

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22nd, 2022 – FINAL**

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Chair, Cmsr. Geri Stern, called the meeting to order @1:33pm</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Chair - Cmsr. Geri Stern, District I Cmsr. Alana Russaw, District IV</p> <p><u>Members Absent:</u> Cmsr. Gina Swirsding, District I</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, District II Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Angela Beck Jennifer Bruggeman Rebekah Cooke Dawn Morrow, Supv. Burgis' office Teresa Pasquini Pamela Perls Jill Ray, Supv. Andersen's office Baylee Wechsler, Transitional Age Youth Coordinator, NAMI, Contra Costa</p>	<p>Meeting was held via Zoom platform</p>
<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Rebekah Cooke) Update on my daughter, she was conserved for one year and placed in a new program, Gray Haven, free of charge and it is a great program. Unfortunately, the conservator quit without notice and Andrew Bove took over her conservatorship. Before speaking to anyone of the staff or anyone, they pretty much let her daughter know that she would be out in January. So, from that moment on, she stopped working the program. It really sabotaged her recovery. In addition, they (her daughter) came up with a plan that (apparently) makes her not gravely disabled. Her plan was to go to a homeless shelter in Napa, which lasted two days. It was rainy, cold and miserable. She had nowhere to go. She had a friend and went to go live with him at his place. Some of you may remember this 'friend' as he was the one that sued the police department and on the news because they severely beat him in jail. This was during a very bad storm and the conservator (Andrew Bove) said "well who knew there was going to be a bad storm", to which I replied, "The weather on the news!" The worse storm was coming and they let her out during this winter storm. Suffice it to say, she was not doing well. She fell off the wagon, off her medication almost immediately and no transition at all. If it couldn't get any worse, they did not do the paperwork for her social security so the money he was going to give her, she still doesn't have and will not until March 1. Complete debacle. Right now, in Danville and 'couch surfing' with the guy she stabbed and went to jail for. Again, complete debacle. I can't even... we are surprised when someone in this population are hurting others and on the street and nowhere for them to go. There is literally nowhere for them to go! Trying to find a place with her MediCAL is next to impossible. It is crazy. Our policies need to change. My daughter is in no way going to be able to take care of herself. She is severely disabled and because she came up with this plan, and it was a 	

really BAD plan, but apparently that was proof she wasn't severely disabled. I don't get it. I would love to hear feedback on what could have been done differently. Oh, and Andrew said he will still support her. He will still find a place for her to go if she wants to go back to Pathways or somewhere else that he would work with her but hasn't returned her call for two weeks. Dropped the ball. Completely. (Cmsr. Stern) Rebekah, that's a nightmare scenario and I am so sorry to hear all of that. We will be getting into that later this meeting because it is an ongoing problem and thank you to your bringing that to our committee last year and have been exploring and put a face on the chronic problems of lack of beds. You can't put somebody someplace that doesn't exist.

(Rebekah Cooke) What is interesting on your point about lack of beds. The way the conservatorship sabotaged my daughter, Gray Haven never wants to work with her again. Here is a facility that was doing everything pro-bono, it was all free and they don't want to ever work with Contra Costa County again because of the way they treated her. It is so sad. I think there were 8 bed that are vacant that someone could surely use in Contra Costa right now. (Cmsr. Stern) So, because of the way your daughter was discharged, they don't want to work with our county. (Rebekah Cooke) I think what happened, before Andrew spoke to the Director or the psychiatrist there, unfortunately the social work had just been hired. But they didn't speak to anyone. He spoke to my daughter and told her she would be out before Christmas and it went to January. He let her out two days before Christmas to a homeless shelter. My point is, we have beds and opportunities but not taking advantage of them. It is sad for those out there that need these services. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) We need to circle back to this due to time constraints of the meeting but this does sound like something that needs to be reported 'malpractice' with the department of the Public Guardian, so he is either better supervised or ... (Rebekah Cooke) I would love to blame it all on Andrew but the I wrote my letters of intent to everybody, and I wrote that they all knew what was going on. I was told she should have an adequate stepdown program and the fact that she went from Angwin to Pathways, that was considered a step down. It doesn't make sense to me that they don't step them down to the point they can take care of themselves. We are just wasting money and spinning wheels.

