



**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

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
16.		Favor	Abel Diaz	
			Alfonso R Garcia	
			Andre D Johnson	
			Bahareh S Lazemizadeh	
			Brittney Weissman	<p>Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:</p> <p>Thank you to Supervisors Solis and Hahn for this thoughtful motion prioritizing mental health care for individuals with serious mental illness who are justice-impacted, and prodding the County toward its Care First, Jail Last promise, and closing Men's Central Jail.</p> <p>Closing Men's Central Jail requires the creation of alternative places for people with serious mental illness who are not yet able to live safely back in community. This motion creates care-giving settings - locked and unlocked so individuals flow through appropriate clinical care - throughout the county for this population, which addresses earlier concerns from some community activists around creating a single humongous, locked care setting too far for family and community integration and connection.</p> <p>You may not be able to get well in a cell, but the intrinsic purpose of a subacute mental health bed in a community setting is care and healing. Some community advocates may consider locked settings like these as carceral and punitive by nature. A subacute mental health bed is treatment in theory and reality, not punishment.</p> <p>These new beds are a vital component of a fully funded robust continuum of care for people with serious mental illness. That they will be spread across the county means that family and kin may maintain closer ties and more easily help their loved one back to community. Community is both the ideal and most sustainable long-term solution for people living with serious mental illness.</p> <p>Please pass Item 16. Our county's collective well-being depends on it.</p> <p>Respectfully, Brittney Weissman</p>
			Carlos M De Leon	
			Caroline Eadens	
			Carolyn Travis	

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Charles Vignola

We here at the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership are ardent supporters of the Care First budget that places our communities first. We are writing this letter of support for motion 16 on the September 27 Board of Supervisors Meeting agenda. The opportunity to increase resources and planning for those who are currently incarcerated and struggling with mental health issues is a key piece of the legislative work LARRP has been engaged in over the last few years. LARRP is the largest county-wide network of nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and advocates that works to ensure that our justice-involved reentry system meets the needs of those we serve, both in terms of capacity and public policy. We represent stakeholders across the whole of Los Angeles County. We are proud to write this letter of support for Motion 16 and the work it sets out to begin for this population. In order to create a path for people to get out of the vicious cycle of the carceral system, we need the Board to commit to care-first solutions. ODR has been proven to offer safe and effective alternatives to individuals who should not be in the justice system. We have long advocated for the county to invest in addition ODR beds throughout Los Angeles in order to hasten the decarceration of the most vulnerable individuals within the carceral system. This motion uses specific language to establish that the beds being researched for the P-3 and P-4 population will utilize the "care-focused, non-correctional security model". LARP and our network of reentry groups are strong believers that as new beds come online through the county, that they be run separately from the sheriff's department and other law enforcement entities, and instead be overseen and funded through bodies such as ODR. We understand that this process will not be completed overnight, and we support Motion 16 as a step in the right direction, while also stressing the need to create and execute action plans which will hasten the closing MCJ and the movement of the highest-need mental health population. This is a multi-step, multi-year endeavor, and we must take



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	<p>those vital first steps to begin this process. We strongly urge you to support this motion, to fully invest in the Office of Diversion and Reentry, and to close Men's Central Jail. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at troyvaughn@lareentry.org. Troy Vaughn Co-Founder & Executive Director, Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership</p>
Chloe Thomas	<p>Hello, I am an ARC staff member and I am in favor of item #16 because we can no longer keep people with mental health issues locked in a punishment system like jail; we need to create a better alternative for them that is not just punitive. We need to put them in a place that is more supportive of their unique needs. We need to focus on finding alternatives that do not include jail, but actually focuses on the root cause of the issue.</p>
Danielle Delany	<p>On behalf of the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, and our 87 member agencies that provide mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice services across L.A. County, I want to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support of these critical services in our communities, including the motion on tomorrow's Board meeting agenda to build more subacute mental health facilities across the County in order to divert individuals with severe mental illness from jail.</p> <p>The Association and our members continue to be concerned regarding the severe lack of subacute beds, which is yet another example of the current challenges related to access to care in the mental health system. If we are serious about decreasing the jail population and making sure that individuals with mental illness receive the treatment that they need, then we must develop more secure non-correctional beds across the County.</p> <p>ACHSA is committed to supporting a full and robust continuum of care, and the subacute beds are a valuable part of that continuum. The need for proper care facilities for incarcerated individuals with mental health needs is substantial and the Board must take swift action to build patient-focused facilities to depopulate the jail, including both secure non-correctional mental health care facilities for those who are not yet ready to reside safely in the community, as well as open residential and supportive housing facilities for those who are. Individuals with serious mental health needs require facilities that are patient-focused, therapeutic, and care-oriented from a clinical perspective, and this cannot be achieved in a jail setting.</p> <p>ACHSA supports this motion as an important step to strengthen access for individuals in the L.A. County mental health system of care.</p>
David Morales	<p>My name is David Morales and I am a Hope and Redemption Life Coach with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. I would like to speak on Item #16, and to provide general public comments. Thank you, supervisor Solis and Hahn, for item #16. As someone that spent 26 yrs. incarcerated, I believe we need to look at creating secure mental health care beds and facilities as part of our mental health continuum of care</p>



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	<p>for individuals who cannot yet live safely in the community.</p> <p>Having both secure and open residential mental health facilities in our communities is necessary to meet clinical needs as they scale either up or down.</p> <p>People with acute mental health needs should not be in jail, rather they should be in a more therapeutic setting.</p> <p>People experiencing severe mental illness need care and compassion and cannot be held in a carceral setting. We need to provide dignity to these people as well as make sure they get the proper care</p> <p>Almost half of the jail population needs mental health care, and over 1,000 have debilitating mental illness – the county needs to remove these people from county jail and provide them with high levels of care outside of jail</p> <p>I believe for those who are unable or do not meet the criteria for diversion or other programs, they should be treated appropriately in a secure mental health care facility matched to the least restrictive level of care needed so that they can stabilize and transition back into community placements when ready.</p> <p>A jail is a jail and Supervisors Solis and Hahn's motion is not creating a jail or even a replacement jail. It's prioritizing mental health care for our most vulnerable and acutely mentally ill justice-impacted individuals.</p> <p>This will not be a jail, as it should not be run nor operated by any type of law enforcement agency.</p> <p>People suffering from severe mental illness are simply not ready for community-based care and are not eligible for diversion, its counties duty to provide these people with a high level of care outside of a jail setting</p> <p>To close Men's Central Jail, we must address the mental health crisis</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
David D Barclay	I am in favor of addressing mental health issues within our communities instead of incarcerating them. Individuals suffering from mental health need help, and not jail.
Deborah Koosed	
Dominga Solorzano	
Elizabeth Hernandez	
Elizabeth A Bay	
Ellen Arriaga	
Ellen Goldwasser	
Eloy Armendariz	
Eric J Vasquez	
Erin Ryan	



