



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
6.		Favor	Alexander Fierro-Clarke	
			Andrew Silver	This is an important program to address the pipeline of incarceration to homelessness. Please support and vote yes on this motion



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6.		Favor	Anthony Arenas	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because it is clear that your constituents need relief yet you continue to dump money into departments that offer none, like police. When there are tried and true methods of providing care that do not revolve around cops. We can't get this opportunity to do better pass by because the Board holds back on funding.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Ashley Brim	<p>urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I have family members who have mental health issues and my experience has shown that isolating folks when they are struggling never improves their condition.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Ashley Locke	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Aubrey Schoeman	



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6.		Favor	Audrey Lock Blumber	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I have loved ones who have been through the prison system and struggled.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Ava Marinelli	
			Bethany Heykoop	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.



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6.		Favor	Brittany Meckelborg	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I also suffer with my mental health. Punishment does not help with healing or learning to live a better life. The only thing that will help people is education and support.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	CAROL LEWIS	
			Cecilia Ball	



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6.		Favor	Chandra Russo	<p>Please vote in favor of this. It is such an important step toward the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment .</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because of my own personal and family history with mental health challenges. While I have been able to get the support I need to live a functional life, maintain a job and support my family, this is only due to robust support networks and services.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Charles A Wolfe	As one who has had mental problems for many years I fully suport this motion and believe it should receive a YES vote.



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6.		Favor	christopher cohen	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because these folks are supposedly being rehabilitated but all we're really doing is warehousing them and using them profit.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Christopher Wong	
			Christy Lambertson	



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6.		Favor	CJ savage	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because its a basic human right. Not sure why I need to explain how cruel it is to place these folks in jail without proper services. DO you need to be convinced of this?</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
6.		Favor	Cordelia Arterian	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Dahlia Ferlito	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p>



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6.		Favor	Daniel Kenna	Mentally ill people belong in treatment, not jail!
			Daniele E Achiro	



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6.		Favor	David N Greenspan	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I have a close family member with mental health issues that has needed care services in the past.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Diana Diller	
			Diana D Arterian	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Divya Maus	



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6.		Favor	Edward M Landler	Stop Los Angeles County from violating the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails. Approve the Expanding Office of Diversion and Re-Entry Housing motion which will result in the diversion of hundreds of people with mental illness out of the jails and into community treatment.
			Elias Ressegatti	



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
6.		Favor	Elise Kalfayan	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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6.		Favor	Elise Piatkowski	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Emily T Wood	<p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer,</p> <p>On June 14, 2022, this Board will have the opportunity to vote on Supervisor Mitchell's motion to fund 500 treatment beds through the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR). As a psychiatrist working in the LAC Juvenile Halls, I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save</p>



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lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.

The need for this motion right now is unequivocal. As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.

The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to my patients because they are facing a revolving door or incarceration and inadequate care if this system is not reformed. The rate of mental health disorders among youth in the Juvenile Halls is greater than 65%. Since their needs are not being adequately met in the juvenile carceral system, there is a high likelihood that they will continue to have issues as adults and will find themselves in L.A. County's adult jails. This cycle must end. To start, we must divert as many individual as possible from the carceral system into truly rehabilitative models of care.

In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.

Furthermore, passing this motion is crucial to fulfilling this Board's commitment to closing Men's Central Jail. As detailed in by the MCJ Closure Report, the county must immediately fund 3,600 mental health treatment beds



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	<p>to pave the path to close this deadly facility. The report specifically names ODR as one of the viable programs that could make closure a reality. As more than a year has passed since the Board's own county commission provided this plan, it's time for the Board to make good on this promise.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Eugene Pesikov	<p>urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>This issue is important to me because I don't believe having people who have mental issues languish in jail is moral or ethical. These people should be getting the help they need so that they are rehabilitated rather than making whatever issues they're experiencing worse.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p>



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			<p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			<p>Genevieve M Clavreul</p>
			<p>Geoffrey Golden</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I have family with mental health issues who've gone through the carceral system in the past. So I've received first hand accounts about how terrible the system is.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p>



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	<p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Gerri Collecchia	
Gizella Czene	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because they have so little supports.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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Gregory M Irwin	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Haley Bresnahan	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I've personally seen the impact mental illness has had on family members who</p>



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	<p>have not had access to vital resources. Being mentally ill is not a crime.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Herley Jim Bowling	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality. We know that jails and prisons are NOT a place where people with mental health needs are going to get the help and support they need.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this</p>



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Jacob E Sternberg	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for</p>



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	Jan Williams		
	Jayne Kusyk	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for</p>	



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Jeremy Blasi	
Jessi Jones	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p>



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	<p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
<p>Joan Harper</p>	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
<p>Julie Martinez</p>	
<p>Julie D Alley</p>	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save</p>



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	<p>lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I have had friends who have had mental health problems that can cycle them through the jails system.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Katherine E MacQueen	Jail doesn't work for the mentally ill. More treatment and support is needed for those with these difficult conditions.
Katie Aymar	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save



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lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality. The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because I understand that people in jail are often caught in a cycle of generational poverty, and may have underlying health issues that are not solved by the abandonment/neglect that incarceration organizes.

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Kay Pech	
Keith Clow	Thank you Holly Mitchell for introducing this motion. I fully support this. It is long overdue.
Kelly A Young	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.



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Kevin Kearney	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly</p>



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Lani Engstrom	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because therapy works!</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a</p>



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<p>Laura Adery</p>	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who</p>



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		Laura Napoli	<p>I have mental illness and I can't imagine how awful it would be to suffer with it in prison. Please get prisoners the help they need, so they may be the healthy members of society that many of them just want to be.</p>
		Laura Vargas	
		Leah Boykin	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because there are so many who's mental and emotional health goes ignored. Without proper support, those who are suffering are left to circumstances that may exacerbate their mental conditions.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86%</p>



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Correspondence Received

				<p>had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Lisa Butters-Smith	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given</p>



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	Lisa A Tyree		<p>Thank you Holly Mitchell for introducing this. The mentally ill need treatment & access to possibly avert criminal behavior, if not SW/social services. Police failing to understand them & violating their rights because of it is not acceptable. They should be held accountable. All they are doing is compounding the situation.</p>
	Lucas OConnor		<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law</p>



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				<p>enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Luis M Lozano	<p>The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will vote on the Expanding Office of Diversion and Re-Entry Housing motion which will result in the diversion of hundreds of people with mental illness out of the jails and into community treatment on Tuesday, June 14th. I support the effort to provide services that are appropriate to people with mental illness rather than incarceration I hope you vote for the motion.</p>
			Maia Zander	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p>



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	<p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Maria Rivera-Duncan	
Mario Uribe	
Mario C Batres	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality. As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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Martin Lijtmaer	See attached letter.
Mary M Broderick	
Matthew Bogdanow	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Melissa Butts	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.



