed in the spring of 2025. A diversion strategic planning effort is now underway, focusing on establishing long-term, systemwide goals and priorities, which will build on the findings and recommendations of the Diversion Process & Implementation evaluation. Several of the subcommittee's recommendations, particularly those related to diversion strategies and jail population management, are expected to inform the long-term plan. This approach ensures that lessons learned from short-term, targeted efforts are integrated

into a comprehensive strategy, aligning immediate insights with sustainable, systemwide improvements.

Recommendations

Ultimately, further reductions of the jail population will require ongoing commitment and urgency by all the system partners as well as continued support of each identified priority areas and recommendations. The recommendations from the Jail Data Analysis Report include: strengthen data collection and analysis; update and enhance policies; and support and expand existing strategies. One final recommendation from the Jail Data Analysis Report, which is supported by the CCP, is the establishment of a Jail Population Review and Advisory Team (JPRAT) to monitor the status of individuals or groups of individuals who may be eligible for release from incarceration. It was clear from the Jail Data Analysis and Diversion Ad-Hoc Subcommittee collaboration that continued discussion is required to provide further insight into areas that could be improved, and to ensure the actions are taken to move the recommendations forward. The JPRAT will be designed to utilize data-driven strategies and defined performance measures to reduce unnecessary incarceration, identify disparities, and improve overall system efficiency. The team will also share information, as appropriate and permitted, to review individual-level data and troubleshoot releases and program admissions. This will ensure opportunities for release are not missed. The JPRAT has formed, will hold its first meeting in December, and includes representatives from the Superior Court, Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender's Office, and District Attorney's Office.

Background:

With the passage of SB 678 (the California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act of 2009), the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) was created as an advisory body to the development and implementation of the local community corrections program by Probation. The Chief Probation Officer serves as its statutory chair. In 2011, the subsequent passage of AB 109 made the CCP additionally responsible for recommending a public safety realignment plan to the County Board of Supervisors. Overarching goals set by the CCP have formed the foundation of collaborative criminal justice work throughout the County for over a decade, and the CCP continues to update and strengthen its data-driven work by introducing new programs and strategies each fiscal year. The CCP has also used realignment dollars to fund data studies in order to better understand the outcomes and impacts of diversion.

Funded programs have included Champions Center beds, Co-Response teams, Holistic Defense, Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program, Familiar Faces, and supportive programs within the jail such as Freedom to Choose and Grid Solar. These programs directly impact justice-involved individuals in the community under supervision of the Probation Department, or those who are incarcerated, all with the goal of providing evidence-based programming to support successful reentry and/or reduce recidivism.

After receiving the April 1, 2025, request by your Board for the CCP to examine jail data and provide recommendations back to your Board, the CCP Workgroup formed a Jail Data Analysis and Diversion Ad Hoc Subcommittee, chaired by Probation. Over the course of seven meetings, the subcommittee members conducted comprehensive data review, heard multiple presentations by County staff, and education on existing strategies, operations and programs was provided to members of the public. Other focus areas for the subcommittee included: currently implemented risk assessment instruments and their relation to the jail population; data related to the number of those awaiting release on RBA, SUD and MH beds, housing projects and initiatives; behavioral health jail related items and also County bed capacity for SUD and MH; new contracts or additions to increase the current occupancy and capacity for SUD and MH beds; and strategic jail management reports from

other jurisdictions. Not all of this data was directly relevant to the task at hand, but the data served to provide a broad foundation for strategic discussion. The subcommittee compiled numerous recommendations, several of which were already directly aligned with current criminal justice priorities, or departmental or contractual expansions currently in progress, including Rapid Diversion, Alternative Sentencing, and the READY program.

To better illustrate where the potential impact would be observed on the criminal justice population and those that would have the greatest impact on the jail population, the recommendations were placed within the related intercepts based on the County's Sequential Intercept (SIM) map. Numerous recommendations were discussed within the subcommittee and opposed to eliminating recommendations or narrowing them to just a few, the subcommittee grouped the proposed recommendations into three broad categories: improving data collection and analysis, policy improvements, and affirming existing priorities. Several key components of the recommendations were then elevated and analyzed to provide estimates on strategies that could potentially reduce the average daily population as outlined in the Jail Data Analysis Report.

Special Instructions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Community Corrections Partnership Jail Data Analysis Report

Attachment B – Community Corrections Partnership Jail Data Analysis PowerPoint Presentation

Contact Information:

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