- (Pamela Perls) I am going to send an article (to the EA to share) from the East Bay Times that I thought was very encouraging and I thought was very encouraging and would be good for the committee to know about for comparison's sake. Hayward is the beginning a new program called the Hayward Evaluation and Response Team (HEART). The city council has funded it. It's a combination of trained police, fire and mental health (MH) clinicians. One team is police and MH clinician, the other is fire and MH clinician. I hope this gives you all encouragement. <URL: <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/02/21/hayward-explores-alternative-to-police-answering-mental-health-crisis-calls/>> (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) I just wanted to mention that the County's Crisis Intervention Program is in progress and did get the funding to hire for (I think) approximately 72 positions. It was incredible. In order to staff out all of the teams. It is in happening and in process. A couple of teams are in place. If you would like to learn more about where exactly the implementation is, the contact person is Dr. Chad Pierce, acting Director of

that program. I am sure he would be happy to tell you exactly where they are at. <EA to send Pamela the contact information).

- (Baylee Wechsler) I was informed by coworkers just now that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) is currently in the process of withdrawing formerly promised funding from community cultural mental health support initiatives. So, I wanted to ask how this committee is going to ensure that the \$13mil that has been put forward to the mental health commission that will be approved potentially (hopefully) at the next meeting, how misdemeanant and felony incompetent to stand trial (MIST / FIST) individuals, how this committee is going to support and that the motion passes. I know it's been delayed for a couple months now and I thank Teresa Pasquini for speaking up about that at the last mental health commission meeting. There were a lot of frustrations that many community members have had that it hasn't been approved yet. This seems to be right in the wheelhouse of the Justice Systems committee. I wanted to ask if I can count on the commissioners and attendees here to be sure to speak up at the next meeting in support of the motion to ensure it passes. Let these individuals get the housing and support that are months overdue. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) Thank you for the ask. This motion will be the first order of business when we have our meeting in early March. It will move forward. There is a suggestion, I would imagine, over the amount of money being recommended. I think is what the nature of the conversation will end up being about. I think approving the motion for the commission to advise the BoS to fund at that level will go through.
- (Baylee Wechsler) I know it is going to be the first order of business, how can we facilitate that any hesitation going into the conversation is quelled. If it is an issue about finance, I know Cmsr. Dunn definitely has a lot of information detailing exactly what the money would go towards funding. Is there anyone I can connect him with or let him know because he also works as a consultant with NAMI CC. Definitely can reach out to him to quell any hesitancy for anyone on this committee <interrupted by Cmsr. Serwin> Where I am seeing the hesitancy is from Dr. Tavano. We had a conversation with her in a meeting (3 weeks to a month ago), which she said she didn't know how many people were here already and how many were coming. She said the State was taking back some of the responsibilities it had pushed down to the county level and was going to be providing some funding, but unaware what it would be because it was all in process. At that point in time, she hadn't budgeted any extra money for the population, that it was already being taken care of by existing resources. That is one condition that is way over on one side and I was flabbergasted and I am not the only one. What is going to happen is that Doug is going to present his case and there will be resolution to not be talked back down to there not being any need at all, a most unfathomable position to \$1mil. She's never put a dollar amount out there. I think that is the thing, to not be talked back down.
- (Baylee Wechsler) I'm confused, the motion is to approve the funding? (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) The motion is to advise the BoS and BHS Director to budget \$13mil, it's a big difference.)
- (Baylee Wechsler) I would think that, since most of the commission appears to be in support of it, the advisement is likely going to go through