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	<p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
<p>Melissa Camacho-Cheung</p>	<p>We strongly support Supervisor Mitchell's Motion to expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and provide the funding necessary to accomplish its mission.</p> <p>ODR works This Board created ODR in 2015. As carefully outlined in Supervisor Mitchell's motion, the ODR Housing Program has achieved tremendous success. Over the last seven years, courts have released 7,414 people from jail into community services through one of the five ODR programs. (Motion at 1-2.)</p> <p>Because we now have seven years of data, we know that ODR works. The rearrest rate for people in ODR's FIST-Community Based Restoration Program is 17%. By contrast, those people charged with felonies and found</p>



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incompetent to stand trial committed to state hospitals rather than ODR have a re-arrest rate of 70%. And those in other county supervised release programs see a rearrest rate of 39%. RAND reports that 74% of ODR's Supportive Housing Program clients maintained stable housing after a year, and 86% had no new felony convictions after a year. (Motion at 2.)

ODR's proven track record makes it the best hope for bringing community-based mental health services online quickly and effectively. ODR brought 211 beds online within weeks at the beginning of the COVID-pandemic. (Motion at 3.) This Board must use ODR to quickly expand community-based services and housing because the County cannot continue using the jails to hold people with psychiatric disabilities.

The jails are in crisis

If someone is arrested and booked into the LA County Jails today, and that person requires Medium or High Observation Housing (MOH or HOH) due to a mental health need, the Sheriff's Department does not have a place to house that person. This is not hyperbole. There is currently no place for that person to go.

What does that mean? One effect is a backup in the Inmate Reception Center, which is not designed to hold people more than 24 hours. For the last month, however, dozens of people have been kept in IRC beyond the 24-hour mark, dozens beyond the 48-hour mark, and at least one person more than 87 hours! At a monitoring visit to IRC on Monday, June 6, Melissa Camacho-Cheung observed more than a dozen people sleeping on the floor in filthy conditions. Food, toilet paper and other unidentifiable trash littered the floor. Individuals pointed Melissa to broken toilets and bathroom floors lined with urine-soaked towels and feces. Multiple people complained that they had gone for 3-4 days without prescribed medications. IRC is not meant to hold people for any time beyond 24 hours, but people are stuck there in deplorable and unconstitutional conditions because there are no MOH or HOH beds available.

Not having adequate MOH and HOH beds is also dangerous. Deaths by suicide, deaths by "natural" causes, and deaths by homicide in the jails: all are up and at record levels. The jails are maintaining 2021's rate of one person dead per week into 2022. In 2021, at least one person died in housing designated MOH in Men's Central Jail. The fact that housing units in Men's Central Jail have been converted to MOH housing demonstrates the severity of the problem. Neither LASD command staff nor CHS leaders believe that MCJ is suitable for MOH housing, and yet there are no other options.

In 2015, LA County entered a consent decree with the US Department of Justice to address the consistent violation of the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails that have been ongoing since 1997. Provision 63 of the consent decree requires the "County to maintain adequate HOH and MOH housing 'sufficient to meet the needs of the jail population with mental illness.'" The consent decree requires that MOH and HOH beds



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are immediately available in TTCF or CRDF 95% of the time. In sample weeks in 2020, there were no HOH beds available in TTCF. The current debacle in IRC reveals a lack of immediately available MOH or HOH beds this month too. The County cannot come into compliance with the consent decree without funding mental health treatment and housing outside of the jails.

This Board can get thousands of people out of LA County jails by expanding a Board-created program with a track record of success. To refuse funding for ODR is tantamount to a deliberate indifference to the suffering of people with mental illness in the jails and an indifference to the unconstitutional conditions in which they are kept.

ODR expansion must be the next step in your commitment to Care First, Jails Last. Today, dozens of people will be brought into the IRC, and they will quickly find that the County has no place to put them. The County and this Board cannot wait for another motion or another committee or another department. The people in our jails need ODR expansion now.

Melissa L. Camacho-Cheung
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Peter Eliasberg
Chief Counsel
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Traute Winters
Executive Director
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Mark Gale
Criminal Justice Chair
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Christopher H. Knauf
Director of Litigation
Disability Rights Legal Center

Jenny Farrell
Executive Director
Mental Health Advocacy Services

Mark-Anthony Johnson
Frontline Wellness Network



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Melissa Manousos	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Michael Saltzman	<p>I am a Los Angeles County Deputy Public Defender. ODR is the best program in the County to divert individuals suffering from mental illness from jail into effective mental health treatment. If the County is serious about the "Care First, Jails Last" model, expanding ODR's capacity is absolutely necessary. Thank you.</p>
Michael Wodkowski	<p>This is a sensible and logical step in the right direction toward prioritizing care over incarceration and punishment.</p>
Michael R Hames-	<p>My name is Michael Hames-Garcia. I'm a professor at the University of Texas</p>



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Garcia

at Austin, currently living in Pico Rivera, in LA County. I have also been a police commissioner for the city of Eugene, Oregon. For the past 29 years, I have studied and observed the effects of our criminal justice system on the most vulnerable members of our society. In fact, I will be testifying next week as an expert witness with regard the impact of jail care on individuals suffering from mental illness.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, "U.S. prisons and jails incarcerate a disproportionate amount of people who have a current or past mental health problem, and facilities are not meeting the demand for treatment. Police are also often used to respond to mental health crises, despite their involvement frequently resulting in violence or incarceration."

