The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:

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| 9.       | Favor     | Abbey Springer | Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.  
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No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

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aimee k munton

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because so many times, incarceration is not only the wrong answer, but also the more expensive long term option.

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As of: 3/9/2021 4:41:06 PM

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because jailing in the U.S is a system flawed to its core.

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Allyson P Brantley

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Amanda F Hahn

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care.
Correspondence Received

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Amy MacKay

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because it is scientifically proven to be better at addressing issues with crime.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Andrew Hansen

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because, among other reasons, they are proven to work. Give this program the money it has been promised. Do what the humane thing.

I strongly support the Board's commitment to make a plan to close Men's Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Anita Gomez

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table

As of: 3/9/2021 4:41:06 PM
today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Anne Madariaga

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When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs.

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Correspondence Received

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Anthony Arenas

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I think this is an opportunity to expand a program that is truly making a positive difference in the lives of your constituents, and any ways to expand the FIST program would only take us further down a path of care not cages, which is what your constituents are demanding to see as the future for our county.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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April Sakaluk
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Public Request to Address
The Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles, California

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Ashley Brim

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

The only way to honor the County’s Care First vision is to robustly fund diversion and community-based care programs.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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We have moved to close the Men’s Central Jail; ensuring that ODR has increased funding is an essential component of that plan.

Basilio Gomez

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

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No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Bri Price

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men's Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.

This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve
the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community. I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs. The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that’s over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs. No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population. I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Brittany Visser

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.
Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.

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I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs.

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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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Brooke E Johnson

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I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental...
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health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.

I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs.

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Bryne R Rasmussen

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because another world is possible.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that’s over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs.

No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

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I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not
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decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs.

The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that's over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs.

No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Caro Brooks

Thank you, Supervisors Hahn and Solis, for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community-based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.
This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven works over the past three years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail and serve them with dignity in the community.

We are distraught to learn that taking and utilizing the money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon two years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately 1/3 of the jail population.

Further, since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However, the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs. What’s more, the population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population and nearly 70% of the population of women (over 900 women in CRDF are identified as having a serious mental health need).

The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs, and no other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR. Because the State is offering funds to begin to make a dent in this population, we demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity and pursue every opportunity to take and utilize this money. This should not be a difficult choice!

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.
Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because without it, the county’s promise means nothing.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.

I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades.
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Caroline Keeler
Catherine Levin

Catherine Mayer

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I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s
Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty
promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to
close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people.
Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people
charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by
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Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of
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true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs to ensure that these programs are robust enough to meet our communities’ needs and to guarantee the most successful implementation. We fund what we care about, and effective diversion requires ample funding.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because the for-profit prison system is set up for repeat users, continued exploitation of Black and Brown communities. This retention sacrifices their lives for money. That is precisely why investment in in diversion is so important.
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Ciara M Kosior

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because our kids are suffering from PTSD and we badly need healthy, whole families and communities. I strongly believe that equitable and humane access to mental health resources and alternatives to incarceration will build a stronger, more vibrant, robust community and economy.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.

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claire savage

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

Correspondence Received

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because incarceration is not always (or even often) the answer.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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

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This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.

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Our previous responses to poverty, addiction, and mental illness have been abusive. We need to reevaluate how often we are using Law enforcement to deal with issues that require other forms of care.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because the prison system is flawed.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these programs keep our most vulnerable community members safe and healthy.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because current programs aren’t working.

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Care First necessitates supporting people with mental illness and connecting them with care-based resources, not keeping them locked up in our county jails especially when they have already been deemed unable to stand trial. Our community members with mental illness deserve to have access to the healthcare they need to heal, and our carceral system is completely incapable of providing such care—and is in fact hostile to it. If we have the opportunity to expand a tried and true diversion program, there is no justification for putting off the vote, especially when we know that hundreds of people are waiting to be transferred to state hospitals that simply aren't open. We need to make sure our most vulnerable community members get the care they need, and we need to do it now.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because, those programs work better to revive communities. Certainly “warehousing” our community members who are un-housed, dealing with addiction issues, or mental health issues would be better served by services based in care and assistance, and not punishment and incarceration.

