

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 25, 2019

**Implementing a Jail-Based Job Center Pilot Program at Century Regional  
Detention Facility for Women**

On October 16, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion authored by Supervisors Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas directing the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff), to prepare a report evaluating the feasibility of establishing a Jail-Based Job Center (JBJC) at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF). The motion was introduced with the goal of addressing some of the specific challenges facing justice-involved women as they integrate back into their communities and into the workforce upon release from jail. Key elements of the October 16, 2018 motion included: a resource directory of County services available to women at CRDF; a proposal for a comprehensive, trauma-informed, and gender responsive workforce development program; proposed curricula for career pathways in growth industries; and identification of resources and a proposed budget to support the JBJC.

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MOTION

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In response to the October 16, 2018 motion, WDACS submitted a report and recommendations developed by the JBJC Workgroup (Workgroup) composed of Sheriff, the Probation Department, the Department of Health Services, the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Department of Public Social Services, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Workgroup's recommendations are based on a study of best practices from other national and local models, as well as on the County's firsthand experience with the JBJC pilot program at Pitchess Detention Center, which is ending in September 2019 and from which many lessons were drawn. The Workgroup is recommending a limited-scope JBJC pilot program at CRDF that will provide inmates access to information on workforce development and other Los Angeles County (County) services. The proposed JBJC pilot program will provide tiered workforce services and specialized training in high-growth industries to women deemed eligible, based on their expected length of stay at CRDF, personal needs, and career interest.

The proposal includes workforce development outreach and referral services available to anyone who elects to access those services while at CRDF or post-release. The second level of services would include a comprehensive two-tier training model with case management available to sentenced women with sufficient time remaining to complete the programming. The two-tiered approach, with the goal of serving 200 women over two years, includes:

1. Tier 1 will provide basic professional development to women who have completed an eligibility assessment and who have 30 days or more remaining on their sentence. The program will include soft skills training, resume creation, professional development, and case management.

2. Tier 2 will provide Career Pathway Training to women who have completed

an eligibility assessment and who have 90 days or more remaining on their sentence. The Tier 2 program will include industry-specific training and coordinated job-placement in high-growth sectors. The Workgroup is recommending that the initial program focus on the culinary sector as CRDF currently operates a popular culinary program that can be expanded upon and the County can leverage its relationships with multiple employment partners within this sector to connect women with positions pre-release.

The JBJC will provide women at CRDF critical resources, guidance and referrals during detention and post-release to ensure successful integration into the workforce and back into their communities.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Acting Director of WDACS, in partnership with the Sheriff, to collaborate with the Probation Department, the Department of Health Services, the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Social Services, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and other relevant departments to:

a. Establish a two-year Jail-Based Job Center (JBJC) pilot program at CRDF by August 31, 2019 and adopt the recommendations provided in the JBJC report submitted to the Board on April 16, 2019 (April Report). The JBJC pilot program should include, at a minimum:

- i. Outreach and referral services to inmates at CRDF;
- ii. Tiered career pathway training in culinary careers including enhanced support services pre- and post-release through coordinated connections with America's Job Centers of California, high-road vocational training programs, and community-based

organization partners;

b. Create a plan for expanding the JBJC programming to incorporate training for careers in technology and/or construction for the second year of the pilot program;

c. Implement a coordinated release program for JBJC program participants exiting jail;

d. Partner with the County Justice Metrics Project to continuously track and measure the impact of proposed services on key metrics and identify opportunities for improvement; and

e. Report back to the Board in 180 days on progress in implementing the JBJC pilot program at CRDF.

2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

a. Identify \$2 million in one-time funding for the two-year pilot project as part of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Supplemental Changes Budget, with input from WDACS. The \$2 million in one-time funding, recommended in the April Report, could include County resources (including the Inmate Welfare Fund), external funding, private partnerships, grant opportunities and philanthropic funding support for the JBJC program for the duration of the two-year pilot; and

b. Allocate an appropriate number of positions to the Acting Director of WDACS, as authorized under County Code Section 6.06.020, to administer the JBJC pilot program and associated programming related to workforce programs for justice-involved individuals and other populations with high barriers to employment.

3. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of WDACS to enter into contracts as needed with service providers to expeditiously operationalize

programming at the CRDF JBJC provided that all contracts are approved as to form by County Counsel and expenditure reports are filed once per quarter with the Board, for the duration of the pilot project.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Acting Director of WDACS, in partnership with the Sheriff, to prepare a comprehensive evaluation of lessons learned and recommended next steps as a result of the two-year JBJC pilot program at the Pitchess Detention Center and report back to the Board in 180 days with findings.

S: PC/Implementing a Jail Based Job Center Pilot at Century Regional Detention Facility for Women