Elisa L. Toman, Joshua C. Cochran, and John K. Cochran report in the 2018 volume of the journal Criminal Justice and Behavior, write that "Scholarship suggests that individuals' experiences in pretrial detention are especially straining. . . . Pretrial detention also constitutes an individual's initial period of incarceration, during which social isolation and fear are experienced acutely. . . Findings suggest that longer terms of pretrial detention in jails are associated with a modest increase in the likelihood of misconduct later on during a stay in prison. Interaction effects indicate that more time spent in jail prior to imprisonment may be harmful for potentially at-risk inmates—specifically, younger inmates, female inmates, and inmates with mental illness."

In the 2017 volume of the scholarly journal Crime and Justice, Edward P. Mulvey and Carol A. Schubert (both of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine) found that "both targeted programs and wholesale changes are sorely needed in how individuals with mental illness are processed in the criminal justice system. Mental illness is not as directly related to criminal involvement or violence as is often assumed. Mentally ill individuals are nonetheless disproportionately present in jails and prisons. Efforts to reduce their numbers must take account of the heterogeneity of mental conditions and their changing nature. . . . The disproportionate presence of mentally ill individuals in jails and prisons will not be substantially ameliorated by new programs alone; these have limited reach and effect. Doing better in five respects is key: expand the reach of standard and innovative mental health services, divert mentally ill individuals early in the criminal justice process, enrich training of criminal justice personnel, use data more effectively, and promote interdisciplinary aftercare programs for people with mental illness when they are released from jails and prisons."

Fully funding the Office of Diversion and Reentry is a good first step but what is actually needed is a robust expansion of ODR and community-based mental health services. The Men's Central Jail closure report outlined 3600 beds as the number needed for effective decarceration and MCJ closure. Supervisor Mitchell's original motion also identified the need for over 3000 beds. The Board should pass the motion as it was originally written and reject any amendments that shortchange this critical county department.



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Michelle King

I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.

The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because jails are not mental health facilities and we need to stop treating them as such. LA County's jail is currently one of the largest mental health providers in our country (along with Cook County jail, St Louis County jail, & Rikers Island). Incarceration exacerbates mental health rather than treating the root issues. Give our most vulnerable community members Care not Cuffs.

As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.

In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.



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			<p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
		Mikael Taylor	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important because it actually has the potential to make long-term improvements, unlike the act of jailing itself.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at</p>



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	<p>stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Nancy P Hubbs-Chang	<p>Jailing those with mental illness does not help cure them, nor does it truly keep the community safe.</p>
Nannah M Nitecka	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Olivia Gleason	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to</p>



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Oren W Sachs	
Pamila Lew	<p>Disability Rights California (DRC) is our State’s protection and advocacy system, charged under state and federal law with advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRC strongly supports Supervisor Mitchell’s Motion to expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and provide the necessary funding to accomplish its mission. Every day that the County fails to fund this effective program creates unnecessary harm to the hundreds of individuals, disproportionately Black and Latinx, who wait in jail when they could instead be served in the community by ODR. DRC respectfully opposes any proposed amendments to the Motion that would delay expansion of the program or limit the number of individuals who could be more immediately served.</p>
Rebecca Himmelstein	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save



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			<p>lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
	Rebecca E Arvizu		Defund Animal Control and get rid of Marcia Mayeda, her worthless bureaucrats, and anyone who kills healthy and treatable animals and LA County will have more money available to provide these services to people. #NoCagesforAnimalsorPeople
	Richard Gagliano		I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.
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Ruby Condon	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board’s Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because it is shameful that currently having mental health problems is treated as a crime instead of seen with compassion and care.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County’s jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women’s jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this</p>



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			<p>Samantha Lappin</p>	
			<p>Sarah Back</p>	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because we are only making their conditions by creating more trauma through incarceration.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at</p>



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Sarah Bowers

As a social worker and mental health worker who works at LA County agencies that partner with ODR, I know that the county needs an enormous expansion to ODR. I have seen firsthand the benefits its bring to individuals who do not need more punishment but more care. I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.

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		Sarah H Eggers		<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>[The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because]</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of</p>



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Selina Ho	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because any opportunity to divert people from the inherently dehumanizing and traumatizing experience of incarceration needs to be implemented.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given</p>



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Sheena R Liberator	
Sherry Varon	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members</p>



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

	<p>inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Sierra Marcelius	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because they are my clients and my neighbors. When they do not receive care, my entire community suffers.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>



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			<p>Stephanie Cupp</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>The need to support our community members with mental health needs who are languishing in our county jails is particularly important to me because as a nurse I know that stressful places like jails will only exacerbate mental health issues and thwart healing efforts.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
			Stephen Brantley
			Sumita Pahwa
			I live less than two blocks from the proposed Larkin Place development, and am in favor of it, as long as there are clear protocols made public to the



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	community for how intake and monitoring/accountability will happen. I very much appreciate efforts to ensure that Claremont is not just a town for the wealthy, and that we do our part to help those have suffered in this economy.
terrence J ohearn	
Terry A Kupers	see attached letter
Theo Zucker	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.</p> <p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
Tobin DeMarco	I urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's Care First, Jails Last commitment a reality.

			<p>As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.</p> <p>In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.</p> <p>The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.</p>
		Traute Winters	We would like the Supervisors to work together to find a motion everyone supports
		Vanessa A Perez	
		Item Total	105
Grand Total			105

Terry A. Kupers, M.D., M.S.P.
Institute Professor, The Wright Institute
2100 Lakeshore Avenue, Suite C
Oakland, California 94606
510-654-8333

June 10, 2022

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Re: Letter in Support of Agenda Item 6, June 14, 2022, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell's Motion to Expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing
SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL June 14, 2022

Dear Hon. Los Angeles County Supervisors:

I write to urge passage of Supervisor Mitchell's Motion on Expansion of the Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing. I am a Board-certified psychiatrist, Institute Professor at The Wright Institute, Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and recipient of the 2005 Exemplary Psychiatrist Award as well as the 2020 Gloria Huntley Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). My publications include the books *Prison Madness: The Mental Health Crisis Behind Bars and What We Must do About It* (Jossey-Bass/ Wiley, 1999), and *Solitary: The Inside Story of Supermax Isolation* (Univ of California Press, 2017). I am Contributing Editor of *Correctional Mental Health Report*. I have served as a psychiatric expert in numerous class action lawsuits involving the psychiatric effects of jail and prison conditions, the quality of mental health treatment in correctional settings and the effects of sexual abuse on prisoners. I was retained by the ACLU and

testified in 1978 as a psychiatric expert in the Rutherford v. Pitchess class action lawsuit about crowding and mental health care at Los Angeles County Jail. In 2008 I was asked to tour the jail again and I submitted a Report about my findings (available at http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/prison/lacountyjail_kupersreport.pdf).