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			Ezekiel Nishiyama	
			Ezekiel Nishiyama	
			Fernando Sanchez	Please see attached letter of support from District Attorney
			Franky Carrillo	Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors, My name is Franky Carrillo and I am a long-time resident of the First District. I am sending this email to state that I am extremely supportive of Supervisors Solis and Hahn's motion (Item #16) for the County to look at developing secure mental health facilities. I'm someone who was formerly incarcerated and have been in juvenile halls, county jails, and state prisons, for twenty years, before being exonerated in 2011. Simply put, I have seen people who were incarcerated who had mental health needs and who needed help, not be in jail or prison. They were treated extremely poorly and weren't receiving the care they desperately needed. They were also extremely vulnerable to deputy abuse and violence. Unfortunately, there are some individuals, who won't be able to participate in any early release or diversion programs or even be transferred into an unlocked mental health facility. Some of these individuals' mental illnesses might be too severe or their offenses may be too serious. It shouldn't mean that they should stay in jail, rather, they need help. Any mental health facility, even if it's locked, is better than a jail—it needs to fit the need of the individual. A locked or secure mental health facility doesn't mean it's a jail. Supervisors Solis and Hahn's motion expresses what we want for our loved ones with mental health needs that can't go to an unsecured facility. A facility that is operated and led by clinicians, not law enforcement. The motion is also looking at non-law enforcement security models. I don't believe this motion means the only option the Board is looking at are locked facilities, rather, they want to ensure the community has the available mental health resources it needs so that jails don't end up being the default. Thank you, Supervisor Solis, for your courage to say what we all know needs to happen if we want to close Men's Central Jail. Sincerely, Franky Carrillo
			Fred Brown	
			Genevieve M Clavreul	
			Heile Gantan	people experiencing severe mental illness need care and compassion and cannot be held in a carceral setting. We need to provide dignity to these people as well as make sure they get the proper care. I am in support of Supervisors Solis and Hahn's motion, as they are not creating a jail or even a replacement jail— it's prioritizing mental health care for our most vulnerable and acutely mentally ill justice-impacted individuals.
			Heriberto Arredondo	
			Heriberto Arredondo Jr	Criminalizing mental illness is a crime! Those who suffer from mental illness need treatment not punishment. I spent time in county jail with men who suffered from mental illness and everyone who was there for committing a crime knew these men didn't belong there. They never received the proper help they needed. It was terrible the way they were treated. See they receive

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	the proper care is a moral obligation that everyone in society is responsible for. Especially all our elected officials.
Jazmin Garcia	
John D McClelland	
Josh Pynoos	Almost half of the jail population needs mental health care, and over 1,000 have a debilitating mental illnesses – the county needs to remove these people from the county jail and provide them with high levels of care outside of jail. Developing a mental health care facility is the right thing to do and puts us on a path to close MJC.
Kary weybrew	Again, important to include nurses and other mental health care providers in this conversation who work directly with clients afflicted with mental illness. We are seeing an all time high crisis of not just homeless, but family members, professionals, people like you and I who are struggling with mental health issues who need real solutions and they need real solutions NOW, not tomorrow. The pandemic only exacerbated this crisis and we still have not recovered.
Kayla McKinney	
Kent Mendoza	
Kerry H Morrison	<p>September 26, 2022</p> <p>TO: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors</p> <p>FROM: Kerry Morrison Los Angeles CA 90004</p> <p>SUBJECT: Comments on Board agenda items #11, 16, 75</p> <p>I have reviewed three motions introduced for this week: #16 introduced by Supervisors Solis and Hahn and #11 introduced by Supervisor Barger. I also will speak to #75 recommended by the CEO.</p> <p>I am a volunteer in the space of mental health policy and homelessness. I founded a nonprofit called Heart Forward LA, upon visiting the remarkable WHO-acclaimed community based mental health system in Trieste Italy. I currently serve on the HHH Citizen's Oversight Committee and have previously served on the LAHSA Commission. The views I express are my own.</p> <p>Since April of this year, I have visited Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF) once a week, as a volunteer associated with Correctional Health Services. I spend time with the patients and the inmate Mental Health Assistants in the Forensic Inpatient Program (FIP) Step Down Unit. This has afforded me an opportunity to hear the stories from dozens of patients – how they ended up in jail and their plans or hopes for what lies ahead. The sad reality for many is that upon discharge, there are few viable sustained re-entry resources available, especially for those who suffer from co-occurring disorders of SMI and SUD who would benefit from a highly structured</p>



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residential setting. Once released, far too many end up homeless and return back to jail. I am struck by the range of illness I observe; I am not a clinician, but it is clear that there is no "one size fits all" environment appropriate for all the people under the county's care.

I have five observations to share about these proposed actions:

(1) Conflict and the importance of sunlight: It appears that the motions (11 and 16) are in conflict, and the Board should consider a way to reconcile the key elements of both. I would agree that it is important to develop community-based mental health facilities – as these are critical to not only implementing any plans to close Men's Central Jail but also to provide a more humane and recovery-oriented environment for people who are incarcerated and in need of sustained mental health treatment. However, additionally, there is a need for a secure non-custodial treatment environment, as suggested by Supervisor Barger, for those individuals who are not ready for diversion into a community-based setting. This will not be a large number of people, but a secure, humane environment – with access to sunlight, choices and socialization – is far preferable to continuing to keep people locked in a cell for most of the day or chained to furniture. No one can get well if they spend years unable to take a walk outside in the morning sun. If we keep delaying this decision, people continue to suffer in these inhumane conditions.

(2) Timing: Both motions lean into a sense of urgency, but there are no specific deadlines nor are there specific plans/goals to provide beds. We have access to reports dating back to 2019, and the board seems to be gridlocked with respect to moving forward with a decision. Motion #16 says that "the county will need to develop (via lease, contract, purchase, and/or construction) at least one and potentially more mental health care facilities, located throughout Los Angeles County." Instead, the motion should ask for: details about the specific number of facilities, number of beds in each, type of facility and potential locations (preferably located in all supervisorial districts), and funding sources recommended for each. There is no reason to delay these details into the new year. Further, consider placing a moratorium on the closure of Adult Residential Facilities (board & cares) – precious resources that are melting away. Offer to buy any facility facing imminent closure.

With actionable deadlines, people continue to suffer – those incarcerated in the aging Men's Central Jail, those who are housed in Twin Towers, which was never intended to provide mental health treatment – and the staff who are assigned to work in these facilities. The time for more reports is over – the board needs to decide and stick to a plan.

(3) Innovation. In any plan advanced by the LACBOS, I would encourage supporting the remarkable innovation that is already underway in Twin Towers as a partnership between the LASD and Correctional Health



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	<p>Services. The FIP Step Down Unit provides a more humane environment for people otherwise locked in their cells in High Observation Housing. This innovation links inmates from the general population facing long prison sentences living embedded with the most SMI patients, many of whom are awaiting competency restoration. This model takes advantage of a peer-led model, guided by the clinical staff and supported by custody staff. While we wait for new facility options – and even upon transfer to a new environment – this peer model is cost effective and promotes recovery and redemption.</p> <p>(4) Leadership. Motion #16 speaks to the myriad of agencies and efforts involved in this space in LA County (JCIT, ATI, DMH, DHS, DPH, CHS, AHI, ODR). Against this background, it is critical that the board unite behind a leader to guide this effort. Motion #75 recommends assigning retired judge Songhai Armstead into the role of Interim Director of the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department effective this week. I support this nomination as the county is in need of a capable leader to promote the collaboration amongst the different programs and ensure that these efforts are infused with a sense of urgency and focused primarily on caring for the people in the county's system and not protecting the bureaucracy.</p>
Kevin Jackson	It is my belief that adequate funds me allotted for proper mental health care for individuals that would be better served by receiving care in place of incarceration.
Kimberly Carter	
Linda Strassle	
Lori Pendroff	
Lynne Acosta	
Madelaine D Cobb	Supporting Developing Mental Health Care Facilities "Men's Central Jail"
Marcus Quinones	
Maya Mackey	
Michael Mendoza	<p>My name is Michael Mendoza and I am the Director of Advocacy for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. I'm writing in support of item #16.</p> <p>Thank you, supervisor Solis and Hahn, for introducing item #16. I believe that developing these recommendations regarding a secured, non-correctional mental health care facility to help appropriately transition people with acute mental health needs. These recommendations will help guide our county towards a holistic plan needed to serve this population.</p>
Nery Montes	
Pamela Thompson	
Phyllis B Stricklan	



