



# CLUE Santa Barbara

Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice

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CLUE SB Board

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May 27, 2021

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: CLUE SB Criminal Justice Workgroup  
Laurence Severance, Ph.D., J.D. and Maureen Earls, Co-Chairs

Re: County criminal justice 2021-2022 budget and program  
**Community-supported Specific Recommendations**

Dear Supervisors:

This letter comes to you from CLUE SB (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice, Santa Barbara)'s Criminal Justice Workgroup, on behalf of its constituents and allies. With regard to our County's forthcoming criminal justice budget, we ask you to meet the public's demand and rebalance budget dollars to improve racial equity, reduce recidivism, keep our jail population at a safe minimum, and increase humane solutions to secure public safety.

1. We join with other strong public support and common sense in calling upon you to reallocate our County criminal justice budget to accomplish transformative changes. At the Supervisors' budget workshops on April 12th and 14th, there was unprecedented community support for reallocating funds from the Sheriff's over-funded budget to initiate transformative change. More than 80 people supported and endorsed CLUE's letter seeking reallocation. In a parallel effort, over 770 people have signed a petition circulated by SURJ - SB (Showing Up for Racial Justice - Santa Barbara) demanding reallocations from the Sheriff's budget to improve racial justice and reduce recidivism in our county. In addition to individuals, 28 organizations endorsed SURJ-SB's petition as organizations asking our County Supervisors to make transformative changes in budget priorities for 2021-2022. Below are listed organizations that signed SURJ-SB's petition, and a link to the petition:

League of Women Voters SB	SB Young Democrats	Food Not Bombs Isla Vista
Healing Justice Santa Barbara	SB Just Communities	Vietnam Vets Against War SB
Santa Maria Lompoc NAACP	Santa Barbara DSA	Bonfire Collective
El Centro Santa Barbara	Assoc. of Raza Educators, SB	UCSB4COLA
CAUSE	SB CAN	United Corazon
Future Leaders of America	SURJ Santa Maria	Love Your Inmate
Fund for Santa Barbara	Santa Maria Valley Young	Ethnic Studies Now! SB
Freedom 4 Youth	Democrats	Santa Barbara Response Network
People's Justice Project	UCSB Campus Democrats	SB Healthcare Workers for Racial Justice
Jewish Voice for Peace SB		
SURJ SB	<u><a href="#">Petition - Divert 26.7 Million from Sheriff's budget - Change.org</a></u>	

The public is now painfully aware of KPMG's finding that that our County Sheriff's Department spent **\$26.7 million** and employed **165 staff more than** the benchmark averages for Sheriffs' budgets in comparable California counties (2019-2020). Your public wants this runaway overspending reigned in. With only one exception, all public comments on April 12th at the Sheriff's Budget and Diversion Workshops supported increased funding to divert non-violent people from arrest/jail to improve racial justice.

Most recently, our County CEO reported the Sheriff's Department is \$818,000 over budget for the current fiscal year, much of which went to pay overtime during a period when the jail population was greatly diminished as a result of Covid-19, and for increased liability insurance (Board Agenda 5/18/2021). The public and Board are well aware of the costly Federal judgment entered against the County and Sheriff's Department in February, 2021. As our Supervisor, please set boundaries on general revenues for the Sheriff's budget and require political accountability to help cure profligate, undisciplined spending. A reallocation of funds is required to better balance our system of justice. In addition, surplus general revenues and cannabis revenues could be directed to implement budget changes.

**2. CLUE SB urges you to specifically reallocate criminal justice funds to *expand* the Public Defender's holistic advocacy.** After collaborative conversations with other community organizations and conferring with the Public Defender's Office, we urge you to adopt the accompanying specific

budget recommendations for the County's 2021-2022 criminal justice budget. This budget will result in a **\$2,431,560 expansion of funding for holistic advocacy** to be provided through the Public Defender's office. Reallocating funds this year will directly impact outcomes for justice-involved individuals.

The Board is knowledgeable that "holistic advocacy" combines social work, housing advocacy, resource specialists, and attorneys to take into account the entire person and underlying causes for involvement with the criminal justice system. Holistic advocacy identifies and presents alternatives to jail time for those whose justice involvement is a result of underlying causes such as mental health, addiction, and racial inequities. Public Defender staff estimate that 50-70% of their clients have personal or family challenges along these lines, but present staff cannot adequately assess nor meet this need. CLUE SB's specific budget recommendations are supported by reason, evidence, and a broad coalition of local organizations and their constituents who demand funding reallocations to improve racial justice.