<p>just to be pushed back from Dr. Tavano. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) We've had pushback to even pass that motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Jill Ray) Thank you, Barbara, for clarifying that we do have A³ (Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere) up and running. The BoS has just approved has approved the funding of those 70+ positions to fully staff that program. I wanted to add to that, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD) has a pilot program, which is also funded by the BoS through Measure X funds to use their FPD in a pilot program to team paramedics and 5150 calls. That is also rolling as well. • (Teresa Pasquini) I just want to share they are in the very beginning stages of a bill introduced by Senator Stern and co-authored by Senator Eggman, SB1446. It is in the very early stages. It is about a right to treatment and a right to housing. It states, "for those people who lack supportive housing and behavioral healthcare and is otherwise not living safely in the community would have a right to mental health services, housing that heals and access to a full-service recovery model." So, I just wanted to share with you all there is some movement on housing that heals at the state level and that will be forthcoming, developed further. I am in conversations with people across the state to make sure that 'housing that heals' is not coopted into something that it wasn't intended to be. • (Angela Beck) Responding to Rebekah Cooke and her comment that things need to change. Agreed and spoke to the incident in Napa on 2/18, regarding the shooting of Robert Abreu and the arrest of the suspect with multiple prior convictions. 	
<p>III. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: None</p>	
<p>IV. CHAIR COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am open to ideas from this group for direction to proceed in this year's topics. We have uncovered some very formidable obstacles over the last year that are going to take a long time to address and, it sounds like Teresa is keeping track of a lot of things with housing. We are working on mental health care beds and these issues are just agonizingly slow. If you have anything, Baylee – you mentioned the IMD beds. If there are any comments or topics you want explored by this committee, please send me an email and I am happy to do that. It does take a lot of time to get speakers on the agenda as everyone is very busy. Thank you. 	
<p>V. APPROVE minutes from the January 25th, 2021, Justice Systems Committee meeting Cmsr. Alana Russaw moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by G. Stern. Vote: 3-0-0 Ayes: G. Stern (Chair), L. Griffin and A. Russaw Abstain: 0</p>	<p>http://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>
<p>VI. DISCUSS and VOTE on a motion to: <i>Advise the Board of Supervisors to add to its legislative platform the goal that the State appoint and fund a Statewide Conservatorship Director, whose job it would be to provide uniform guidelines to all counties in the state, under which all counties would operate and conform. The position should be funded and mandates that the State require of the Office of the Public Guardian should be funded.</i></p>	

Before we go into the motion, for my annual report for 2021, I have a section on conservatorship concerns. There were a number of points made by speakers from the office of the public guardian that said there were not enough beds for all of the conservatees, which seemed like a pretty obvious thing, but they did put it on record. One of the quotes was that “The State really needs to take action regarding the state hospital system as it takes way too long to get those in need into the state hospital. The state says this is how much BHS is receiving and if you run out, you are not getting anymore.” We just don’t have enough board and cares. I don’t know how many of you were tuned into Alex Barnard’s presentation on evaluating California’s conservatorship continuum, but his summary was that no one is in charge on a state level to look at everyone on conservatorships and the whole system of care. There is a need to appoint a state commission or office that oversees the office of the public guardian in all counties in the state to provide continuity of care for those conserved. That is why we are discussing this in our committee this month with this motion.

I have a motion to: *Advise the Board of Supervisors to add to its legislative platform the goal that the State appoint and fund a Statewide Conservatorship Director, whose job it would be to provide uniform guidelines to all counties in the state, under which all counties would operate and conform. The position should be funded and mandates that the State require of the Office of the Public Guardian should be funded.*

It seems like that is pretty obvious, but it is a really big ask. I have no illusions that this is going to be easy and don’t know if it’s possible. There is a lot on the plate of the governor. There are a lot of issues to deal with. This is a very important topic. I’d like to throw the topic to the floor anyone with an opinion, I’m happy to hear them.

Questions and Comments:

- (Teresa Pasquini) I support your bold motion in concept. I think I’m the one that introduced you to Alex Barnard and he continues to give good presentations across the state and just listened to him give another one. It is being refined more and more and it is more and more obvious. Where the state will go with this, I don’t know. There is not much heavier of a lift than the family members you have heard from in the last year, like Rebekah Cooke and so many others, especially those with no family members. The public guardian and conservators office is the safety net for those with no family and it is the last stand. What I did not share in public comment, I will share now. I received an email a week and a half (on a weekend), I was getting away to finally get away from mental health issues for a couple of days and woke up to an email that took me to my knees. It was from my son’s conservator of 12 years telling me he was leaving our CCC Conservator’s office and that he was sorry he was unable to see my son personally to let him know. He wanted to wish our family the very best moving forward. Because of the people and stories, I have heard from people like Rebekah, I am very scared who the next person will be. I have reached out and still focused on partnering in our county and working collaboratively, but most importantly, I want to advocate for my son to ensure there is continuity of care for him. I just want to remind the committee that “housing that heals” is more than housing, it is a continuum of care and the vision is that you get whatever it takes; the right level of care at the right time in the right place. Sometimes that is an acute psychiatric hospital bed, sometimes it is an IMD bed, or a state