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		Rita Murray	
		Serafin Leon	
		Serafin Leon	
		Sophia Cristo	Mental health is a major issue that many people lack understanding and those that suffer from mental health disorders lack support and proper care and services. People with mental illness can't continue to be placed in jail facilities. In such settings it is detrimental to their mental health as well as the fact they are no where near provided with proper care, services, even correct medication. Placing such individuals in a specific dorm/module, where they are handcuffed anytime they step out of their cell, whether to shower, watch tv, or just sit at a table doesn't do anything for them. As well as placing them on medication where they either sleep all day or walk around like a zombie. These are real people who need real care, services, and actual treatment. An actual mental health facility that doesn't replicate a jail, with actual mental health staff and doctors who can treat these people is what's needed. When you're sick you are referred to as a patient, not an inmate. These are patients who need help to get better, so provided them with those needed resources and support.
		Tara Pir	
		Traute Winters	Please see attached letter
		Zeara Alvarez	Jail is not the answer to addressing mental health issues.
		Oppose	Adela Diaz
	Ambrose Brooks		
	Annie DeVoe		
	Ariella H Seidman-Parra		
	Ben T		Please re-open the Norwalk mental hospital. Mentally ill people who have committed violent crime need to receive their mental health treatment in jail.
	Bri Price		
	Elsie Lipson		
	Gabriela Vazquez		Closing Men's Central Jail is a legal and moral imperative. To safely close the facility the county must make significant and rapid investments in the spectrum of treatment - which includes unlocked step down beds, permanent supportive housing, and yes, locked beds run by clinicians—not law enforcement. However, this motion fails to address the needs across the spectrum while prioritizing the massive expansion of a locked facility. Mental health experts will tell you, people with the highest mental health



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	<p>needs - P3 & P4 - can be stabilized quickly with the right treatment, and will inevitably need unlocked beds. For the vast majority of people, locked beds should be used for short periods of time until the person is stabilized, not as the sole option. People with mental health needs in the jail system will be better served by an expansion of open beds, like those offered by ODR.</p> <p>The fact that this motion is on the floor of the Board today demonstrates that for YEARS this Board has maintained the status quo of investing in law enforcement and incarceration over community-based care and are now forced into a position that is more reactionary than thoughtful.</p> <p>Supervisor Solis, we need you to do better! You maintain you are a champion for Care First, Jails Last yet your authoring of this motion suggests otherwise. This motion assumes that what the community needs is akin to an institution or asylum. In fact, as the MCJ Closure Report and countless community groups and members have stated, what people need is a robust investment in community-based care and restoration.</p> <p>How can this Board in good faith continue to rely upon the Jim Austin report? This report suggests the construction of a new jail, fails to cite any of ATI report or MCJ closure work that the community dedicated itself for years.</p> <p>Vote no on item 16 and come back with a motion that will actually address the immediate crisis.</p>
Gwendolyn J Snyder	<p>Item 16 is yet another report in a long line of reports that already spell out the solution. This motion is a performative gesture that does nothing to directly address the current crisis inside our jails. We do not need any more reports from the county - what we need is action! The MCJ Closure Report recommends the expansion of 1,400 locked beds and 3,500 community-based beds. That is what the Board should be funding today, not creating another report.</p>
Ima Odong	<p>The county already has the information needed to move forward with expanding treatment in the community in the MCJ Closure Report, but you've continuously failed to expand treatment at the rate of the problem. When you had the opportunity to approve Supervisor Mitchell's ODR expansion motion, Supervisors Barger, Kuehl and Solis voted no! Continuing to kick the can down the road with yet another report is a failed opportunity that doesn't address what is right before you - an inhumane jail system.</p>
Isa Hoffman	<p>Depopulating the Jail by placing inmates in another locked facility does not address the key problem of using removal from community as a punishment or a solution when care is needed. I understand that this facility is not labeled a jail, but it is functionally the same, as it relies on restraining people against their will, removing them from their communities, which is not an environment conducive to the healing and care required to truly help those experiencing mental health crisis. Homelessness cannot be solved by carceral institutions.</p>



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	mental illness will not be cured in locked wards but with communal efforts by all of us. I strongly oppose this agenda item.
Jacinda Lee	
Jacinda Lee	<p>The county already has the information needed to move forward with expanding treatment in the community in the MCJ Closure Report, but you've continuously failed to expand treatment at the rate of the problem. When you had the opportunity to approve Supervisor Mitchell's ODR expansion motion, Supervisors Barger, Keuhl and Solis voted no! Continuing to kick the can down the road with yet another report is a failed opportunity that doesn't address what is right before you - an inhumane jail system.</p> <p>The Care First vision is clear - LA County must build a decentralized system of care. What that means is NOT another asylum, but rather, treatment centers spread out across Los Angeles. This model, which the Board has championed for the last 3 years, has yet to be implemented. The failure is not the model, as Supervisor Barger would argue, the failure is the Board's unwillingness to fully fund and implement the solution.</p> <p>Item 16 fails to take the necessary action we need to close MCJ. I ask that you vote no today and actually begin the process of implementation. The future is community care.</p>
julie D Martinez	
Kaliyah Keita	
leila riker	
Lila B Murphy	
Lynne Moses	<p>I am extremely disappointed that the Board is considering plans to build a mental health jail in Los Angeles. This idea was already voted on and rejected by the Board in 2019. We cannot continue to incarcerate those with the most serious mental health issues. Instead, I encourage the Board to consider investing in community-based restoration and other non-locked mental health beds.</p> <p>LA's Care First vision is clear - LA County must build a decentralized system of care. What that means is NOT another asylum, but rather, treatment centers spread out across Los Angeles. This model, which the Board has championed for the last 3 years, has yet to be implemented.</p> <p>The Board has the opportunity to vote YES on a motion that could immediately fund treatment! In not adequately funding ODR and MIST beds, the County is actively destroying lives and worsening the well-being of individuals who were already struggling. We now have an opportunity to help</p>



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	these individuals instead of perpetuating the harm being inflicted against them. All that stands in the way of providing care and treatment is a lack of funding for beds.
Marcella Rosen	
Mason C Maxam	
Melissa Camacho-Cheung	<p>This Board asked for and received a road map for closing Men's Central Jail and standing up the community-based system of care necessary to make the Board's commitment a reality. Yet, since receiving the Men's Central Jail Closure Plan in March 2021, with detailed plans for diverting approximately 4,500 individuals out of jail custody, the Board has failed to fund the community-based system of care.</p> <p>This week two motions pay lip service to the urgent need to address the human rights crisis in the jails by building out a locked mental health treatment facility instead of committing to community-based care. Supervisor Barger's motion asks for reports on "non-custodial but secure mental health treatment facility" for "those incarcerated who cannot be diverted." Supervisor Solis and Hahn ask for a plan for "secured, non-correctional mental health care facility beds and programs." Both motions suffer from a fatal flaw. Without a fully funded and robust community-based system of care, any locked facility will reach capacity and fail to depopulate the Jails because the County does not have a place for these individuals to "step down" from a locked level of care into a community-based system of care.</p> <p>Supervisor Holly Mitchell proposed in June 2022 to have the CEO find funding to expand ODR Housing by 500 beds by July 1, 2023; an additional 1,000 beds by the end of Fiscal Year 2024; and to ultimately increase the total number of beds to 5,800. Yet the Board failed to support, and her motion was tabled. Where was the outrage from Supervisor Barger over the conditions at the Inmate Reception Center then? Where was the commitment from Supervisors Solis and Hahn to "reduce the ever-increasing population of incarcerated people who have varying levels of need for mental health and often co-occurring substance use disorder," as this week's motion reads?</p> <p>To put out two motions this week asking for report on a new locked facility or facilities before committing to expansion of community-based care reveals a lack of courage and a commitment to a deeply flawed strategy: locked facilities before community-based care is in place for people who do not need locked facilities.</p> <p>Supervisor Mitchell's motion to "Swiftly Create More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial," like her previous motion to increase ODR beds, follows the Men's Central Jail Closure Plan and will save lives by quickly getting people out of the dangerous and dilapidated jails and into effective treatment programs. We strongly support Supervisor Mitchell's motion and call on the rest of the Board to mobilize around the swift creation of community-based care. Reports on building new locked facilities will only</p>