In my 2008 Report about L. A. County Jail, I wrote: “Considering the large proportion of jail prisoners with significant and serious mental illness, relatively few prisoners in the Los Angeles County Jail are receiving mental health treatment. By my calculations, only 11.8% of male prisoners in the Los Angeles County Jail are on the mental health caseload.... It is important to note that, of the 2,088 individuals reported on the mental health caseload, at least 350 are receiving only medications while being subjected to severe crowding or isolation and receiving no mental health programming - this is far from adequate mental health treatment. I would estimate with a high degree of medical certainty that at least double the number on the current caseload need mental health treatment.... Conditions at Men’s Central Jail today are eerily similar to the conditions in 1978 when I submitted a declaration in Rutherford. In that declaration, I wrote that ‘... many of these mentally disordered prisoners are receiving psychotropic medications; prisoners are rarely seen by psychiatrists or by mental health technicians and do not receive individual or group psychotherapy; prisoners are managed by deputy sheriffs who have no training in handling psychiatric patients; most of the prisoners receive no opportunity to exercise indoors or outdoors; most are locked alone in their one-man cells almost all the time, including meals....’ I offered similar observations about the multiple-occupancy cells and dormitories. It is stunning how unchanged the conditions are in the Men's Central Jail, and how the men therein are still relegated to idleness in a cell and still lack adequate mental health treatment.”

I also pointed out that prisoners with mental illness disproportionately fall victim to “use of force” by officers, in all too many cases this constitutes excessive force, and I explained: “The same conditions that worsen psychiatric disorders also affect the staff and make treatment problematic.”

I have written several letters to the Board of Supervisors about plans to demolish Men’s Central Jail, about reasons why building in its place a “mental health jail” would be foolhardy, and about the wisdom in funding mental health and recovery treatment beds in the community instead of more jail beds. In my May 20, 2013 letter to Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky, I wrote: “A much more effective and less costly option (than jail) would be to divert a significant number of prisoners with serious mental illness to non-correctional settings, for example residential mental health and substance abuse treatment programs in the community. Jail crowding is known to correlate with increased rates of violence, psychiatric breakdown and suicide. Sure enough, all three are huge problems at L.A. County Jail. Meanwhile, with such a larger number of prisoners, it is less possible for mental health clinicians to provide adequate services.... The jail is far beyond capacity, worse after re-alignment. Any effective remedy must involve a decrease in the population. The clinical literature reflects much better treatment outcomes and much lower recidivism rates for individuals with serious mental illness when they are diverted from jail and treated in the community. I know there are many high quality community treatment programs in Los Angeles County. And I know that there are many individuals with serious mental illness who could be diverted to non-correctional settings for treatment without in any way jeopardizing public safety.”

As you know, the Board of Supervisors first explored the possibility of building a “mental health jail” to replace Men’s Central, then reversed course and decided not to build a large mental health jail but instead to

establish the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) work group and initiative to explore alternative treatment and housing programs in the community. That was a visionary development. Sheriffs, criminologists and treatment providers all over the state and country are watching Los Angeles County's progress making diversion programs in the community safe and effective. But an absolutely key consideration is adequate funding. A 2014 Report by the National Sheriff's Association and the Treatment Advocacy Center concluded that there are ten times as many people with serious mental illness in our jails and prisons as there are in psychiatric hospitals. That was not the case in the 1960s and early 1970s, when federal support for local public mental health programs was made available through the Community Mental Health Centers Act, signed by President Kennedy in 1963. At first, "de-institutionalization" worked. As federal funding was supplemented by funds diverted from state mental hospitals to local community mental health centers, people with serious mental illness who would otherwise spend their lives in "asylums" received quality mental health treatment, prominently including residential programs or "halfway houses," and steered clear of crime and incarceration. But over subsequent decades, after the federal funding of community mental health centers dried up (it had always been designed as pilot funding), the quality of public mental health services in the community deteriorated and a growing number of people with serious mental illness found their way into our jails and prisons. The current very admirable plan in Los Angeles County is to decrease the jail population by transferring a large number of individuals with serious mental illness from jail to community-based treatment and living programs. That plan would save a large amount of money in the long run, since less money would be

needed for homeless services and jail beds. But if that plan is to be successful and we are to avoid another mass migration of people with serious mental illness into carceral settings, then community-based treatment and living programs in the community must be expanded significantly. Otherwise, too many in this population would find their way back into jail. This is the promise of Supervisor Mitchell's motion. If people are "diverted" from jail to community treatment and housing programs, but those programs are not adequately funded, the entire project will fail, people with serious mental illness will not receive adequate treatment in the community and will find their way back into jail. I urge passage of the Motion to Expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Kupers/s

Terry A. Kupers, M.D., M.S.P.

From: [ExecutiveOffice](#)
To: [First District](#); [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [Sheila](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#)
Cc: [PublicComments](#)
Subject: FW: Approve Re-Imagine LA County and fully fund ATI.
Date: Friday, June 10, 2022 7:55:48 AM

The following correspondence is being forwarded to you for your review/information.
Note: Based on the subject matter, this is regarding item #6 of the June 14, 2022 agenda.

From: TommyDaw TommyDaw <haarholmyx@privatezmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:23 AM
To: ExecutiveOffice <ExecutiveOffice@bos.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Approve Re-Imagine LA County and fully fund ATI.