hospital bed. I just want to clarify that and to remind you our family has been through the entire continuum and that is why I wrote the paper and why I don't stop advocating. This is my home of 66 years, my son has not been able to live here for years and so I am passionate and will never stop advocating for this continuum or for those without family support. It is unacceptable we are having some of this population being harmed so horribly. There has been a total abdication of authority by the state. It is an unfunded mandate and I don't know where you will get with your motion but I do appreciate you intentions very much. I hope you will pursue it. We hear about warm handoff's all the time, my son deserved a warm handoff from the person that has been in charge and control of his life for the last 12 years and has determined where he lives. This conservator went through hell and back with our family. I had the utmost respect for him and I am very sad that he felt the need to walk off the job. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) That is a really sad state of affairs and yes he did deserve a warm handoff. Sometimes when people leave they do it in a more formal way, other times they don't. We don't have control over that and it is really hard. (Teresa Pasquini) I have control over how I speak about it and it is not something we all haven't been speaking to and in this committee spoke about it with Matthew Luu and Linda Arzio. I believe we told the staffing... well, again it's not just for my son, he will be okay. Case managers weren't notified. I spoke to a high level person in our county who didn't even know that **Doug Carney** had left. That's who Rebekah's daughters conservator was. That happened three or four months ago. There is a communication problem and it is not just the state level, we need to have this brought front and center in our county to the BoS.

- (Cmsr. Russaw) I was just wondering if Ms. Pasquini felt comfortable speaking on why this conservator left? Do we know any of that information? Pay? Disrespect? Discrimination? Retirement? Do we have any insight? (Teresa Pasquini) I think there is a culture of toxicity that has been going on in the conservators office for a very long time. It is well known and there is a process of change management taking place and I'm not comfortable with the way that is. I think there are values in CCC that we hold, that we talk about patient and family centered care, raising up our amazing staff who are our public servants and give the utmost and I feel there have been some staff in this office that have been grossly mistreated. That's my opinion based on my knowledge. Again, that is not up to me. There are people that are paid up the chain and why I have tried to partner with this committee to bring people to you, to collaborate and get questions answered, all while I have been trying to help families that need this level of care. (Cmsr. Russaw) Thank you for sharing. Working in the field of mental health, myself, and being born and raised in Oakland, California, I just see so many deficits and discrepancies between how things are done there, which given it is a bigger county compared to CCC and that is a part of the reason I wanted to be a part of this commission. There is still more work to be done and I'm just, as a commissioner, tired of attending these meetings and not seeing any action and I just want to thank you for always coming to speak your piece and represent for the families.
- (Cmsr. Stern) We all appreciate your input and tireless effort on behalf all those conserved, beginning with your son. Yes, this is an unfunded mandate and it is an embarrassment to our state that a mandate would be

made and unfunded and that vulnerable people are hurting and harmed because of the inability to provide for them. That's an embarrassment and it is, quite frankly, criminal. People are being hurt daily because of unfunded mandates. If we had the facilities to take care of these vulnerable people, We'd all be a lot better off. I did have a long conversation with Lara Delany (thank you Jill for pointing me in her direction), she was very gracious and spent a lot of time with me and spoke to me about the process for this motion. How it will go up the chain. Just to everyone here, it isn't an immediate process. It takes a lot of handoffs in different committees and look at it, talk about it, vote on it, back and forth. It was really overwhelming how long it could take just to speak on this motion. It doesn't even begin to address where it goes once it was moved up to the governor's office if it ever gets to the legislature to discuss and speak to funding and appointing a Director for the state of the office of Public Guardian. It is a big overhaul and would be a huge undertaking to coordinate every county in the state and bring it into some semblance of organized coordination and communication for everyone to be on the same page. That is a long haul. We can just take the first step and see where this goes. Hopefully there will be no pushback and that it will be discussed.

- (Pamela Perls) <interrupt voting> I just want to mention that generally these things go through the judicial counsel which is the administrative arm of the court (superior court) and generally function independently. There is a state oversight but generally those are judicial counsel rules and was wondering is there some precedent for a state office of the conservator. I am not familiar. (Cmsr. Stern advised this has already been discussed with Lara Delaney who is the legislative coordinator and over the County Judicial Committee and has already been established it would need to go to the BoS and that we should include Dr. Tavano in these discussions).