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Elizabeth Finder

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Elizabeth Pickens

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because there are better, more effective solutions that jails, prisons, and detention. We can stop cycles of incarceration with expanded
**Correspondence Received**

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Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because the communities are who is going to be there long term for each other and make the most change.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.

This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.
I am distraught to learn that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are 60% of the way through the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR's model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was about one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However, the population of people with mental health needs has decreased proportionately because of the lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs. The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that's over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs. No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

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Gina Brownstein

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I strongly support the Board's commitment to make a plan to close Men's Central Jail. However, it is essential to invest in proven diversion models like FIST in order to close MCJ. The County must increase funding to serve hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by expanding their FIST program.

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

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Hillary Jones

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because prisons and jails are not vessels of rehabilitation and care in any form, and the COVID-19 continues to create dire living conditions inside of prisons and jails.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

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Jane Riegler

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because without these programs in place, the Care First Vision will be set up to fail. We cannot allow the Care First Vision to falter or fail. WE ALL OWE THESE COMMUNITIES BETTER.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS**  
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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**Correspondence Received**

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because simply put it is the right thing to do. Holding people in jail that struggle with mental health issues is only a band-aid solution to a much larger issue. If all people in our county jail that had mental health issues got the help they needed, we would see a sharp decline in the number of people required to spend their lives in jail. Because without providing them their human needs, they are wrongfully spending most of their time trapped in a system that does not serve them.

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Joan Harper

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because they deserve safe and healthy communities.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.
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Joseph Barkeley

In 2018, the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) created the Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) program to provide community-based restoration services. These services are essential to our most marginalized community members, who must otherwise wait months to receive care from the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), and even longer now that transfers to DSH have essentially stopped under COVID-19. As the number of people with serious mental health needs has increased to over 6,000 individuals, DSH is seeking to provide funding to expand the number of people served by FIST from 215 to 415 individuals and extend the program through October 2022, and we are urging the BoS to stay true to its Care First vision by accepting this additional funding to expand the FIST program.

Joseph Bobman

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I was fortunate to be able to work as a volunteer in support of Measure J. It is so exciting to see that work come to fruition. It is time to divert money from incarceration and invest that money in programs and resources that offer real, impactful, and better alternatives to incarceration for communities across LA County, and I’m exciting to support this agenda item.

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PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
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Judith Schomp

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we are in the midst of many crises of the most vulnerable populations.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these programs are a critical link within the infrastructure of alternatives to incarceration. Without these front-end interventions, we risk limiting the pathways for folks to escape the pipeline into incarceration. We must fund and invest in these diversion programs to create a successful alternative system.

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Julie D Alley

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julie D Martinez

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Justine Jasuale

Karolyn McKenzie

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This is at the core of what we marched for this summer. To invest more money into diverting people from jails in the first place. It’s important that we create structure with which to support our most vulnerable population here, and investing in FIST is a great way to do that.

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As a High School teacher mostly working adults, I have spent over a decade working inside jails and in community programs. I have seen so many of my students struggle over the years due to lack of support. Closing the jails is necessary, but we need community-based care programs to help support those struggling. We need Transformative and Restorative Justice initiatives.

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

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because throwing people in jail is not an answer. It is a perpetuation of the violence and societal neglect that creates the cycles of poverty and violence that cause crime. Crime is predictable - it is a consequence of wealth inequity, racist systems, and desperation. Our capitalist system says in needs police and jails because police and jails protect property and erase inconvenient human side effects to profit. We must not do what is right for capital, we must do what is right for the people. Decarceration and community-based care programs are the best way to do that.

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Kendall Edwards

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kyung yi
Lacey Westphal
Lani Engstrom

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Lily Reiner

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We need care for those vulnerable in our community so we can all live life with dignity and respect.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we can’t expect people to become contributing members of society without support. It’s to hard to survive economically here as is.
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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we clearly have misused funds instead of healing and building strong, healthy and thriving communities.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Louise I Dobbs

Expand FIST! It is compassion in action!
In 2018, the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) created the Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) program to provide community-based restoration services. These services are essential to our most marginalized community members, who must otherwise wait months to receive care from the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), and even longer now that transfers to DSH have essentially stopped under COVID-19. As the number of people with serious mental health needs has increased to over 6,000 individuals, DSH is seeking to provide funding to expand the number of people served by FIST from 215 to 415 individuals and extend the program through October 2022, and we are urging the BoS to stay true to its Care First vision by accepting this additional funding to expand the FIST program.