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	<p>slow progress toward closing Men's Central Jail and draw out the suffering of those whose mental health conditions are deteriorating and not being effectively treated in our current carceral system.</p>
Michael Hames Garcia	<p>Esteemed County Supervisors:</p> <p>I am writing in strong opposition to items 11 and 16, as well as speaking to general public comment.</p> <p>My name is Michael Hames-García. I currently live in Pico Rivera, in Supervisor Hahn's district, but I am also a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, with a PhD from Cornell University. I have studied, taught, and written about the U.S criminal legal system for the past 27 years.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the building of additional jails after the Board of Supervisors has voted to close Men's Central Jail. My understanding is that, in line with an avalanche of scholarly opinion, the Board intended to redirect jail funds to community-based solutions for the county's twin mental health and housing crises.</p> <p>Yes, unhoused people with mental illnesses need a safe place to sleep. But locked beds should not be the anchor for a care-first agenda. The money necessary for the kind of jail Supervisors Barger and Solis want to explore will go farther and help more people if it is invested in community-based solutions.</p> <p>You already have studies from RAND and the ATI/Care First report. You also have programs like MIST and FIST and the Office of Diversion and Reentry. These programs also need more funding, but the foundation for a care-first agenda should be community-based, open mental health beds rather than involuntary confinement in a locked facility.</p> <p>Please vote "no" on agenda items 11 and 16. Thank you for your attention and for your service.</p>
Michael R Hames-Garcia	
Michelle King	<p>We don't need another report from the county - what we need is ACTION! The MCJ Closure Report recommends the expansion of 1,400 locked beds and 3,500 community-based beds. Do it. You have the information you need. I already mentioned your failing to approve Supervisor Mitchell's ODR expansion motion. Why? We don't need another REPORT- we need ACTION. Supervisor Solis, I'm particularly confused and disturbed. Authoring this motion contradicts your championing Care First, Jails Last. Please vote no on item 16 and come back with a motion that will ACTUALLY address the immediate crisis.</p>
Sheena Liberator	



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

		Shifra Teitelbaum	<p>My name is Shifra Teitelbaum, and I am writing to oppose Agenda Items 11, 16 and to support the expansion of the ODR MIST program.</p> <p>I am extremely disappointed that the Board is considering plans to build a mental health jail in Los Angeles. This idea was already voted on and rejected by the Board in 2019. We cannot continue to incarcerate those with the most serious mental health issues. Instead, I encourage the Board to consider investing in community-based restoration and other non-locked mental health beds.</p> <p>LA's Care First vision is clear - LA County must build a decentralized system of care. What that means is NOT another asylum, but rather, treatment centers spread out across Los Angeles. This model, which the Board has championed for the last 3 years, has yet to be implemented.</p> <p>The Board has the opportunity to vote YES on a motion that could immediately fund treatment! In not adequately funding ODR and MIST beds, the County is actively destroying lives and worsening the well-being of individuals who were already struggling. We now have an opportunity to help these individuals instead of perpetuating the harm being inflicted against them. All that stands in the way of providing care and treatment is a lack of funding for beds.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to Care First, Jails Last and I hope to see you adhere to this commitment at today's meeting.</p>
		Ysenia Bonilla	
		Zhane Moledina	
		zhane moledina	
	Other	Katarina Del Valle Thompson	<p>Good Morning Supervisors,</p> <p>My name is Katarina de Valle Thompson and I am calling to speak to items 16 and public comment. On behalf of the LA County workforce represented by SEIU Local 721 within Men's Central Jail; I am asking this board to invest in the expansion of the current workforce in its transition to a care first model. We continue to stress that any new treatment facilities for this population must be county operated and staffed.</p> <p>It is imperative that the decommissioning of the Jail does not result in a shrinking of our public workforce but, should create an opportunity to build capacity for appropriate treatment and provide a voice for the workforce in how we should approach successfully meeting the specific needs of those incarcerated with significant behavioral health challenges. Thank you</p>
		Keely Nguyen	<p>Item 16 before you today is yet another report in a long line of reports that already spell out the solution. This motion is a performative gesture that does nothing to directly address the current crisis inside our jails. We do not need any more reports from the county - what we need is action! The MCJ Closure</p>

				Report recommends the expansion of 1,400 locked beds and 3,500 community-based beds. That is what the Board should be funding today, not creating another report.
			Kristian Huling	
			Roy Humphreys	If you need more studies after Decades of Criminal Negligent, Heads need to roll. You have not got the Funds for Transients/Homeless. Show Me The Money.
			TestIRMFIRST TestIRMTWO	
		Item Total	91	
Grand Total			91	

September 26, 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: Item 16 - Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail, and related Items 11 & 72-E.

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As a citizen of Los Angeles County, I share your concern about the growing numbers of people with mental illness languishing in our overcrowded jails. It seems mental illness, including substance addiction, directly or indirectly affects almost every family in our county. It has deeply affected mine, acquainting us first hand with the tragic situation on our streets and in our jails.

I thank Supervisors Solis and Hahn for their motion (Item 16 on the Agenda for the September 27, 2022 hearing) to develop a set of recommendations for the provision of secure, non-correctional mental health care facility beds needed to transition people with serious mental illness from jail to a clinical therapeutic environment.

Such facility beds, along with caring staff, will provide the cornerstone to a better system aimed at decriminalizing mental illness and addiction. Providing treatment for the most seriously afflicted and debilitated P3-4 population who pose a potential danger to self or others will ideally prepare many for step down into minimally restrictive settings, within a continuum of care designed for eventual re-entry into community with appropriate supportive housing and services.

This development of alternative facilities will lead to more humane treatment and promote recovery rather than deterioration. It will also help restore Twin Towers Correctional Facility to its original purpose, housing those who have committed or are awaiting trial for genuine crimes, and it will facilitate moving inmates out of Men's Central Jail to allow for its necessary closure.

I applaud the direction to all appropriate teams and departments to collaborate on developing a proposal to promote recovery and healing not punishment. I am confident an appropriate plan can be developed to implement the stated goals and address any fears that alternative facilities might lead to additional incarceration or jeopardize the safety of residents, staff or visitors. Such a plan can provide that law enforcement serve only in an inconspicuous supportive capacity, be trained in crisis intervention and take instructions from treatment personnel.