Moved to Vote on Motion:

Advise the Board of Supervisors to add to its legislative platform the goal that the State appoint and fund a Statewide Conservatorship Director, whose job it would be to provide uniform guidelines to all counties in the state, under which all counties would operate and conform. The position should be funded and mandates that the State require of the Office of the Public Guardian should be funded

Cmsr. Geri Stern moved to vote on Motion as written. Seconded by Cmsr. Laura Griffin.

Vote: 3-0-0

Ayes: G. Stern (Chair), L. Griffin, and A. Russaw.

Abstain: None

VII. DISCUSS with the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET) how things work for the regular sheriff in the field and how they see the challenges with clients who have mental health issues

(Cmsr. Stern) Unsure what we can actually do with this today but wanted to get some ideas on potential future meeting for this and how we can go about it. I thought it might be interesting, rather than just have the head of the department (Deputy Jennifer Yen) to come speak to the Mental Health Evaluation Team (MEHT) or the crisis teams, but to have a sheriff on the beat to come speak on how they see the current status of these improvements we are making and what changes they see being made if they think it's effective.

This has been talked about for about a year now since Mile Hall initiative was discussed. What do we think about this?

Questions and Comments:

- (Teresa Pasquini) I want to say, living in El Sobrante, we are in a part of the county that is unincorporated and we have sheriff deputies responding to 911 emergencies here. I have been fortunate that my son survived the calls over the years (unlike Miles Hall). I have deep respect for our Sheriff's Department and have worked really well with our Sheriffs. I think it is a great idea. I have two experiences in that we are also landlords in CCC and I have shared publicly a couple of our tenants we have helped. One of our tenants in Rodeo, I have helped her with her daughter over the years (since she was 15 years old). Her story was very public as she was on television and I was on an interview with her, she was part of an interview we had with the Visalia Times (our stories were combined). I am sharing because this mother had to file a restraining order to have her daughter removed, her daughter became homeless; and because of the restraining order, the sheriffs had to come and arrest her daughter and take her to jail recently. After which, no one knows what happened until the mother received a knock at the door from the Sheriff a couple weeks ago with a notification that the mother thought was a notification of death. For two days, everyone thought her daughter was found dead. It wasn't until she was found alive that this notification was an error. We are all thrilled this young woman is alive and back into treatment but I am sharing because there are communication problems, obviously. So, there is that. The second thing I'd like to share is that we had to file a restraining order recently for another case in Richmond, that I brought to this committee before. I believe that our county partners with the Richmond PD on their mental health calls and, again have had some amazing conversations with the front line police in Richmond. It is such a broken system. We have called 911, 211, we haven't tried 988 yet because the person ended up assaulting his grandmother and is now facing an elder abuse charge. He is still homeless on our street corner. I do support your idea.
- (Cmsr. Stern) My biggest concern is how to do this properly, what channels to go through to get someone here and then, once we do, how do we provide a safe environment for that sheriff to speak not to feel they could get in trouble, knowing they are being recorded.
- (Jill Ray) The first issue I want to address is the MHET' primary focus is after crisis response to do follow up care. Some of the things Teresa spoke to are not necessarily under the MHET, wanted to be clear on that. The proper way to go would be to have your staff EA to go through the county system to invite. I guess I am unclear what you are looking for. To have a frank discussion, feel comfortable what?
(RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) That a sheriff, deputy sheriff who is involved in responding to these 5150 calls, to just come in and speak to their experience now that we have implemented these crisis teams and how they feel things are working. (Jill Ray) So we have had the crisis teams for quite some time, this is nothing new. The A³ is not lifted fully, so I think it's a bit premature to see how that will impact the entire system. Those teams really need to be working 24 hours a day/7 days a week to make an impact. The MHET aren't necessarily the same as what we are building. That is why I am saying it may be a bit premature to see how A³ is

impacting our police and sheriff departments. There is a San Pablo police officer who has worked very close throughout the entire process building and has been very active and his quotes are all over the videos and speaks to the danger of the response and excitement and various things found through their research. There is a lot of information out there. I am just not sure why now, based on this agenda item, what it is you are wanting them to speak frankly about that hasn't already been put out there. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) I haven't seen those things and what I was looking for. If someone can send links to these. (Jill Ray) Angela has shared them before. Angela, maybe you can share the links to the Rapid Improvement Events (RIE) that all led up to A³, all the videos and report outs after all of that. (Cmsr. Stern) No, that is not what I was looking for. I just wanted to hear how it's going on a daily basis with calls coming in, someone dealing with this on a daily basis. (Jill Ray) I will work with Angela to come up with what you are looking for and maybe we can better narrow down if it exists.