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Our community members need comprehensive, well-funded community-based programs and alternatives to incarceration.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these programs cannot continue to be effective if they are under-funded and unable to reach the community members who need them most. Punitive justice is not true justice.

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Mallory Westfall

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Care First might mean correcting some large wrongs in our system that feel uncomfortable. If that feeling ever occurs, remember that it’s my money your spending, that I want it spent on care (not cages and cops), and that you only get to spend it because I voted for you.

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Marley Otto

Agenda Item 9: Expanding Los Angeles County’s Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial-Community Based Restoration Program
Position: In Favor

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because so many people are struggling right now. We need to help people by giving them what they need to thrive, rather than locking them up, which only further harms the individuals and their communities.
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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we deserve them, because we are alive, because care is a basic right, because care is what brings us together. We cannot continue to fund separation and division, we must think about our children and our ancestors and honor care as a resource that is given freely and first of all.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs to move our Care First Vision forward and end our dependency on punishment.

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Community-based care and diversion programs are both gaining traction as some of the best, research-based solutions to the criminalizing and dehumanizing institutions that have guided our country for most of its history. However, we must ensure that there is enough funding and support to fully realize these programs to their full potential.

I strongly support the Board's commitment to make a plan to close Men's Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because punishment removes our neighbors from society and does nothing to support them. Incarceration does irrevocable harm and prohibits a healthy re-entrance into society. What good does that do? How does that keep us all safe?
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Public Request to Address
The Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles, California

Correspondence Received

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Nora Sweeney

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program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these programs can help alleviate recidivism and end mass incarceration. Crime in underprivileged communities a result of poverty and lack of resources, so it is necessary to support underprivileged communities in a sustained manner.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these methods are the most healing and harm reducing, which our communities deserve.

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

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because our incarceration system has become a means of ignoring those who most need support in our community. Instead of putting in the time, effort, and money to provide care to those struggling, we criminalize them and lock them away (or, more disturbingly, lock them away to be profited off of). We need to move funds away from incarceration and towards systems of community care.

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The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that’s over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs.

No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Saharra White
Salvatore Goldblatt
Samantha Honowitz

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in
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I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

Currently, there are over 6,000 people in our county jails—or 40 percent of the county jail population—with serious mental health needs, and about 375 are awaiting transfers to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), which has essentially halted accepting transfers under COVID-19. There is a dire need for an expansion and extension of FIST. It is inhumane for people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial to languish in cages in the county jail for months or even years while they await transfer to state mental hospitals. Allowing ODR to expand its proven practices treating FISTs by joining the Community Care Demonstration Project is the right thing to do. The Board needs to reclaim and reimagine the county budget process in order to fulfill the promise of racial equity. We cannot continue with business as usual.

This should be a simple expansion of a program that ODR has proven to work over the past 3 years to produce improved health outcomes and improved public safety outcomes by serving our loved ones in community-based settings. The Courts and the State have made clear that they are willing to rely on the models that ODR has developed, including the program to serve the needs of those who are charged with felonies but found incompetent to stand trial. There are nearly 400 people in the jails currently, who are stuck there only because they have been found to have such significant mental health needs, that they cannot assist in their own defense or understand the legal proceedings against them. Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out. ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.

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Samantha Lappin

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Samantha Miller

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true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because our prison system does not help them at all. Diversion and community-based care programs are the way to help people acclimate back into every-day society and become members of it. These programs can stop us from seeing repeat acts from the same person and help the people in them to feel welcome back instead of isolated. Entering into the prison system or a jail should not be with someone for the rest of their life and we can do more to help people not fall into that pattern.

I strongly support the Board's commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Sana Khawaja

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Sandra Kim

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because it will make them stronger and safer for all.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people.

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specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community. I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs. The jail population of people with mental health needs has increased to over 40% of the total population, and nearly 70% of the population are women: that’s over 900 women in CRDF who are identified as having a serious mental health need. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs. No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population. I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Sarah Bowers

Yes. Please stay true to ATI by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. The program is very effective, very needed, and very cost-effective.