Dear L.A. County Board of Supervisors,

Between us speaking, in my opinion, it is obvious. I will not begin to speak on this theme.

<https://taqc.org>

<https://patriciafarinelli.com>

TommyDaw TommyDaw

District 1 - Hilda L. Solis



June 10, 2022

Via E-Mail

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Expanding Office of Diversion and Re-Entry Housing

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We strongly support Supervisor Mitchell's Motion to expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and provide the funding necessary to accomplish its mission.

ODR works

This Board created ODR in 2015. As carefully outlined in Supervisor Mitchell's motion, the ODR Housing Program has achieved tremendous success. Over the last seven years, courts have released 7,414 people from jail into community services through one of the five ODR programs. (Motion at 1-2.)

Because we now have seven years of data, we know that ODR works. The rearrest rate for people in ODR's FIST-Community Based Restoration Program is 17%.¹ By contrast, those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial committed to state hospitals rather than ODR have a re-arrest rate of 70%.² And those in other county supervised release programs see a rearrest rate of 39%.³ RAND reports that 74% of ODR's Supportive Housing Program clients maintained stable housing after a year, and 86% had no new felony convictions after a year. (Motion at 2.)

ODR's proven track record makes it the best hope for bringing community-based mental health services online quickly and effectively. ODR brought 211 beds online within weeks at the beginning of the COVID-pandemic. (Motion at 3.) This Board must use ODR to quickly expand

¹ ODR CBR Presentation, August 31, 2021, available at https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ODR_CBR_Presentation_08312021_Accessible.pdf.

² Scott, M, Warburton, K, The Case for Early Access to Treatment at p. 17 (Department of State Hospitals, available at <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/DSH-Early-Access.pdf>)

³ *Id.*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Hector O. Villagra

CHAIR Michele Goodwin **VICE CHAIRS** Rob Hennig and Stacy Horth-Neubert

CHAIRS EMERITI Marla Stone Shari Leinwand Stephen Rohde Danny Goldberg Allan K. Jonas* Burt Lancaster* Irving Lichtenstein, MD* Jarl Mohn Laurie Ostrow* Stanley K. Sheinbaum*

*deceased

community-based services and housing because the County cannot continue using the jails to hold people with psychiatric disabilities.

The jails are in crisis

If someone is arrested and booked into the LA County Jails today, and that person requires Medium or High Observation Housing (MOH or HOH) due to a mental health need, the Sheriff's Department does not have a place to house that person. This is not hyperbole. There is currently no place for that person to go.

What does that mean? One effect is a backup in the Inmate Reception Center, which is not designed to hold people more than 24 hours. For the last month, however, dozens of people have been kept in IRC beyond the 24-hour mark, dozens beyond the 48-hour mark, and at least one person more than 87 hours! At a monitoring visit to IRC on Monday, June 6, Melissa Camacho-Cheung observed more than a dozen people sleeping on the floor in filthy conditions. Food, toilet paper and other unidentifiable trash littered the floor. Individuals pointed Melissa to broken toilets and bathroom floors lined with urine-soaked towels and feces. Multiple people complained that they had gone for 3-4 days without prescribed medications. IRC is not meant to hold people for any time beyond 24 hours, but people are stuck there in deplorable and unconstitutional conditions because there are no MOH or HOH beds available.

Not having adequate MOH and HOH beds is also dangerous. Deaths by suicide, deaths by "natural" causes, and deaths by homicide in the jails: all are up and at record levels. The jails are maintaining 2021's rate of one person dead per week into 2022. In 2021, at least one person died in housing designated MOH in Men's Central Jail.⁴ The fact that housing units in Men's Central Jail have been converted to MOH housing demonstrates the severity of the problem. Neither LASD command staff nor CHS leaders believe that MCJ is suitable for MOH housing, and yet there are no other options.

In 2015, LA County entered a consent decree with the US Department of Justice to address the consistent violation of the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails that have been ongoing since 1997. Provision 63 of the consent decree requires the "County to maintain adequate HOH and MOH housing 'sufficient to meet the needs of the jail population with mental illness.'"⁵ The consent decree requires that MOH and HOH beds are immediately available in TTCF or CRDF 95% of the time. In sample weeks in 2020, there were no HOH beds available in TTCF.⁶ The current debacle in IRC reveals a lack of immediately available MOH or HOH beds this month too. The County cannot come into compliance with the consent decree without funding mental health treatment and housing outside of the jails.

This Board can get thousands of people out of LA County jails by expanding a Board-created program with a track record of success. To refuse funding for ODR is tantamount to a deliberate indifference to the suffering of people with mental illness in the jails and an indifference to the unconstitutional conditions in which they are kept.

⁴ Public Safety Cluster, December 1, 2021, Valencia Boyd, Office of the Inspector General (notes on file with ACLU SoCal).

⁵ Monitor's Twelfth Report and Request for a Status Conference, *United States v. County of Los Angeles*, CV No. 15-05902 DDP (JEMX) Dkt # 165 (Sept. 8, 2021) at 10.

⁶ *Id.* at 11 ("Thus, for male HOH inmates, the Department had no bed availability whatsoever in the sampled weeks")

ODR expansion must be the next step in your commitment to Care First, Jails Last. Today, dozens of people will be brought into the IRC, and they will quickly find that the County has no place to put them. The County and this Board cannot wait for another motion or another committee or another department. The people in our jails need ODR expansion now.

Sincerely,



Melissa L. Camacho-Cheung
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Peter Eliasberg
Chief Counsel
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Traute Winters
Executive Director
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Mark Gale
Criminal Justice Chair
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Christopher H. Knauf
Director of Litigation
Disability Rights Legal Center

Jenny Farrell
Executive Director
Mental Health Advocacy Services

Mark-Anthony Johnson
Frontline Wellness Network

L I J T L A W

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Los Angeles, CA 90014

martinlijtmaer@gmail.com ▪ 323 379 5458 ▪ www.LIJTLAW.com

June 10, 2022

Via Electronic Submission

County of Los Angeles
Board of Supervisors

Re: Support for Motion Expanding Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing

To the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles:

I write to express my support for expanding the Office of Diversion and Reentry's ODR Housing program. I believe this is a critical measure that will reduce inherent inequities in our criminal justice system, afford deserving individuals the opportunity to avoid debilitating criminal convictions, and ultimately reduce our jail populations and make our community safer by addressing the root of the problem.

