

Collaborative Criminal Justice Efforts & Main Jail Rehabilitation Project

Board of Supervisors Meeting, November 9, 2021

County Executive Office General Services

Criminal Justice Partners:

Courts

District Attorney

Probation

Public Defender

Sheriff

Today's Report

- Update on ongoing efforts to enhance criminal justice system
 - Last status update July 13,2021
 - Direction to return with project tracking timeline
 - Report on achievements, work in progress, challenges and timeframes
 - Assisted by retired Judge Sherrill Ellsworth
- Main Jail Rehabilitation Project
 - Report on status to date and actions requested by the Board
 - Options to address concerns
 - Recommended action



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
- 14 Primary Initiatives (Attachment A)
 - 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

1. Data Dashboard

Equal Justice

- 2. Discovery
- 3. Resolve aged cases
- 4. Enhance access to inmates
- 5. Mandatory settlement conferences
- 6. Virtual Arraignment Courts

7. Explore expansion of pretrial release

- 8. Multi-disciplinary teams for collaborative case planning (intake and discharge)
- 9. Optimize use of alternative sentencing
- 10. Explore expansion of holistic defense
- 11. Expand and optimize use of diversion and offramps
- 12. Optimize victim advocacy services

Community Solutions

- 13. Optimize treatment courts
- 14. Thrive SBC.org application

Transparency

Data Dashboard

- Goal is an integrated, real-time dashboard with comprehensive look at the system.
- Probation created an interim data dashboard (Probation and Sheriff data).
- Sheriff has dashboard on its website for the Main Jail similar in structure to Probation's dashboard.
- Public Defender and District Attorney integration being evaluated.
- Interim dashboard complete by February 2022.
- "Real-time" dashboard for all is a longer-term goal and, once the interim dashboard is complete. With consultant help, target date completion goal is August 2022.

Adult Supervision Dashboard



Santa Barbara County Probation Department

SBC Probation Department website



Sheriff Main Jail Dashboard

Oct 03

Oct 10

Oct 17

DATA DASHBOARD

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office > Data Dashboard

Oct 03

Oct 10

Oct 17

Oct 24



https://www.sbsheriff.org/data-dashboard/



Oct 24

Equal Justice Discovery

- Seeks to document current process, ideal process and future state and create procedures to support the ideal process.
- Ultimately identify technology support to enhance efficiency and sharing of discovery once processes have been identified.
- InnovateSBC method
 - 10 formal sessions with facilitator
 - 8 additional ad hoc working group meetings
- Demonstrations with potential technology vendors occurring in tandem.
- Recommendations will be forthcoming in 2022 at end of the process.
- Resource recommendations brought during FY2022-23 budget process.
- DA is implementing e-disclosure with Santa Barbara City Police Department.

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 60-90 days with status report.



County's Jail System - Overview



South County Main Jail

Rated capacity: 852 beds

Operational Cost: \$48.8 million

annually



Northern Branch Jail

Rated Capacity: 346 beds

Operational Cost: \$20.4 million annually (when

fully operating)

Estimated Project cost: \$119.5 million

State AB900 Grant: \$80.0 million

County General Fund: \$39.5 million

Main Jail inmate population and rated beds

Changing landscape

- Current census is 644 inmates; significant decrease compared to pre-pandemic levels (900-950 range in March 2020).
- Post-pandemic, Sheriff expressed inmate population may increase beyond current population.
- In June 2021, Sheriff presented a staffing plan for the Main Jail at varying inmate population levels.
- Northern Branch Jail will fully open in December 2021 or January 2022.
- Given this changing environment, consultant engaged by CEO to evaluate projections and impactful interventions
- County staff also began working with State agencies to remove any rated bed requirements.

Need for the Main Jail Rehabilitation

- Scope for rehab is critical to longer term viability of facility, and not driven by specific jail population or Disability Rights California class action lawsuit.
 - Complex constructed form 1960s to 1990
 - Correcting building deficiencies electrical, mechanical, ADA
 under discussion for several years
 - Large scale maintenance HVAC, structural upgrades, interior efficiencies, security electronics, building system upgrades put on hold until larger rehabilitation project designed.
- Estimated cost of proposed project is \$24.2 million.
- In 2019, Board approved including this project for COP funding.
- Design contract to be awarded in December 2021. Staff would return to Board prior to considering construction contract.

Summary of Estimated Costs of Rehabilitation Project

Scope of Work	Estimate
ADA improvements, Code Compliance	\$5,498,288
Fire, Life, Safety (Egress & path of travel)	\$3,376,036
Deferred Capital (Roof replacements, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, security electronics, structural)	\$5,192,224
Deferred Capital Related Work	\$14,066,548
Programming Space/Medical & Mental Health area and cell improvements	\$6,160,820
Design and Project Management Costs	\$3,945,000
Grand Total	\$24,172,368

Concerns expressed about the Main Rehabilitation Project Jail

- Do not rehabilitate areas of the jail that will no longer be needed or used.
- Plan for renovating, rebuilding or building new areas for more modern, direct supervision models.
- Plan for areas to allow greater out of cell time and attributes to ensure appropriate conditions for inmates and staff.
- Think longer term for ways to better support rehabilitation of inmates.

Options

Option 1: Proceed with planned rehabilitation project

- Initiate design for critical components and ADA
- Improve only areas that will continue to be used
- Return to Board prior to approval of construction contract
- Estimated cost: \$24.2 million, to be funded through COPs.
- Time required: 3.5 to 4 years

Option 2: Same as Option 1 plus assessment of longer-term inmate housing and program space on Main Jail campus or additional beds at NBJ

- Initiate broad assessment, include direct supervision model for replacement beds at Main Jail or NBJ.
- Consider results of jail population study in assessment; return to Board once complete for further direction
- Estimated cost: \$24.9 million; additional costs for assessment to be funded in upcoming CIP or other sources
- Time required: 3.5 to 4 years.

Options

Option 3: Proceed with reduced rehabilitation at Main Jail and construct STAR facility at Northern Branch Jail.

- Identify areas to permanently close; scale back rehab.
- Do needs assessment, informed by projection study.
- Replace some or all beds with new facility at NBJ, updating STAR design
- Estimated cost: \$67.1 million. No funding identified for this larger project. Could require more ongoing funding for operations
- Time required: 2.5 to 3 years for rehab; 4 to 6 years for new facility development.

Option 4: At Main Jail, proceed with reduced rehabilitation, demolish areas and construct new housing unit

- Same as above but replace some or all beds with a new replacement facility at Main Jail.
- Estimated cost: up to \$60.3 million. No funding identified for this larger project. Time required: 2.5 to 3 years for rehab; 4 to 6 years for new facility development.

Staff Recommendation

Proceed with Option 2.

- This is the least expensive alternative to address the <u>immediate</u> deferred capital, ADA deficiencies and Court approved settlement requirements.
- The amount of time required to accomplish this option is considerably shorter than Options 3 or 4.
- Provides adequate time to thoroughly develop needs assessment, forecast future required rated capacity in a postpandemic environment and to evaluate the need for additional program, diversion, and/or inmate housing capacity.

Recommended Actions

- a) Receive and file status reports on criminal justice improvement efforts and the Main Jail Rehabilitation Project;
- b) Direct staff to pursue Option 2 for the Main Jail Rehabilitation Project;
- c) Provide other direction, as appropriate;
- d) Return with a status report in 60-90 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.