In order to close down Men’s Central Jail the county has to invest in other models like FIST to lower jail population. ODR needs as many funds as it can get to implement and expand FIST.

What concerns me is that expanding FIST should have been easy, but that getting the money the State is trying to send is being delayed and postponed. Why? We have a lot of evidence and studies that FIST is effective, but no investment to expand it has been seen. The County has not allocated funding to ensuring that our loved ones with mental health needs are not being held in the jails disproportionately because of their clinical needs.

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Sarah McHale

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Sarah Willson

I urge the Board to stay true to the county’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable community members.

Sean Donahue

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because our current version of the police department has proven to be inadequate for serving the communities they’re purported to protect.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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I am distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us has been delayed. We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community. However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen. When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population. Since the pandemic hit LA County, the jail population has decreased for the first time in decades. However the population of people with mental health needs has not decreased proportionately because of a lack of investment in the beds needed to serve those with higher needs.

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No other entities in the County have found mechanisms to serve this population safely in our community, besides ODR, and the State is offering funds to expand the beds to begin to make a dent in this population.

I demand that the County recognize this human rights atrocity, and pursue every funding opportunity to take this money. This should not be a difficult choice.

Selina Ho

Thank you Supervisors Hahn and Solis for bringing this motion to the table today. ODR’s FIST (Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial) program is a tried and true diversion model that has proven itself to not only be effective, but also cost-effective. We urge the Board to stay true to the County’s Care First vision by accepting all funding to support the expansion and extension of the FIST program. There is a desperate need for these services, and we cannot in good conscience turn away funding that would benefit our most vulnerable
Correspondence Received

community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because this is the only way to care for each other in the long term.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because it is only through healing that survivors can be assured that the person who harmed them will not harm them or anyone else again. Further, it will provide overall healing for our communities, which will in turn improve the overall health of our communities.

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Stephen Brantley

I BEG YOU TO TAKE ACCEPT THIS FUNDING AND AND EXPAND THE FIST PROGRAM. It will save lives. And if that's not enough, it will also ultimately save money!

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

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community members.

Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

I strongly support the Board's commitment to make a plan to close Men's Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Tabitha Petrini

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because resources have been systematically unavailable to BIPOC communities and that needs to change.

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Instead, they are languishing in our jails because there is no mechanism to move them out.

ODR and the network of specialized providers that serve this population are ready to take our loved ones out of the jail, and serve them with dignity in the community.

We are distraught to learn that this should have been an easy expansion of money that the State is seeking to send to us, has been delayed.

We are coming upon 2 years since the ODR study came out indicating that over 60% of those with serious mental health needs inside our jails could safely be served through ODR’s model in the community.

However, despite repeated efforts to expand these services, no investment to expand has been seen.

When that study was conducted, the population of people with mental health needs was approximately one-third of the jail population.

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We must take advantage of programs that have been proven to work by expanding them. It is so important that we invest in diversion and support people towards a more secure future for themselves and our communities.

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LA County’s communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because those in the car real system deserve to have their needs met, and they need a humane way to prevent future harm.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because we know that without them recidivism rates are extremely high. So in keeping with your commitment to care not cages I ask you to make sure that as you work to close MCJ you make sure that programs like FIST are fully funded.

I strongly support the Board’s commitment to make a plan to close Men’s Central Jail—however, commitment towards a Care First vision is an empty promise without investing in proven diversion models like FIST. In order to close MCJ, the County must lower its jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because these programs offer strong, effective alternatives to the ineffective punitive jail system, especially when it comes to people struggling with mental health issues.

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Our communities need funding for diversion and community-based care programs because as a society we must take care of those that cannot take care of themselves.
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LA County must close down Men’s Central Jail. To do so, the county needs to lower the jail population by about 4,500 people. Ensuring that ODR has increased funding to move hundreds of people charged with felonies and found incompetent to stand trial out of the jail by doubling the size of its community based restoration program is an essential component of the plan to close MCJ.

The state of California agrees with this Care First vision, offering LA County nearly $200 million this year for the Community Care Demonstration Project, and $137 million of ongoing funding every year. If the County truly believes in the Care First vision it claims to support, the Board cannot in good conscience reject hundreds of millions of dollars that would support our most vulnerable community members.

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