I am criminal defense and immigration attorney. I run a private practice and also work with the County as part of the Independent Defender Program representing indigent juveniles in delinquency proceedings, and non-citizen adults in post-conviction proceedings.

Mental Health Diversion as codified in Penal Code §§ 1001.35 and 36 is one of the most important tools I have representing individuals facing criminal charges. In the past several years, I have secured mental health diversion for over a half-dozen clients, all of whom have completed or in the process of completing diversion without any new arrests or violations of the terms of their diversion. Importantly, upon successful completion, these individuals avoid a criminal conviction which in some cases, saves their legal status, and/or preserves their employments prospects.

It's important to emphasize that despite the individual successes of my clients, they have largely been successful because they have had the financial resources to both qualify for diversion and be able to pay for the programs/therapies necessary to complete the program. In my view, this inherent advantage – based solely on economics – is just one of example of many inequities in our criminal justice system. ALL defendants who suffer from mental illnesses as recognized by the DSM-5 should have the opportunity to avail themselves to mental health diversion, and unless the County provides the resources for indigent individuals, mental health diversion will mostly favor those with the resources to pay for the psychologists, and treatment centers themselves.

For these reasons, and for those laid out in Judge Smerling's Op-Ed, I strongly support the motion for expanding the office of diversion and reentry housing

Sincerely,

Martin Lijtmaer



June 10, 2022

Via E-Mail

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Expanding Office of Diversion and Re-Entry Housing

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We strongly support Supervisor Mitchell's Motion to expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and provide the funding necessary to accomplish its mission.

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Because we now have seven years of data, we know that ODR works. The rearrest rate for people in ODR's FIST-Community Based Restoration Program is 17%.¹ By contrast, those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial committed to state hospitals rather than ODR have a re-arrest rate of 70%.² And those in other county supervised release programs see a rearrest rate of 39%.³ RAND reports that 74% of ODR's Supportive Housing Program clients maintained stable housing after a year, and 86% had no new felony convictions after a year. (Motion at 2.)

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² Scott, M, Warburton, K, The Case for Early Access to Treatment at p. 17 (Department of State Hospitals, available at <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/DSH-Early-Access.pdf>)

³ *Id.*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Hector O. Villagra

CHAIR Michele Goodwin **VICE CHAIRS** Rob Hennig and Stacy Horth-Neubert

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*deceased

community-based services and housing because the County cannot continue using the jails to hold people with psychiatric disabilities.

The jails are in crisis

If someone is arrested and booked into the LA County Jails today, and that person requires Medium or High Observation Housing (MOH or HOH) due to a mental health need, the Sheriff's Department does not have a place to house that person. This is not hyperbole. There is currently no place for that person to go.

What does that mean? One effect is a backup in the Inmate Reception Center, which is not designed to hold people more than 24 hours. For the last month, however, dozens of people have been kept in IRC beyond the 24-hour mark, dozens beyond the 48-hour mark, and at least one person more than 87 hours! At a monitoring visit to IRC on Monday, June 6, Melissa Camacho-Cheung observed more than a dozen people sleeping on the floor in filthy conditions. Food, toilet paper and other unidentifiable trash littered the floor. Individuals pointed Melissa to broken toilets and bathroom floors lined with urine-soaked towels and feces. Multiple people complained that they had gone for 3-4 days without prescribed medications. IRC is not meant to hold people for any time beyond 24 hours, but people are stuck there in deplorable and unconstitutional conditions because there are no MOH or HOH beds available.

Not having adequate MOH and HOH beds is also dangerous. Deaths by suicide, deaths by "natural" causes, and deaths by homicide in the jails: all are up and at record levels. The jails are maintaining 2021's rate of one person dead per week into 2022. In 2021, at least one person died in housing designated MOH in Men's Central Jail.⁴ The fact that housing units in Men's Central Jail have been converted to MOH housing demonstrates the severity of the problem. Neither LASD command staff nor CHS leaders believe that MCJ is suitable for MOH housing, and yet there are no other options.

In 2015, LA County entered a consent decree with the US Department of Justice to address the consistent violation of the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails that have been ongoing since 1997. Provision 63 of the consent decree requires the "County to maintain adequate HOH and MOH housing 'sufficient to meet the needs of the jail population with mental illness.'"⁵ The consent decree requires that MOH and HOH beds are immediately available in TTCF or CRDF 95% of the time. In sample weeks in 2020, there were no HOH beds available in TTCF.⁶ The current debacle in IRC reveals a lack of immediately available MOH or HOH beds this month too. The County cannot come into compliance with the consent decree without funding mental health treatment and housing outside of the jails.

This Board can get thousands of people out of LA County jails by expanding a Board-created program with a track record of success. To refuse funding for ODR is tantamount to a deliberate indifference to the suffering of people with mental illness in the jails and an indifference to the unconstitutional conditions in which they are kept.

⁴ Public Safety Cluster, December 1, 2021, Valencia Boyd, Office of the Inspector General (notes on file with ACLU SoCal).

⁵ Monitor's Twelfth Report and Request for a Status Conference, *United States v. County of Los Angeles*, CV No. 15-05902 DDP (JEMX) Dkt # 165 (Sept. 8, 2021) at 10.

⁶ *Id.* at 11 ("Thus, for male HOH inmates, the Department had no bed availability whatsoever in the sampled weeks")

ODR expansion must be the next step in your commitment to Care First, Jails Last. Today, dozens of people will be brought into the IRC, and they will quickly find that the County has no place to put them. The County and this Board cannot wait for another motion or another committee or another department. The people in our jails need ODR expansion now.