- (Rebekah Cooke) I am in contact with Alan Shield, the head of the Danville police. Not sure if he'd be willing to come and speak. I know in theory, we are spending the money and everything is along but I think it really is smart to see if it's actually working and the money is being well spent. In the 15 years I have been dealing with our family situation, that is why I asked the question in chat, I have never ever had anyone follow up with me or my daughter. Never a next day call so I'm curious how this money is being spent. Lots of things being said that are being done but really not. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) That's great, maybe you can give him a call and ask if he would be willing to speak about his experiences, put in touch with Angela or me.
- (Baylee Wechsler) Along the same lines, just wanted to add that I have actually been in contact with the Police Chiefs of Antioch, Concord and Walnut Creek, regarding the A³ Program and various police diversionary crisis response calls. I am mildly confident that, at least one of them, would be willing to come in and speak to how program implementation is affecting the police. I know A³ is not fully implement yet, they are slowing phasing it in and still hiring people so, I don't think anything we hear about how it is affecting it now would be an accurate representation of its protentional. I do think there could be some value in hearing how the police (either chiefs or sheriffs) expect it to affect their departments. I think there might be some insight into that. I will email you later and share the names and contact information).
- (Pamela Perls) I was just going to say that I think it's of great value to hear front line people speak. What you are looking for is not the public relations view, we would all like to say it is going magnificently and the money is well spent. I think there is a great value in speaking to those on the street working in these situations. If the chiefs and sheriff (running for re-election) are comfortable with their constituents, then they need to make people available. No expects everything to be perfect. Whether it is at the beginning or fully implemented, it is very important to hear. Anyone that comes to speak is certainly going to get the okay from their chief supervising them. They need to understand; however, that this is a public commission, it is mandated to have oversight and has the right to listen to people's point of view and feel comfortable that this is a supportive group that only wants to things to go well but we need to know.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Jill Ray) One thing to add, is that you are an advisory body to the BoS for the county so the cities mentioned there is no advisory capacity for this body for those cities. The Danville Police Chief is an arm of the sheriff. So, looking to Chief Shields and anyone on with the sheriff's department. 	
<p>VIII. DISCUSS Where do we go from here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge of funding for infrastructure and not operations • Jail vs. inpatient care? • What are our priorities? • Jail vs state hospitals? • Public opinion - Does the public know most psych care in the US takes place in jail settings? <p>(Cmsr. Stern) Most of our residents are being treated for psych care in the jails and most do not know this. After watching the 'Stepping Up' workshop that was online last month (or before), it is a nationwide problem and jails are being funded to treat the mentally ill. There was an article in last Tuesday's Chronicle that mentions the supervisors for Alameda County voted to allocate \$318mil across three years for the sheriffs to improve mental health treatment at Santa Rita jail, most of the money will go towards hiring staff for the jail. There was a women who has a daughter there and stated "I want more hospital beds, I want longer stays in hospitals for mentally ill patients. I want more supportive housing." Her daughter does not do well when her situation is unstable. People who have committed crimes that are mentally ill, which came first? Are they in jail because they are mentally ill or are they mentally ill because they are in jail? The jails are now the default treatment center, so it is just not right. I am throwing this open for discussion.</p> <p>Questions and Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Baylee Wechsler) It is a great idea for a topic for this committee to look forward to in the future. I also think, perhaps, mental health services in prison (not just jail) because I know they are different and that prison services are often very neglected as well. People are just thrown in prison and left to rot. I think whether a person has committed a crime or not, doesn't mean they shouldn't have access to life saving human dignity providing services. It is definitely both beautiful ways this committee could look forward to how to support CC Residents in the future. (Cmsr. Stern) It is a really big issue, people are in jail who are mentally ill and every time there is a mass shooting, I hear politicians saying more money needs to be spent on mental health treatment. Yet, that money goes to the jails. • (Pamela Perls) Baylee's suggestion is a very interesting one, but as long as this commission only advises the BoS, you have to stick to the jails because they are the only within the BoS' purview, prisons are state and federal level. • (Jill Ray) Two new grants announced from the Board of State Corrections (BSC) were released and focused on mental health and re-entry. So, the statement that we are just funding jails has been shifting away from that for quite some time. I think we continue to see with the Measure X funds as well. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Stern) Yes, things move very slowly but thank you for 	