We need to fix our current broken system to help those who have become entangled in the criminal justice system due to mental health conditions that spiraled out of their control. We must develop humane and effective alternatives to the current crowded cells and cages that currently warehouse the sick and vulnerable. We need to treat the ill as our common humanity demands. This a moral imperative.

It is also fiscally smart. Incarceration is the most costly way to house the mentally ill. It is more

expensive than any kind of hospitalization or residential treatment, often results in deterioration rather than recovery, and leads to further costs of repeated involvement with law enforcement and paramedics, hospitalizations, incarcerations, legal settlements etc.

My son was fortunate to receive a diversion into treatment and is currently in recovery from psychosis due to methamphetamine addiction (a tragically common affliction in our jails). He is now in recovery and on the way to becoming a healthy, upstanding, productive member of our community. We are grateful, recognizing that many do not get this opportunity due to lack of resources. I hope this will soon change with increased funding, public support and political will.

Family and community support is important to recovery. It meant the world to our son when we were finally allowed to visit him. I am in favor of building treatment facilities in various locations around the county instead of one large centralized facility. This will enable patients to be closer to their families and to benefit from their encouragement and assistance.

I thank Supervisor Barger for her motion (Agenda Item 11) to explore models for non-custodial but secure treatment facilities for those who cannot be diverted, and to effect total compliance with the Department of Justice Consent Decree. I also thank Supervisor Mitchell for her motion (Supplemental Agenda Item 72-E) urging swift creation of additional beds for the Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) Program.

I believe Item 16 encompasses most or all of these worthy goals connected with development of desperately needed non-correctional mental health treatment resources, for our county's system to help our most seriously mentally ill people who are justice-involved. Therefore, I urge the Board of Supervisors to unanimously vote "Yes" on Item 16. Additionally, I support Items 11 and 72-E, if they are intended to supplement or enhance Item 16 in realizing the mission of "Care First, Jails Last".

Respectfully,

Linda Strassle
Resident of Altadena

Brittney Weissman
Pasadena, California 91101

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

September 25, 2022

RE: Support for Item 16: *Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Los Angeles County: Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail*

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

Thank you to Supervisors Solis and Hahn for this thoughtful motion prioritizing mental health care for individuals with serious mental illness who are justice-impacted, and prodding the County toward its Care First, Jail Last promise, and closing Men's Central Jail.

Closing Men's Central Jail requires the creation of alternative places for people with serious mental illness who are not yet able to live safely back in community. This motion creates care-giving settings - locked and unlocked so individuals flow through appropriate clinical care - throughout the county for this population, which addresses earlier concerns from some community activists around creating a single humongous, locked care setting too far for family and community integration and connection.

You may not be able to get well in a cell, but the intrinsic purpose of a subacute mental health bed in a community setting is care and healing. Some community advocates may consider locked settings like these as carceral and punitive by nature. A subacute mental health bed is treatment in theory and reality, not punishment.

These new beds are a vital component of a fully funded robust continuum of care for people with serious mental illness. That they will be spread across the county means that family and kin may maintain closer ties and more easily help their loved one back to community. Community is both the ideal and most sustainable long-term solution for people living with serious mental illness.

Please pass Item 16. Our county's collective well-being depends on it. If I can offer anything further in support, please email me at brittneyweissman@gmail.com or call me at 818-687-1657.

Respectfully,



Brittney Weissman



September 26, 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: Item 16-Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

NAMI Greater Los Angeles County (NAMI GLAC) is the leading countywide organization comprised of grassroots-based chapters that promote wellness, recovery, equality, and dignity for individuals and families affected by mental illness and the community at large. We provide leadership in advocacy, education, support, and public awareness throughout Los Angeles County.

NAMI GLAC wishes to thank Supervisors Solis and Hahn for their important motion, as detailed in Item 16 on the Agenda for the September 27, 2022 hearing, to develop a set of recommendations for the development of secure, non-correctional mental health care facility beds needed to transition individuals with serious mental illness from jail custody to a clinical therapeutic environment where they can begin their recovery. People do not “get well in a cell,” and NAMI has called for the development of such facilities for many years. These sub-acute beds are part of the missing links of our continuum of care for the justice-involved that can assist some of the most seriously ill people in our county. We are never going to close Men’s Central Jail without these resources which are necessary to serve this population. We cannot get people out of jail and into treatment unless we build the appropriate placements necessary for the safety of patients, staff, and our communities. We applaud the intent to build treatment resources in various locations around the county instead of one large centralized facility. This will enable patients to be closer to their families who can play an important supportive role by assisting their family members with their eventual return to the community.

Additionally, these clinical facilities will also be available to treat new clients/defendants who require stabilization before entering our county’s diversion programs. Without these new healthcare resources, our system only has the ability to place people who are acutely ill where we have capacity: jail or prison. However, there are many individuals who may not be eligible for a community-based unlocked placement, but could be released from jail to a secure facility where they could regain their stability and begin their recovery. Recovery will allow for the

opportunity to be eventually “stepped-down” to a diversion program in a less restrictive setting and be provided the chance for a successful re-entry to the community.

We feel it is important to dispel a very misinformed perspective by some who will claim that acute and sub-acute mental healthcare treatment facilities are carceral simply because they are restrictive settings. Secure beds are not jail cells and are not carceral. These beds exist at the higher levels of the spectrum of mental health care for those who are the most severely mentally ill, but their purpose is recovery and healing, not punishment. These new treatment facilities will have a secure perimeter to guarantee public safety, but there will be no law enforcement officers inside these buildings.

We are very encouraged to see AB 900 funding, that was originally targeted for jail construction, re-purposed for the development of non-correctional mental health care facilities where people receive treatment instead of incarceration. There are hundreds of people in our jail system that could be transitioned to these secure environments without compromising public safety. These beds will help us reduce over-crowding in our jail system and make a serious reduction in the waiting list for state hospital beds, so those individuals who must go to a state hospital for competency restoration will not have to wait as long to transition to treatment.

NAMI GLAC would also like to thank Supervisor Barger for her motion, Item 11, that seeks to also encourage the development of a new treatment facility. In particular, the points she raises regarding the lack of compliance with the Department of Justice Consent Decree are extremely noteworthy and speak to the necessity for real change and substantive remedies.

If we are ever to close Men’s Central Jail and make significant reductions in the numbers of individuals with serious mental illness who are criminalized, this motion is essential to those goals and the mission of “Care First, Jails Last.” **Therefore, NAMI GLAC supports the motion, Item 16, and asks our entire Board of Supervisors for your unanimous “Yes” vote to develop new and desperately needed non-correctional mental health treatment resources for our county’s system to help our most seriously ill individuals with mental illness who are justice-involved and incarcerated in our jails.**

Respectfully,

Mark Gale
NAMI GLAC, Criminal Justice Chair
markgale510@gmail.com

Traute Winters
NAMI GLAC, Executive Director
twinters@namiglac.org

September 26, 2022

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

Re: Item 16

SUPPORT for: Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Men's Central Jail (MCJ)

Dear Supervisor Holly Mitchell and Board Supervisors,

I am writing you on behalf of NAMI Urban Los Angeles Board of Directors to express our support for the motion by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Janice Hahn, that addresses creating secure mental health facilities for the incarcerated that qualify for the program at MCJ. Providing mental health care facilities instead of jails for the unjustly incarcerated mentally ill would be beneficial in reducing the jail population. This program could also result in productive and contributing citizens for communities.

Recent statistics show 40% of the jail population is mentally ill and numbers increasing due to the pandemic. This increase in inmates only strains the jail systems. When race is taken into account, there are disparities related to racial populations. Blacks make up 30% of the inmates and only 8% of population. This is disturbing and should certainly be addressed at all levels of policy related to incarceration.