#### **Why make a substantial commitment now to fund holistic advocacy?**

**A. Holistic advocacy will reduce jail time and, likely, recidivism.** KPMG's evidence-based performance review of the Public Defender specifically recommends: "Enhance Holistic Defense, Pre-Arrest and Specialty Court units to improve impacts on recidivism". The evidence KPMG cited for this recommendation is:

"... [A] large-scale evaluation published in the Harvard Law Review [that] found holistic defense can reduce the likelihood of a custodial sentence by 16 percent and reduce the sentence length by 24 percent. Preliminary data ... [and] a pilot partnership with the Santa Barbara Family Service Agency, funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, found recidivism to be 11 percent lower for clients who receive holistic defense services as compared to those who did not."

KPMG Public Defender Performance Review, p. 6, 43. Sufficiently fund holistic advocacy now, coupled with robust evidence-based evaluation in this County.

The accompanying budget proposal includes one information technology FTE to assure data are collected and analyzed to measure/confirm the efficacy of this approach.

**B. "Holistic advocacy" will directly address racism, which the Board of Supervisors has declared a public health crisis in Santa Barbara.** On April 6, 2021, the Board of Supervisors declared racism a public health crisis. Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) become justice-involved in a system undeniably stacked against them. See E. Bertrand, *Analysis on Racial and Ethnic Disparities (2020)*. What better way to address racism than through changes in our criminal justice system that directly address the harmful effects of systemic racism? The Public Defender is uniquely positioned as a catalyst for broader change because its mission is to represent and advocate for those who are

disadvantaged. Holistic advocacy combined with culturally competent staff will generate workable solutions for justice-involved people, garner savings through reduced jail sentences, better enable families of justice-involved people to stabilize, and avoid misunderstandings that lead to probation violations and a possible return to jail.

**3. CLUE SB urges the Board of Supervisors to stay actively engaged with the Sheriff's Office to achieve permanent reductions in the South County jail footprint and reallocate resources to community-based alternatives.** Transformational change requires a reallocation of funds to strengthen community based alternatives to jail. **We ask you to require the Sheriff's Department to continuously collaborate with the County in major re-thinking of plans to refurbish the South County Jail:**

- A. Repurpose a significant amount of that campus for an assessment center where incoming arrestees may be assessed 24/7 for alternatives other than jail; and to provide transitional beds to ease the housing crisis and help justice involved people without ready housing to re-enter our community and succeed. See KPMG Interagency report, at p. 12: "[Other] localities ...have... intake facilities - separate from the jail ... - that enable 24/7 diversion by law enforcement to emergency medical services for individuals experiencing addiction and/or behavioral health distress...").
- B. Reduce the remodeled South County jail footprint to no more than 200 beds.
- C. Transform excess space from obsolete jail cells into transitional housing to ease reentry and reduce recidivism. (see the successful Norway model)
- D. Use budgetary tools to encourage the Sheriff's Department to repurpose and reallocate funds for staff positions to improve in-custody mentoring and support volunteer-facilitated mentoring opportunities, such as *Freedom to Choose*.
- E. Every jail program provides data from which to evaluate success, including surveys of participant outcomes post release, to justify continued funding (See adapted Norway model in Oregon)

The Sheriff's Department recently issued a Request for Proposal to remodel the South County Jail. It incorporates none of these concepts. The County should not support the proposed remodel in its present form.

A San Antonio model for addressing community mental health demonstrates the value and impact of a repurposed campus. In Bexar County, Texas, a center offers 1,700 people a year – homeless, mentally ill, and addicted – the whole rainbow of services. A key statistic is that the San Antonio program has diverted about 60,000 people into treatment who would otherwise have gone to jail. See [Santa Barbara Independent](#), May 13-20, 2021 at p. 12. Orange County, California has replicated this model. Santa Barbara needs to seriously examine potential budget savings from this kind of transformational intervention.

**4. Support and fund system-wide data analytics.** A Yolo County "Commons" pilot program effectively provides integrated transparent county criminal justice data, including possible disproportional negative outcomes on people of color. It has been reviewed by our District Attorney and Public Defender. Allocate funds in 2021-2022 to improve data collection and analytics across departments. Study, develop, then implement funding for Yolo-like plan for Santa Barbara County.

