



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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
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KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
32.		Other	Andony Corleto	<p>(See Attached PDF) In the wake of investments into jail renovations at Pitchess Detention Center South, I am writing to urge the board to invest in proven safety solutions by safely releasing incarcerated people with low-level mental health needs.</p> <p>The core problem these renovations seek to address is real: our jails are ill-equipped to provide incarcerated people with adequate mental health treatment. Overcrowding is a primary barrier to mental health care in custody, even as the number of people requiring specialty housing has sharply increased. LASD, for instance, reported a 95 percent population increase in their mental health housing from January 2024 to June 2024. The Correctional Health Services' recent report further cites shortages of medication-assisted therapy and jail-based clinicians as major barriers to care. Investing in costly jail renovations, however, does not address the root issue: too many people with mental health issues are being held in jail rather than receiving treatment and support in their communities.</p> <p>Putting care first works. To reduce overcrowding and achieve compliance with court orders, the county should do everything in its power to divert people with low-level health conditions and mental health needs into community-based programs—which state data shows are both more effective in reducing reoffending than incarceration, and more cost-efficient. Programs like the Office of Diversion and Reentry's Housing Program, JCOD's Rapid Diversion Program, and RICMS have delivered successful outcomes, and they should be expanded to serve more people with moderate mental health needs, including those with a P2 psychiatric acuity. Additionally, the Community Safety Implementation Team has found that people with mild to moderate mental health needs are the largest group in Los Angeles County jails—approximately 3,500 people—many of whom could be better served through community-based programs.</p> <p>Investing in community-based mental health treatment programs is an investment that will pay for itself through better public safety outcomes. A RAND report shows that 91 percent of graduates from the Rapid Diversion Program did not have a new case filed for an offense occurring after graduation. Diverting people into MH care-based community housing for treatment would cost approximately \$180 per person, per day, according to County estimates. Meanwhile, incarcerating someone with mental health needs in LA County jail costs an average of \$548 per day. Instead of spending tens of millions of dollars solely on jail renovations during a budgetary crisis, the board must prioritize services that will safely lower the jail population.</p> <p>As the county moves forward with jail renovations, safely reducing the prison</p>

As of: 2/2/2026 9:00:09 PM

				population and investing in proven treatment programs remain essential to ensuring lasting community safety and well-being. Vera's experts and researchers would be glad to provide more information or answer questions; you may contact me at acorleto@vera.org .
		Item Total	1	
Grand Total			1	

February 3, 2026

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor Mitchell
Supervisor Solis
Supervisor Horvath
Supervisor Hahn
Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: Agenda Item # 32: Pitchess Detention Center South Renovation Project Construction Contract

My name is Andony Corleto. I am a program associate with Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice, which is a national organization working to end mass incarceration and build safe, thriving communities. I am also a resident of District 2. **In the wake of investments into jail renovations at Pitchess Detention Center South, I am writing to urge the board to invest in proven safety solutions by safely releasing incarcerated people with low-level mental health needs.**

- **The core problem these renovations seek to address is real: our jails are ill-equipped to provide incarcerated people with adequate mental health treatment.** Overcrowding is a primary barrier to mental health care in custody, even as the number of people requiring specialty housing has sharply increased. LASD, for instance, reported a 95 percent population increase in their mental health housing from January 2024 to June 2024. The Correctional Health Services' recent report further cites shortages of medication-assisted therapy and jail-based clinicians as major barriers to care. Investing in costly jail renovations, however, does not address the root issue: too many people with mental health issues are being held in jail rather than receiving treatment and support in their communities.
- **Putting care first works.** To reduce overcrowding and achieve compliance with court orders, the county should do everything in its power to divert people with low-level health conditions and mental health needs into community-based programs—which state data shows are both more effective in reducing reoffending than incarceration, and more cost-efficient. Programs like the Office of Diversion and Reentry's Housing Program, JCOD's Rapid Diversion Program, and RICMS have delivered successful outcomes, and they should be expanded to serve more people with moderate mental health needs, including those with a P2 psychiatric acuity. Additionally, the Community Safety Implementation Team has found that people with mild to moderate mental health needs are the largest group in Los Angeles County jails—approximately 3,500 people—many of whom could be better served through community-based programs.

- **Investing in community-based mental health treatment programs is an investment that will pay for itself through better public safety outcomes.** [A RAND report](#) shows that 91 percent of graduates from the Rapid Diversion Program did not have a new case filed for an offense occurring after graduation. Diverting people into MH care-based community housing for treatment would cost approximately [\\$180 per person, per day](#), according to County estimates. Meanwhile, incarcerating someone with mental health needs in LA County jail costs an average of [\\$548 per day](#). Instead of spending tens of millions of dollars solely on jail renovations during a budgetary crisis, the board must prioritize services that will safely lower the jail population.

As the county moves forward with jail renovations, safely reducing the prison population and investing in proven treatment programs remain essential to ensuring lasting community safety and well-being. Vera's experts and researchers would be glad to provide more information or answer questions; you may contact me at acorleto@vera.org.

Sincerely,



Andony Corleto
Program Associate
Vera California