2021 LA Racial % Incarceration

LA County Racial Population

White	13%	25%
Black	30%	8%
Latino	54%	49%

NULA, NAMI Urban LA (501©3) is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. A grass root organization dedicated to providing mental health programs in the underserved communities of LA County since 2003.

It is NULA's hope, Supervisor Holly Mitchell and the LA County Board of Supervisors, that you will move forward on the motion and proceed with the development of Mental Health Care Facilities for qualified inmates at MCJ.

Hopeful regards,


Madelaine D Cobb, Board Pres.

brownmadd@sbcglobal.net Degan Blvd. Suite 104, Los Angeles, CA 90008

Phone (323) 294-7814 • FAX 1-877-519-0814

E-Mail: info@namiurbanla.org – Website: www.namiurbanla.org

September 26, 2022

TO: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kerry Morrison
Los Angeles CA 90004

SUBJECT: Comments on Board agenda items #11, 16, 75

I have reviewed three motions introduced for this week: #16 introduced by Supervisors Solis and Hahn and #11 introduced by Supervisor Barger. I also will speak to #75 recommended by the CEO.

I am a volunteer in the space of mental health policy and homelessness. I founded a nonprofit called Heart Forward LA, upon visiting the remarkable WHO-acclaimed community based mental health system in Trieste Italy. I currently serve on the HHH Citizen's Oversight Committee and have previously served on the LAHSA Commission. The views I express are my own.

Since April of this year, I have visited Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF) once a week, as a volunteer associated with Correctional Health Services. I spend time with the patients and the inmate Mental Health Assistants in the Forensic Inpatient Program (FIP) Step Down Unit. This has afforded me an opportunity to hear the stories from dozens of patients – how they ended up in jail and their plans or hopes for what lies ahead. The sad reality for many is that upon discharge, there are few viable *sustained* re-entry resources available, especially for those who suffer from co-occurring disorders of SMI and SUD who would benefit from a highly structured residential setting. Once released, far too many end up homeless and return back to jail. I am struck by the range of illness I observe; I am not a clinician, but it is clear that there is no “one size fits all” environment appropriate for all the people under the county's care.

I have five observations to share about these proposed actions:

- (1) **Conflict and the importance of sunlight:** It appears that the motions (11 and 16) are in conflict, and the Board should consider a way to reconcile the key elements of both. I would agree that it is important to develop community-based mental health facilities – as these are critical to not only implementing any plans to close Men's Central Jail but also to provide a more humane and recovery-oriented environment for people who are incarcerated and in need of sustained mental health treatment. However, additionally, there is a need for a secure non-custodial treatment environment, as suggested by Supervisor Barger, for those individuals who are not ready for diversion into a community-based setting. This will not be a large number of people, , but a secure, humane environment – *with access to sunlight, choices and socialization* – is far preferable to continuing to keep people locked in a cell for most of the day or chained to

furniture. No one can get well if they spend years unable to take a walk outside in the morning sun. If we keep delaying this decision, people continue to suffer in these inhumane conditions.

- (2) **Timing:** Both motions lean into a sense of urgency, but there are no specific deadlines nor are there specific plans/goals to provide beds. We have access to reports dating back to 2019, and the board seems to be gridlocked with respect to moving forward with a decision. Motion #16 says that “the county will need to develop (via lease, contract, purchase, and/or construction) at least one and potentially more mental health care facilities, located throughout Los Angeles County.” Instead, the motion should ask for: details about the specific number of facilities, number of beds in each, type of facility and potential locations (preferably located in all supervisorial districts), and funding sources recommended for each. There is no reason to delay these details into the new year. Further, consider placing a moratorium on the closure of Adult Residential Facilities (board & cares) – precious resources that are melting away. Offer to buy any facility facing imminent closure.

With actionable deadlines, people continue to suffer – those incarcerated in the aging Men’s Central Jail, those who are housed in Twin Towers, which was never intended to provide mental health treatment – and the staff who are assigned to work in these facilities. The time for more reports is over – the board needs to *decide and stick to a plan*.

- (3) **Innovation.** In any plan advanced by the LACBOS, I would encourage supporting the remarkable innovation that is already underway in Twin Towers as a partnership between the LASD and Correctional Health Services. The FIP Step Down Unit provides a more humane environment for people otherwise locked in their cells in High Observation Housing. This innovation links inmates from the general population facing long prison sentences living embedded with the most SMI patients, many of whom are awaiting competency restoration. This model takes advantage of a peer-led model, guided by the clinical staff and supported by custody staff. While we wait for new facility options – and even upon transfer to a new environment – this peer model is cost effective and promotes recovery and redemption.

- (4) **Leadership.** Motion #16 speaks to the myriad of agencies and efforts involved in this space in LA County (JCIT, ATI, DMH, DHS, DPH, CHS, AHI, ODR). Against this background, it is critical that the board unite behind a leader to guide this effort. Motion #75 recommends assigning retired judge Songhai Armstead into the role of Interim Director of the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department effective this week. I support this nomination as the county is in need of a capable leader to promote the collaboration amongst the different programs and ensure that these efforts are infused with a sense of urgency and focused primarily on caring for the people in the county’s system and not protecting the bureaucracy.



279 E. Arrow Hwy. Suite 102 San Dimas, CA 91773

Ph. (909)623-6651 Fax (909)623-0455 www.bridgesrehab.org

September 26, 2022

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

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

BRIDGES, Inc. provides mental health services to individuals in Los Angeles County, specifically in **District 1, El Monte, and in District 5 of the San Fernando Valley** as well. We appreciate the Board of Supervisors' ongoing support of these critical services in our communities, including the motion on tomorrow's Board meeting agenda to build more subacute mental health facilities across the County to divert individuals with severe mental illness from jail.

For a long time, the County has experienced a severe lack of subacute beds, which has impeded our collective ability to divert individuals from jail who are either too sick or have too severe of a charge to qualify for open residential beds. To decompress the hospitals, IMDs, and jails, at times, we have no choice but to admit clients to one of our open residential beds. Unfortunately, these beds often do not meet the level of care needed by such individuals and they are often not successful, returning to jail, homeless, and/or hospitals. If we are serious about decreasing our jail population and making sure that individuals with mental illness receive the treatment that they need, then we need more secure, non-correctional beds across the County.

The subacute beds are an important part of the continuum of care and the goal of this motion is to divert people that, currently, only have the option of going to jail. The need for proper care facilities for incarcerated individuals with mental health needs has not dissipated and the Board must take swift action to build patient-focused facilities to depopulate the jail, including both secure non-correctional mental health care facilities for those who are not cognitively and behaviorally ready to live safely in the community, as well as open residential and supportive housing facilities for those who are.

At BRIDGES, Inc. we appreciate the importance of this motion in the context of the greater mental health system of care.

For all these reasons, we support this motion and look forward to the expansion of mental health care for all individuals and communities in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Lori Pendroff, M.S.

Lori Pendroff, M.S.
Executive Director



Westside Los Angeles

September 26, 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: Item 16-Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

NAMI Westside Los Angeles is a leading mental health organization in the county for early prevention and intervention and family support that promotes wellness, recovery, equality, and dignity for individuals and families affected by mental illness and the community at large. We provide leadership in advocacy, education, support, and public awareness throughout Los Angeles County.