We, along with others in our community, plan to attend the upcoming budget hearings. We welcome your support, voice and vote to transform and improve criminal justice in the year ahead. Significant cost savings and a more humane criminal justice system are in play. Please act decisively to reallocate funds to improve racial justice, help reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. Adopt CLUE-SB's recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurence J. Severance, Ph.D, J.D. (ljseverance@msn.com)  
Maureen Earls (maurenearls00@gmail.com)  
Co-Chairs, Criminal Justice Workgroup  
**Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice Santa Barbara**

cc: Ms. Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County CEO;  
Tracy Macuga, Santa Barbara County Public Defender;

Holistic Defense Team Funding\_Updated 5-16-21.xlsx

**HOLISTIC DEFENSE TEAM STAFFING NEEDS\_Updated 5-15-21**

					FY21-22
<b>Additional Holistic Defense Staffing Needed</b>					
<b>Location</b>	<b>Staff Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>EXH</b>	
Santa Barbara	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	4.00		\$436,000
Santa Barbara	Specialty Courts Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Santa Maria	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	2.00		\$218,000
Santa Maria	Specialty Courts Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Lompoc	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Juvenile	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Countywide	IST Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Countywide	Pre-Arrestment Holistic Defense Advocate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	1.00		\$109,000
Countywide	Resource Service Specialist	\$93,000	1.00		\$93,000
Countywide	Holistic Defense Engagement Coordinator	\$118,500	1.00		\$118,500
Countywide	Holistic Defense Program Director-DPD V Position	\$290,000	1.00		\$290,000
Countywide	Thrive App Maintainer	\$139,000	1.00		\$139,000
Countywide	Department Business Specialist I (Data)	\$118,500	1.00		\$118,500
Countywide	AmeriCorp Program-\$11,200 per member, 4 members				\$45,000
<b>TOTAL Salary &amp; Benefit Additional Staffing for CDD</b>					<b>\$2,112,000</b>
Operating Costs (Equipment, IT, Training, Licenses) @ 10%					\$211,200
Travel @ 3%					\$63,360
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED</b>					<b>\$2,431,560</b>
<b>CCP Funded Holistic Defense Team</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>					
		<b>Salary</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>EXH</b>	
	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$333,494	3.00		\$333,494
	Holistic Defense Advcoate- Social Service Worker	\$93,000	1.00		\$93,000
	Client Services Specialist	\$56,457		1.00	\$56,457
	Transporters	\$133,575		3.00	\$133,575
	AmeriCorp Housing Specialist-4 AmeriCorps				\$45,000
<b>TOTAL Salary &amp; Benefit CCP</b>					<b>\$661,526</b>
Travel Expenses					\$50,000
<b>TOTAL CCP FUNDED HOLISTIC DEFENSE STAFFING</b>					<b>\$711,526</b>
<b>MultiDisciplinary Team-FOCUS ON HOUSELESS CLIENTS COUNTYWIDE (HIAPC)</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>					
		<b>Salary</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>EXH</b>	
	Regular Social Service Worker Senior, PS/L	\$109,000	2.00		\$218,000
<b>TOTAL Salary &amp; Benefit Multi-Disciplinary Team</b>					<b>\$218,000</b>
Operating Costs@ 10%					\$21,800
Travel @ 5%					\$10,900
<b>TOTAL COST MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM</b>					<b>\$250,700</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED</b>					<b>\$2,431,560</b>
<b>OVERALL HOLISTIC DEFENSE FUNDING INCLUDING CCP &amp; MDT</b>					<b>\$3,393,786</b>
<b>Total # of Advocates Per Location</b>					
Countywide					3
Santa Barbara					7
Santa Maria					5

Holistic Defense Team Funding\_Updated 5-16-21.xlsx

Lompoc	1
Juvenile	1

## References

1. E. Bertrand, Analysis on Racial and Ethnic Disparities (2020)

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2. Stipulated Judgment in *Murray et al. vs Santa Barbara County & Sheriff's Office*, U.S. District Court (Central California), Case no. CV 17-8805-GW-JPRx, entered February 2, 2021.

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3. KPMG, "Operational and Performance Review of Interagency Criminal Justice Opportunities" February, 2021. [4371](#) ([countyofsb.org](http://countyofsb.org))
4. KPMG, "County Wide Operational Performance Review – Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office", October, 2020. [4366](#). [4367](#)
5. KPMG "County Wide Operational Performance Review – Public Defender's Office, August, 2020. <https://santabarbaracounty.ca.gov/ceo/asset.c/4305>
6. Ahalt, C., Peters, C.S., Steward, H. & Williams, B.A., Transforming Prison Culture to Improve Correctional Staff Wellness and Outcomes for Adults in Custody "The Oregon Way": A Partnership Between the Oregon Department of Corrections and the University of California's Correctional Culture Change Program, [Advancing Corrections Journal](#): Edition #8-2019.  
  
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