<p>the update. There is a lot of public opinion to move away from jail but it is a long haul.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Teresa Pasquini) I realize, very well, that the commission is an advisory body to the BoS and BHS Director who is the mental health director of the entire county. I don't see why the MHC can't reach out to cities and other jurisdiction. When I first was on the MHC, the Justice Committee that I was part of at that time, had a very robust gathering of law enforcement agencies from across the county that participated in the monthly meetings of the MHC. We also had the PD attend, the DA attend, and had a very robust collaborative relationship with a variety of jurisdictions across the county. I think there are a lot of meetings happening and a lot going on. We know the BoS is involved and our administrators are involved; we also want to be involved. The public and the MHC should be involved. I just think it is really great thing to pursue. • (Cmsr. Serwin) Just echoing Teresa's perspective. The role the MHC has the mandate to look at every (and all) environments where people are examined, treated, evaluated, handled. That is a very broad mandate and there is no limit to who we can or cannot speak to, as long as it falls within that broad stroke. 	
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<p>IX. DISCUSS brief summary from Prison Law Office on the Mental Health Remedial Plan</p> <p>(Cmsr. Stern) I just want to give a little background on how I received an answer from Monica Cooper, Assistant County Counsel for Tort and Civil Rights Litigation. I contacted the attorney for the Prison Law Office (PLO) to see if we could get some response, but was told quite a few times it is confidential and not open to the public. We are not allowed to have a summary of the ongoing progress for the PLO. What she did say was there wasn't much that she or the PLO can say except "at a high level (unsure what level that is), in addition to the PLO reviews, an expert psychiatrist also conducts monitoring reviews of the mental health remediation plan twice a year. The mental health monitor has been very impressed with all the work that detention health and the sheriff's office has done and there are only a few items left to bring the mental health remediation plan into full compliance. The vast majority of the remediation plan is already in full compliance."</p> <p>If that were the case, I wonder why it is so secret. Maybe someone can speak to that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Jill Ray) That is because it was a lawsuit and this is a settlement. The agreement is sealed. • (Cmsr. Stern) was this a public or private lawsuit. • (Jill Ray) There was a lawsuit filed and the county came to a settlement agreement which is confidential. • (Teresa Pasquini) I tracked it, I am aware of all that. I just think there should be more transparency and more information shared about what exactly is being done. I was never privy to anything about the lawsuit. I just think it's another one of those things the public deserves a right to more information than we are receiving. It is concerning because jails are the biggest provider of mental health services these days and we should all be able to celebrate that remediation and hear more about it. It seems there should updates. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Stern) I did contact, by email, the attorney on the actual internet site that states he is involved and the attorney for the officer in this case and he asked Monica Cooper if he could release this information to the Mental Health Commission and she said no. So, he was asking. I don't know the process or if we will receive a final report once everything has been completed. I don't know what the lawsuit mandates for that. • (Cmsr. Serwin) I just want to say it is shocking to me to hear that it is almost fully implemented. We went from many problems, as far as I understand we still have all those problems. Now, all of a sudden, how many millions of dollars for an incredible number that were to be hired and implemented in mental health services, and we are almost done? Seems like we'd be hearing a lot about these changes. To me, this is a big black box, and feel it is a huge slap in the face to be told at this point, we can't hear what is happening. I'm shocked. I think the idea of what point can we have a discussion. Presumably there is a big delta from how this started out to where it is now if it is almost fully implemented. • (Cmsr. Stern) It seems shocking. I don't know the answer to that question and not sure where to go to address that to? (Cmsr. Serwin) My question is when, we don't need to ask what the settlement is but simply go to the jails and ask what is the status today? Those are two different issues. (Cmsr. Stern) I tried to ask the Director Lavonna Martin and just said it's confidential. (Cmsr. Serwin) What I am saying is, we don't have to ask what is the settlement, and what it consists of, but we can ask about what is the status today of how Mental Healthcare is delivered in the jail? What roles are there? How many people staff these positions? How do things work? It is like we are resetting and starting over now. • (Cmsr. Stern) we have Lavonna coming in April and add those questions to her agenda. 	
<p>X. Adjourned at 3:00 pm</p>	