NAMI WLA wishes to thank Supervisors Solis and Hahn for their ***important motion, as detailed in Item 16 on the Agenda for the September 27, 2022 hearing, to develop a set of recommendations for the development of secure, non-correctional mental health care facility beds needed to transition individuals with serious mental illness from jail custody to a clinical therapeutic environment where they can begin their recovery.*** People do not “get well in a cell,” and NAMI has called for the development of such facilities for many years. These sub acute beds are part of the missing links of our continuum of care for the justice-involved that can assist some of the most seriously ill people in our county. We cannot get people out of jail and into treatment unless we build the appropriate placements necessary for the safety of patients, staff, and our communities. This will enable patients to be closer to their families who can play an important supportive role by assisting their family members with their eventual return to the community.

Additionally, these clinical facilities will also be available to treat new clients/defendants who require stabilization before entering our county’s diversion programs. Without these new healthcare resources, our system only has the ability to place people who are acutely ill where we have capacity: jail or prison. However, there are many individuals who may not be eligible

921 Westwood Blvd. Suite 236 Los Angeles, CA 90024

www.namila.org



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Westside Los Angeles

for a community-based unlocked placement, but could be released from jail to a secure facility where they could regain their stability and begin their recovery. Recovery will allow for the opportunity to be eventually “stepped-down” to a diversion program in a less restrictive setting and be provided the chance for a successful re-entry to the community.

We are very encouraged to see AB 900 funding, that was originally targeted for jail construction, re-purposed for the development of non-correctional mental health care facilities where people receive treatment instead of incarceration. There are hundreds of people in our jail system that could be transitioned to these secure environments without compromising public safety. These beds will help us reduce overcrowding in our jail system and make a serious reduction in the waiting list for state hospital beds, so those individuals who must go to a state hospital for competency restoration will not have to wait as long to transition to treatment.

If we are ever to make significant reductions in the numbers of individuals with serious mental illness who are criminalized, this motion is essential to those goals and the mission of “Care First, Jails Last.” **Therefore, NAMI WLA supports the motion, Item 16, and asks our entire Board of Supervisors for your unanimous “Yes” vote to develop new and desperately needed non-correctional mental health treatment resources for our county’s system to help our most seriously ill individuals with mental illness who are justice involved and incarcerated in our jails.**

Respectfully, NAMI W Los Angeles

Erin R. Ryan Executive Director eryan@namila.org

Sharon Dunas LMFT, President Emeritus, Mental Health Clinical Advocate

ssdunas@namila.org

921 Westwood Blvd. Suite 236 Los Angeles, CA 90024

www.namila.org

From: [Jayme Kusyk](#)
To: [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [First District](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Sheila](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#); [Office of Countywide Communications](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment for 9/27/22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:47:46 PM

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Jayme Kusyk, and I am a constituent of District #3. Ahead of tomorrow's meeting, I am writing to oppose Agenda Items 11 and 16, and to support the expansion of the ODR MIST program.

I am extremely disappointed that the Board is considering plans to build a mental health jail in Los Angeles. This idea was already voted on and rejected by the Board in 2019. We cannot continue to incarcerate those with the most serious mental health issues. Instead, I encourage the Board to consider investing in community-based restoration and other non-locked mental health beds.

LA's Care First vision is clear - LA County must build a *decentralized* system of care. What that means is NOT another asylum, but rather, treatment centers spread out across Los Angeles. This model, which the Board has championed for the last 3 years, has yet to be implemented.

The Board has the opportunity to vote YES on a motion that could immediately fund treatment! In not adequately funding ODR and MIST beds, the County is actively destroying lives and worsening the well-being of individuals who were already struggling. We now have an opportunity to help these individuals instead of perpetuating the harm being inflicted against them. All that stands in the way of providing care and treatment is a lack of funding for beds.

Thank you for your commitment to Care First, Jails Last and I hope to see you adhere to this commitment at tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely,

Jayme Kusyk

From: [Tobin](#)
To: [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [First District](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Sheila](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#); [Office of Countywide Communications](#)
Subject: [JusticeLA] Written Public Comment for 9/27/22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 11:53:38 AM

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

I am a constituent of Supervisor Hahn. I am writing to oppose Agenda Items 11, 16 and to support the expansion of the ODR MIST program.

I am extremely disappointed that the Board is considering plans to build a mental health jail in Los Angeles. This idea was already voted on and rejected by the Board in 2019. We cannot continue to incarcerate those with the most serious mental health issues. Instead, I encourage the Board to consider investing in community-based restoration and other non-locked mental health beds.

LA's Care First vision is clear - LA County must build a *decentralized* system of care. What that means is NOT another asylum, but rather, treatment centers spread out across Los Angeles. This model, which the Board has championed for the last 3 years, has yet to be implemented.

The Board has the opportunity to vote YES on a motion that could immediately fund treatment! In not adequately funding ODR and MIST beds, the County is actively destroying lives and worsening the well-being of individuals who were already struggling. We now have an opportunity to help these individuals instead of perpetuating the harm being inflicted against them. All that stands in the way of providing care and treatment is a lack of funding for beds.

Thank you for your commitment to Care First, Jails Last and I hope to see you adhere to this commitment at tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks,

Tobin

90814



September 26, 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: “Exploring Models for a Secure Mental Health Treatment,” “Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Los Angeles County: Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail,” and “Swiftly Creating More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial with Newly Available State Funding.”

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

This Board asked for and received a road map for closing Men’s Central Jail and expanding the community-based system of care necessary to make the Board’s commitment a reality. Yet, since receiving the Men’s Central Jail Closure Plan in March 2021, with detailed plans for diverting approximately 4,500 individuals out of jail custody, the Board has failed to fund the community-based system of care.

This week two motions pay lip service to the urgent need to address the human rights crisis in the jails by building out a locked mental health treatment facility instead of committing to community-based care. Supervisor Barger’s motion asks for reports on “non-custodial but secure mental health treatment facility” for “those incarcerated who cannot be diverted.” Supervisors Solis and Hahn ask for a plan for “secured, non-correctional mental health care facility beds and programs.” Both motions suffer from a fatal flaw. Without a fully funded and robust community-based system of care, any locked facility will reach capacity and fail to depopulate the jails because the County does not have a place for these individuals to “step down” from a locked level of care into a community-based system of care.

In June 2022, Supervisor Mitchell proposed having the CEO find funding to expand ODR Housing by 500 beds by July 1, 2023; an additional 1,000 beds by the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Hector O. Villagra

PRESIDENT Rana Sharif **SECRETARY** Dick Price **TREASURER** Michele Goodwin
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER Carlos Amador **NATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE** Sharon Kyle

end of Fiscal Year 2024; and to ultimately increase the total number of beds to 5,800. Yet the Board failed to support this proposal, and her motion was tabled. Where was the outrage from Supervisor Barger over the conditions at the Inmate Reception Center then? Where was the commitment from Supervisors Solis and Hahn to “reduce the ever-increasing population of incarcerated people who have varying levels of need for mental health and often co-occurring substance use disorder,” as this week’s motion reads?

To put out two motions this week asking for yet another report back on a new locked facility or facilities *before* committing to expansion of community-based care reveals a lack of integrity and a commitment to a deeply flawed strategy: locked facilities before community-based care is in place for people who do not need locked facilities.