Sincerely,



Melissa L. Camacho-Cheung
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Peter Eliasberg
Chief Counsel
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Traute Winters
Executive Director
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Mark Gale
Criminal Justice Chair
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Christopher H. Knauf
Director of Litigation
Disability Rights Legal Center

Jenny Farrell
Executive Director
Mental Health Advocacy Services

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June 13, 2022

Via E-MAIL

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Expanding Office of Diversion and Re-Entry Housing

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Disability Rights California (DRC) is our State's protection and advocacy system, charged under state and federal law with advancing the rights of people with disabilities. **DRC strongly supports Supervisor Mitchell's Motion to expand the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and provide the necessary funding to accomplish its mission. Every day that the County fails to fund this effective program creates unnecessary harm to the hundreds of individuals, disproportionately Black and Latinx, who wait in jail when they could instead be served in the community by ODR.** DRC respectfully opposes any proposed amendments to the Motion that would delay expansion of the program or limit the number of individuals who could be more immediately served.

ODR has a strong track record and could serve many more people than its current funding permits. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), people with disabilities have a right to services in the most integrated environment appropriate to their needs. Forcing people with mental disabilities to remain in jail when they could instead be served in the community through ODR's services arguably violates Title II of the ADA.

DRC Ltr re: Mitchell Motion

June 13, 2022

Page 2

DRC will continue to engage with ODR to ensure that its placements fully respect patient/resident autonomy, but these concerns have no bearing on our support for Supervisor Mitchell's Motion. To our knowledge, there are no other programs in LA County that currently divert disabled individuals from the jail system with the same success as ODR. Jail is no place for disabled people. DRC believes ODR's immediate expansion and funding is imperative to move LA County to a Care First, Jails Last reality.

We thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam Lewis". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Senior Counsel

From: Jeremy Blasi <jblasi@unitehere11.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 6:42 PM
To: ExecutiveOffice
Cc: Lim, Esther; Mathews, John; Pawlowski, Veronica; Coates, Kyla; Mesesan, Christina; Cespedes, Anthony; Shultz, Elan; Vera, Yolanda; acorey@boslacounty.gov; Christina Ghaly
Subject: Letter in support of Agenda Item 6 on June 14, 2022 (Motion to Fund Office of Diversion & Reentry)
Attachments: UNITE HERE Local 11 Support Letter for Motion to Fund the Office of Diversion & Reentry .pdf

Dear Board Members and Staff,

Please find attached a letter from UNITE HERE Local 11 in support of the motion to fund the Office of Diversion & Reentry this budget cycle (Agenda Item 6 on June 14, 2022). The letter has also been submitted through the Board website.

Thank you,

Jeremy Blasi
General Counsel
UNITE HERE Local 11
464 South Lucas Ave, Suite 201
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Fax: 213-481-0352
Tel: 213-481-8530 x233
Cell: 202-251-0048
Email: jblasi@unitehere11.org



June 14, 2022

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair of the Board
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
500 West Temple Street, Suite 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Agenda Item No. 6

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sheena Liberator. I am a senior program associate with Vera California, a program of the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera), and a resident of District 2. I am writing to support Agenda Item No. 6 ("Expanding Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing"). Vera is a 60-year-old national nonprofit that seeks to end mass incarceration and build safe and healthy communities. Our Vera California team has worked closely with Los Angeles County since 2019 to decrease the County's reliance on incarceration and support investments in community-based care.

Since its inception in 2015, [the Office of Diversion and Reentry \("ODR"\)](#), has received [over 7,000 participants](#) from the County courts and diverted [approximately 3,700 people](#) with serious mental health disorders, physical illnesses and/or substance abuse issues from jail into some form of community care. The success of ODR's work is the result of a close collaboration with the Los Angeles Superior Court and other essential justice partners. The most successful of these collaborations is its felony pre-trial program also known as ODR Housing. This effort has produced incredibly high housing retention rates and [low recidivism rates](#) among a population that has traditionally been very difficult to manage in the community and routinely cycles in and out of the jail complex.

[Forty percent](#) of people in L.A. County jail have identified mental health needs. Tim Belavich, the director of Correctional Health Services, has [acknowledged](#) that “[b]y default, we have become the largest treatment facility in the country. And we're a jail...I would say a jail facility is not the appropriate place to treat someone's mental illness." Data from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department reveals the [largest subset of the mental health population](#) in jail are those in moderate and high observation housing, which are specialized units for people with serious impairments who need more help than is available in the general population. For people in this subset, getting housed and treated after release is an indispensable part of their release plan – which is what ODR does well in providing safe housing and wraparound services for high need individuals.

I commend the Board for expanding ODR through this motion, for three reasons. First, ODR's housing program supports release for one of the most challenging populations in the jail: people with serious mental illnesses. Their clients have [successful](#) safety outcomes and they have succeeded in [helping many clients stay housed](#), a critical stabilizing factor to reduce behavioral health crises on the streets. Second, it addresses the growing concerns about homelessness in our city by providing permanent supportive housing to individuals who are houseless, have a serious mental health disorder, and are incarcerated in the Los Angeles County jail system. Lastly, scaling up ODR Housing is not just a public health or 'care first' issue but also a [racial equity matter](#). Black people are [nine percent](#) of people in Los Angeles County and [29 percent](#) of people in jail. Based on analysis Vera conducted of a recent snapshot of the jail population, Black people are overrepresented in the mental health population on top of existing disparities in incarceration. Creating a stable pathway out of jail for people in the high-needs mental health population through ODR Housing advances the County's 'care first' vision and its [goals](#) to “address generational inequality and systemic anti-Black racism.”

The County must continue to respond to these concerns and show its commitment to 'care first' by adding to ODR Housing's capacity, not limiting its ability to take on new patients. The Board has created numerous County workgroups to develop

plans for decarceration, including the [Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group](#) and [Men's Central Jail \(MCJ\) Closure Workgroup](#). Without fail, these workgroups—comprised of diverse stakeholders and county staff—have called for the County to increase diversion for people with mental health conditions by expanding community-based treatment options. ODR Housing also has support across system actors. [Prosecutors](#) and [defense attorneys](#) have embraced the program, and judges [lament](#) that its application portal is closed. The [current participant cap](#) undermines ODR Housing's [mission](#) to reduce the number of incarcerated people in the L.A. County jail who have mental and/or substance use disorders through care and housing. And it has left justice partners with limited alternatives to incarceration for this vulnerable group.