Supervisor Mitchell’s motion to “Swiftly Create More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial,” like her previous motion to increase ODR beds, follows the Men’s Central Jail Closure Plan and will save lives by quickly getting people out of the dangerous and dilapidated jails and into effective treatment programs. We strongly support Supervisor Mitchell’s motion and call on the rest of the Board to mobilize around the immediate creation of community-based care. Reports on building new locked facilities will only slow progress towards closing Men’s Central Jail and extend the suffering of those whose mental health conditions are worsening in our current carceral system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa L. Camacho-Cheung', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melissa L. Camacho-Cheung
Senior Staff Attorney

From: [ExecutiveOffice](#)
To: [First District](#); [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [Sheila](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#)
Cc: [PublicComments](#)
Subject: FW: SUPPORT ITEM 16-Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:55:33 PM

The following correspondence is being forwarded to you for your review/information.

From: tcpasquini@gmail.com <tcpasquini@gmail.com> **On Behalf Of** Housing That Heals
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:52 AM
To: ExecutiveOffice <ExecutiveOffice@bos.lacounty.gov>
Subject: SUPPORT ITEM 16-Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail

September 26, 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: Item 16-Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As local, state, and national mental health advocates and co-authors of the **Housing That Heals** white paper released in May of 2020, we are writing to place our full support behind **Item 16 on your Board of Supervisor's September 27th agenda**. We applaud Supervisors Solis and Hahn for their important motion which will provide therapeutic, non-correctional **care** for individuals living with serious mental illnesses who are unable to live in a non-secure environment.

As we traveled the state presenting our paper to a variety of stakeholders, we had the privilege of meeting many amazing front-line providers, family members, and peers who share our vision for providing the right **care**, at the right time and in the right place. We all agree that jail is never the right place and our state must move towards building a behavioral health care infrastructure that will not leave the most severely mentally ill population suffering in solitary or on the streets when appropriate options are possible.

Our paper was intended to start a conversation about the need to focus on building a

complete continuum of **care** for the most severely mentally ill populations of California. This is a population that has been caught in fail first, housing last cycle of homelessness, incarceration, and institutionalization. **This motion will help end that circle of suffering and move your system of care towards the true Care First Jail Last vision we all embrace.**

Housing That Heals is a **complete continuum of care** that will end street suffering and fail-first incarceration. It is about getting to the **appropriate** level of **care** needed to reach stability that will lead to sustained recovery in an unlocked community setting.

This motion will help support your community's needs by building more subacute levels of **care** across the county. It will serve those who don't qualify for lower-level open diversion programs and should not be left in solitary to suffer or shuffled across the state to large institutions away from their families and community.

Funding the great ODR model is an important piece of the community continuum of **care**. However, it is not an **appropriate** level of **care** for all. We need a both/and mindset if we are ever going to stop the criminalization of mental illness in California.

We are grateful for the partnership and leadership of Mark Gale of NAMI GLAC, Brittney Weissman of Hollywood 4WRD, Dr. Susan Partovi's Grave Disability Workgroup, Kerry Morrison's Heart Forward LA and so many others who have aligned with our Housing That Heals vision. This motion aligns with that shared vision as well.

The LA County Board of Supervisors can lead California's **Housing That Heal's** conversation and answer the "divert to where or what" question being asked in every meeting across your county, and every county, by passing this motion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Teresa Pasquini and Lauren Rettagliata

Housing That Heals, co-authors

<https://namica.org/community-voices/team-nami-spotlight-housing-that-heals-project-report/>

September 26, 2022

TO: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kerry Morrison
Los Angeles CA 90004

SUBJECT: Comments on Board agenda items #11, 16, 75

I have reviewed three motions introduced for this week: #16 introduced by Supervisors Solis and Hahn and #11 introduced by Supervisor Barger. I also will speak to #75 recommended by the CEO.

I am a volunteer in the space of mental health policy and homelessness. I founded a nonprofit called Heart Forward LA, upon visiting the remarkable WHO-acclaimed community based mental health system in Trieste Italy. I currently serve on the HHH Citizen's Oversight Committee and have previously served on the LAHSA Commission. The views I express are my own.

Since April of this year, I have visited Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF) once a week, as a volunteer associated with Correctional Health Services. I spend time with the patients and the inmate Mental Health Assistants in the Forensic Inpatient Program (FIP) Step Down Unit. This has afforded me an opportunity to hear the stories from dozens of patients – how they ended up in jail and their plans or hopes for what lies ahead. The sad reality for many is that upon discharge, there are few viable *sustained* re-entry resources available, especially for those who suffer from co-occurring disorders of SMI and SUD who would benefit from a highly structured residential setting. Once released, far too many end up homeless and return back to jail. I am struck by the range of illness I observe; I am not a clinician, but it is clear that there is no “one size fits all” environment appropriate for all the people under the county's care.

I have five observations to share about these proposed actions:

- (1) **Conflict and the importance of sunlight:** It appears that the motions (11 and 16) are in conflict, and the Board should consider a way to reconcile the key elements of both. I would agree that it is important to develop community-based mental health facilities – as these are critical to not only implementing any plans to close Men's Central Jail but also to provide a more humane and recovery-oriented environment for people who are incarcerated and in need of sustained mental health treatment. However, additionally, there is a need for a secure non-custodial treatment environment, as suggested by Supervisor Barger, for those individuals who are not ready for diversion into a community-based setting. This will not be a large number of people, , but a secure, humane environment – *with access to sunlight, choices and socialization* – is far preferable to continuing to keep people locked in a cell for most of the day or chained to

furniture. No one can get well if they spend years unable to take a walk outside in the morning sun. If we keep delaying this decision, people continue to suffer in these inhumane conditions.

- (2) **Timing:** Both motions lean into a sense of urgency, but there are no specific deadlines nor are there specific plans/goals to provide beds. We have access to reports dating back to 2019, and the board seems to be gridlocked with respect to moving forward with a decision. Motion #16 says that “the county will need to develop (via lease, contract, purchase, and/or construction) at least one and potentially more mental health care facilities, located throughout Los Angeles County.” Instead, the motion should ask for: details about the specific number of facilities, number of beds in each, type of facility and potential locations (preferably located in all supervisorial districts), and funding sources recommended for each. There is no reason to delay these details into the new year. Further, consider placing a moratorium on the closure of Adult Residential Facilities (board & cares) – precious resources that are melting away. Offer to buy any facility facing imminent closure.

With actionable deadlines, people continue to suffer – those incarcerated in the aging Men’s Central Jail, those who are housed in Twin Towers, which was never intended to provide mental health treatment – and the staff who are assigned to work in these facilities. The time for more reports is over – the board needs to *decide and stick to a plan*.

- (3) **Innovation.** In any plan advanced by the LACBOS, I would encourage supporting the remarkable innovation that is already underway in Twin Towers as a partnership between the LASD and Correctional Health Services. The FIP Step Down Unit provides a more humane environment for people otherwise locked in their cells in High Observation Housing. This innovation links inmates from the general population facing long prison sentences living embedded with the most SMI patients, many of whom are awaiting competency restoration. This model takes advantage of a peer-led model, guided by the clinical staff and supported by custody staff. While we wait for new facility options – and even upon transfer to a new environment – this peer model is cost effective and promotes recovery and redemption.

- (4) **Leadership.** Motion #16 speaks to the myriad of agencies and efforts involved in this space in LA County (JCIT, ATI, DMH, DHS, DPH, CHS, AHI, ODR). Against this background, it is critical that the board unite behind a leader to guide this effort. Motion #75 recommends assigning retired judge Songhai Armstead into the role of Interim Director of the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department effective this week. I support this nomination as the county is in need of a capable leader to promote the collaboration amongst the different programs and ensure that these efforts are infused with a sense of urgency and focused primarily on caring for the people in the county’s system and not protecting the bureaucracy.