Although the \$30 million of funding the CEO recommended for FY 2022-23 and the Motion presented today are encouraging steps, the County needs to act and invest on a larger and more long-term scale to see the transformative change the Board desires. To decrease the jail population safely and with the urgency required, the County must create a robust pretrial services entity that, in part, expedites the identification of people who might be appropriate for ODR Housing because of serious mental health needs. The County also must fund ODR Housing consistently, so it is a reliable pathway out of jail for some of the most vulnerable people. We applaud the Board's commitment to funding alternatives to incarceration. ODR Housing is a particularly effective one and we are excited to support this Motion.

Sincerely,

Sheena R. Liberator
Senior Program Associate
Vera California

UNITE **HERE!** Local 11

June 13, 2022

Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, Chair
Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor, Chair Pro Tem
Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, Third District
Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District
Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District
Fesia Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 West Temple St. Ste 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Motion to Fund the Office of Diversion & Reentry this Budget Cycle

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer,

On June 14, 2022, this Board will have the opportunity to vote on Supervisor Mitchell's motion to fund 500 treatment beds through the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR). I write on behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11 to urge you to vote in favor of this critical motion. Not only will this motion save lives, but it will be a critical step toward making the Board's *Care First, Jails Last* commitment a reality.

As a union that organizes low-wage workers in communities with high rates of contact with the criminal justice system, we know all too well the importance of moving from an approach to community safety focused on force and imprisonment to one that prioritizes the mental health and other services our communities need to thrive. It is for these reasons that we have worked hard to hold Sherriff Villanueva accountable and partnered with racial justice and civil rights organizations on initiatives to lift up marginalized Angelinos.

The need for the motion before you is clear. As of June 7, 2022, 42% of L.A. County's jail population was assessed to have mental health needs, with that figure rising to an astonishing 65% for those incarcerated at the women's jail. That means 5,557 of our community members are currently suffering in cages instead of being supported in care. Our jails can no longer serve as our mental health providers, a reality that this Board acknowledged in 2019 when it committed to a care first approach. Since the Board made that commitment nearly three years ago, what is at stake has only become even clearer. In 2021, there were record in-custody deaths in L.A. County, with mounting evidence of the inhumane and deadly conditions inside our jails. Moreover, the County has been and continues to violate the consent decree with the United States designed to protect the constitutional rights of people with mental illness in the jails.

In the face of this urgent need, the motion to fund ODR offers the Board a commonsense and obvious solution. As you know, ODR offers diversion for those struggling with serious mental health needs, physical illnesses, and/or substance abuse. The quality care ODR offers, along with the availability of long term supportive housing, is precisely what our community members need and is backed by the evidence. A 2019 study found that 90% of people surveyed in

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ODR programming had stable housing after six months, and 86% had no new felony convictions after 12 months. Indeed, the re-arrest rate for those in ODR's FIST-CBR program was more than 60% lower than that for those people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial who went to state mental hospitals. The fact that ODR serves people with the greatest needs—those charged with serious felonies and struggling with severe mental health needs—makes its success even more promising. Given this track record, it's no surprise that those serving on the frontlines of our criminal legal system, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, even law enforcement, are calling on the Board to fund this program to divert hundreds of people from jail and to save lives now.

Passing this motion is also crucial to fulfilling this Board's commitment to closing Men's Central Jail. As detailed in by the MCJ Closure Report, the county must immediately fund 3,600 mental health treatment beds to pave the path to close this deadly facility. The report specifically names ODR as one of the viable programs that could make closure a reality. As more than a year has passed since the Board's own county commission provided this plan, it's time for the Board to make good on this promise.

The gravity of the injustice at stake should compel the Board to act and fund treatment beds through ODR this budget cycle. Our community members inside of L.A. County Jails desperately need this funding, and the lives at stake can no longer be ignored.

We thank you in advance for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kurt Petersen
Co-President, UNITE HERE Local 11

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L I J T L A W

643 South Olive Street, Suite 525

Los Angeles, CA 90014

martinlijtmaer@gmail.com ▪ 323 379 5458 ▪ www.LIJTLAW.com

June 10, 2022

Via Electronic Submission

County of Los Angeles
Board of Supervisors

Re: Support for Motion Expanding Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing

To the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles:

I write to express my support for expanding the Office of Diversion and Reentry's ODR Housing program. I believe this is a critical measure that will reduce inherent inequities in our criminal justice system, afford deserving individuals the opportunity to avoid debilitating criminal convictions, and ultimately reduce our jail populations and make our community safer by addressing the root of the problem.

I am criminal defense and immigration attorney. I run a private practice and also work with the County as part of the Independent Defender Program representing indigent juveniles in delinquency proceedings, and non-citizen adults in post-conviction proceedings.

Mental Health Diversion as codified in Penal Code §§ 1001.35 and 36 is one of the most important tools I have representing individuals facing criminal charges. In the past several years, I have secured mental health diversion for over a half-dozen clients, all of whom have completed or in the process of completing diversion without any new arrests or violations of the terms of their diversion. Importantly, upon successful completion, these individuals avoid a criminal conviction which in some cases, saves their legal status, and/or preserves their employments prospects.

It's important to emphasize that despite the individual successes of my clients, they have largely been successful because they have had the financial resources to both qualify for diversion and be able to pay for the programs/therapies necessary to complete the program. In my view, this inherent advantage – based solely on economics – is just one of example of many inequities in our criminal justice system. ALL defendants who suffer from mental illnesses as recognized by the DSM-5 should have the opportunity to avail themselves to mental health diversion, and unless the County provides the resources for indigent individuals, mental health diversion will mostly favor those with the resources to pay for the psychologists, and treatment centers themselves.

For these reasons, and for those laid out in Judge Smerling's Op-Ed, I strongly support the motion for expanding the office of diversion and reentry housing

Sincerely,

Martin Lijtmaer

Martin Lijtmaer



June 14, 2022

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair of the Board
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
500 West Temple Street, Suite 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Agenda Item No. 6

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Sincerely,

Sheena R. Liberator
Senior Program Associate
Vera California